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Friday-Thursday, August 2-3, 2024

# Charlton Boy Scout leads effort to renovate Pickleball courts

CHARLTON — Renovations are underway on the tennis courts of Charlton Middle School which are being transformed into a multi-use facility to serve the school as well as the growing demand for pickleball, and it's all being done with the help of a local Boy Scout Adam Rydlak who has made the renovations the primary focus of his Eagle Scout project.

Rydlak has served as a team lead on the project with the goal of renovating the courts to be used for tennis and pickleball as a public venue and as a new asset for the middle school where he attended as a young student. In addition to helping coordinate the renovations, he has also kickstarted a fundraising campaign to pay for some of the equipment, storage, signs, and seating at the court.

"The court will be introduced into the PE program at Charlton Middle School. Pickleball had become a popular sport and I also want to help the school that I attended for four years," Rydlak said of the initiative. "The courts are being remodeled and recoated. I'm leading the team helping make sure everything happens. We hired a contractor to do the courts. After it's done, I plan to help make sure the area is clean."



Charlton Boy Scout Adam Rydlak is leading an effort to renovate the Charlton Middle School tennis courts for both tennis and Turn To PICKLEBALL page A14 pickleball as part of his Eagle Scout project.

# Kennel design contract moves forward

BY GUS STEEVES

SOUTHBRIDGE — The long-awaited new town animal kennel took a step for- ed renewing of South- table the issue to the end Back when the state ward last week as its building committee approved a \$64,000 contract with Mc- bridge's participation in Clure Engineering for design, survey, wetlands and architectural work. That still a grant-funded regional has to go to town council for final OK next week.

Chris McClure noted the proposed location - the DPW property on Guelphwood Road – has some contamination issues, but the section they're looking to build this on should be fairly clean. It's in the property's northwest corner, near a of Health's unanimous small pond. The site was chosen because of water and sewer on site and an easement to Charlton Street for a gas line.

Most of the contamination – PCBs – currently sits in a large, plastic-covered from BOH Chair Roland

# Council rejects renewal of health agreement

**BY GUS STEEVES** 

health collaborative last week by a tie vote. That came despite the Board approval of doing it and passionate advocacy Tum To **KENNEL** page A14 Larochelle and MAHB's Mike Hugo.

— The council reject- tion, after he sought to point in time." of August for more information. He said he had "a number of concerns" program's data collection would impose any burdens on town staff. He noted he favors sharing with other towns as

trols its own people, and The deciding factor noted he was "neither for SOUTHBRIDGE was Steve Kelly's absten- nor against this at this

was devising this coalition around 2020, Hugo said his agency, the Mass including whether the Association of Health Boards, "fought vigorously to keep the autonomy of the health boards" and got it. So far, the program has evolved into long as Southbridge con- 51 grant-funded groups covering 321 towns; this group gets \$1.5 million for shared services.

Larochelle said Southbridge has already benefited from such sharing. Among other things, it provided the nurse who did Covid contact tracing and covered the town for inspections between the current health director and his predecessor. Hugo later added the state has also provided the hardware and software to unify the inspections permitting process "so everybody is held to the same standards in town."

"This is not DESE el, through story time, coming in and telling us what to do," Larochelle said, referring to the fact that Sunday's teachings the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education now Federated runs the school district. Church of Sturbridge Instead, he decribed it as "an insurance policy ... Nothing is forced [on

He noted the BOH did bers are welcome and in- initially vote against revited to join in worship newal back in June, but after a presentation at its July meeting opted to also live streamed on the reconsider that, voting

unanimously to renew. Former councilor and call 774-304-1021 or visit BOH member Dave Adams agreed, urging the Turn To **COUNCIL** page A14

# Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale announces community event

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale invites the local community to attend an Open House and Family Activity Day from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10 on the church grounds at 8 Maple Street, Sturbridge. The event is open to the general public free of charge and no advance registration is required.

According to Rev. David W. Cote, pastor, the event will include a cookout prepared by the church men's and women's groups, Crossroads and Koinonia.

"All are welcome to attend the cookout with church members for conversation and fellowship," he said.

Sturbridge Scout Troop 161, which meets at the church on Sunday evenings, will organize



The Federated Church member Bob Knight is heating up the grill for Aug. 10 Open House and Family Activity Day.

a variety of children's lawn. Kathy Krikorian games on the church will offer face painting, and Judy LaVergne will be holding story time in Fellowship Hall. Federated's music director, Andrew Kosiba will provide musical entertainment throughout the event.

"We're also throwing the Meeting House doors wide open for tours to showcase the partial renovations we've accomplished over the past six months," says Pastor Dave. "We're eager to share our additional plans for this historic building with the community, and reintroduce Sunday School, adult study groups, and other faith-based programs."

"Parents and children in attendance will have an opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet in Fellowship Hall with a few our CORI-certified Sunday School teachers," said Pastor Dave.

"Starting this fall, our staff will be available during the Sunday service to supervise up to 25 children, aged 6 months to 10 years of age while their parents attend church. The Sunday School will encourage Christian morals and ethics, within their understanding and age levvideos, crafts, and other activities aligned with and sermons."

The & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our us]." lives. Community memon Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are church's Facebook page. For more information, sturfed.org.

# **CCUMC** asks what kind of collector are you?

CHARLTON — Come find out at the Aug. 3 Dynamic Cards, Collectibles & Crafts Show at Charlton City United Methodist Church. Two full floors of all types of collections. Add to your collection or begin a new

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. For example, there are 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

Come to the show on Aug. 3 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 74 Stafford St. in Charlton. In addition to a very large variety of vendors, we'll also have lunch and baked goods for sale. We are supporting Charlton REAS (heat fuel assistance for local seniors), the United Methodist disaster relief agency (UMCOR), and Abby's House in Worcester; as well as door donations being taken for Target ALS. You win with all the vendors, 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.



## AUGUST EVENTS AT CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

full listing of programs and events or to register.

Movies @ The Library

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 ONLY in Dexter Hall. No registration required. Free pop-

August 6 : JOURNEY OF AUGUST KING. 1995. Rated PG-13. Runtime 90 minutes. Starring Jason Patric, Thandie Newton, Larry Drake, Sam Waterston, and Nesbitt Blaisdell.

August 13: AUGUST RUSH. 2007. Rated PG. Runtime 114 minutes. With Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, and William Sadler.

August 20: WHALES OF AUGUST. 1987. Rated TV-PG. Runtime 90 minutes. Featuring Lillian Gish, Bette Davis, Ann Sothern, Vincent Price, and Harry Carey Jr.

August 27: TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON. 1956. Not rated. Runtime 123 minutes. Starring Glenn Ford, Marlon Brando, Eddie Albert, Machiko Kyo, and Paul Ford.

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room - No registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Genealogy Group Meeting

Thursday, August 1, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public. Tonight will be a general discussion.

CPL Book Discussion - THE ROAD TO ROS-WELL by Connie Willis

Thursday, August 8, 6:00-7:00 - Community Meeting Room and via Zoom - No registration

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Check library event calendar listing for Zoom

**Book Flower Craft** 

Wednesday, August 14, 2:00-3:30 - Community Meeting Room

Our summer reading theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat"! For this hands-on craft program we'll be making beautiful flowers out of old book pages and creating a statement display piece with them. For adults and teens ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

> An Evening with Neurologist/Neuroscientist/Author Dr. Andrew Budson: Why We Forget and Steps to Managing Memory, Alzheimer's Disease, and Dementia

> Tuesday, August 13, 6:00-7:30 - Dexter Hall - Registration Requested

> Dr. Budson will discuss managing issues with memory, language, vision, behavior, driving, incontinence, sleep, and more. Also learn how to distinguish changes in memory due to Alzheimer's versus normal aging, what medications, diet, and exercise regimes can help,

Visit our Web site (charltonlibrary.org) for a and the best habits, strategies, and memory aids to use. Learn some tricks and techniques that everyone can use to improve their memory. This talk is part of the Dementia Friendly Charlton initiative. Registration is requested.

> Better Read Than Dead Book Club - THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT US by Axton Betz Hamilton

Wednesday, August 14, 11:00-12:00 - Sibley Reading Area - No registration required

A monthly meetup to discuss fascinating true crime books. Books available from circulation prior to discussion.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, August 15, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Led by experienced caregivers and offers information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. No registration Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Respect Your Elder' An Herbal Workshop Tuesday, August 20, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

From Elder flower tea to Elderberry syrup, come learn why this potent plant, and several others, are easy herbs to know and use. This hands-on workshop will explore practical skills, facts, folklore, tips and tricks! Learn to naturally support yourself and your family when hit by colds and flus. Presented by Christine Leo, M.ED. Certified Traditional Herbalist. Registration required.

CULE (Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble) Thursday, August 22, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Experienced musicians and newbies all welcome. Questions? Email Cule5632@gmail.com

Cornerstone Concert Series: Hungrytown Thursday, August 22, 6:30-7:30 - Dexter Hall -No registration

Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson have crafted Hungrytown into a true artistic hybrid, able to hold Celtic and Americana, ballads and psychedelia, sunshine and darkness, joy and despair. Registration is not required. This concert series is generously sponsored by Cornerstone Bank.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group - EU-CLID'S ELEMENTS Book 1 (Definitions, Postulates, Common Notions) Friday, August 23, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

Edible Wild Plants and Fungi of Autumn Thursday, August 29, 6:30 - 8:00 - Dexter Hall -Registration required

Learn how to identify, sustainably harvest, and prepare the wild foods of autumn, from acorns through minty wintergreen leaves, including golden honey mushrooms and maitake, the "dancing mushroom". Join The 3 Foragers as they teach the edible plants and fungi of autumn with their original photos and recipe ideas in an educational slideshow. The 3 Foragers are a family from southeastern Connecticut and they have worked with over 150 libraries, nature centers, summer camps, garden clubs, land trusts, and private citizens to learn the wild edible plants and fungi of Southern New England since 2016. All are welcome. Registration required.

# 'Friday's



#### **Aaminah** Age 9 Registration # 8076

#### Hi! My name is Aaminah

Aaminah loves to sing, dance, go to her gymnastic classes, color, play outside and watch movies. She will soon be joining a local Girl Scout troop and is so excited about it. In school she receives some assistance in writing and reading as well as support services for her social and emotional needs. She has been described as sweet with a vivid imagination but can so be very impulsive and will freely says what is on her mind. She currently has an incentive plan for daily and evening activities which has been set by her program.

Aaminah has 4 siblings with whom she is very close and will need a family that can commit to keeping her in contact with them on a regular bases by phone, virtually and in-person. The ideal family for her should be trauma informed, patient, and supportive. Aaminah will also need a 2 parent family with no other children in the home or much older children. Aaminah's new family must be trauma informed, patient, supportive, able to set and adhere to these limits as well as being loving and understanding. It is suggested that a family for Aminah would be one that would be a visitor to her on a regular basis, preferably weekly, until such time as Aaminah feels that she can trust and becomes bonded to this family.

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



## Learn about fireflies with Hands on **Nature at Charlton Library**

CHARLTON — On Monday, Aug. 5, from 2-3 p.m., learn about fireflies and how they have been used as light sources in many cultures. Discover the habits and lifestyles of these luminous insects, and learn what makes their 'cool light' different from other 'warm light.' We will discover their fascinating anatomy, as well as discover how they communicate in the dark.

Fireflies are one of our most beloved night-time insects... join us as we discover more about them. Bring a recycled glass jar, and make a firefly catcher to bring home and enjoy this summer! This program is for families of all ages. Registration is required. Please visit our Web site at www.charltonlibrary.org to register. Presented by Hands on Nature from Berlin and hosted by the Charlton Public Library at 40 Main St., Charlton, MA 01507.





## Annual Masonic summer outing going strong after 33 years

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

**SOUTHBRIDGE** On Saturday, July 27, the upper parking lot of Westville Dam recreational area in Southbridge was filled with cars from Masonic family members from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the Doric Chapter of Southbridge. Both highly respected organizations have been organizing this great family event since 1991.

A great turnout on this beautiful summer day for this gathering of Masonic family and



Members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge, the Doric Chapter and their families, and friends.

# Council OK's road payment, trail contract

**BY GUS STEEVES** 

SOUTHBRIDGE — In an item added to the agenda, the council approved paying the last change order for last year's Ellis and Guelphwood road work for the sum of \$42,497. That brought the total for that project to \$1.13 million.

According to Manager Jack Jovan, the change needed happen because the accounting department "had the [total] check ready to go" that morning, but discovered the payment and documentation didn't match. Doing some digging, they found the work covered by the change had been done, but the paperwork had never been approved

total is still within the amount appropriated for the project, he said.

"This project has been very frustrating because there's been a bunch of moving parts," including changing the streets, and funding sources, he added. Originally, the plan called for doing Mechanic and North Streets, but that was delayed due to National Grid work.

"I work primarily for municipalities, and Southbridge has historically been by far the most frustrating to deal with in getting paid," said contractor James Pioppi.

Indeed, for some time, issues on the town side were de-

by the council. But the laying many bills by step toward happening weeks or months last when the board unanyear. Chair Scott Lazo imously noted that had a lot to Roach & Sons' \$3.9 do with the "continued million bid to build revolving door" among the Quinebaug Valley town staff, which he Rail Trial across town. hoped won't contin- That bid came in below ue. Before then, it was the project estimates common to see change and is being funded by orders come to coun- state and federal grant cil and get approved money. ahead of time, he not-

> being resolved and Mr. money," John Daniel Pioppi's getting paid," said. said Joe Daou.

George needs to be improved "much much more so this doesn't happen."

took the last major it along abandoned,

"I'm very, pleased we can do a "I'm glad this issue's little bit extra with the

Peg Dean agreed, Chenier saying, "It couldn't agreed, but said he have worked out betfeels the overall fi- ter for the town, so nance system still congratulations to the town."

The project calls for building about five He noted he feels Jo- miles of partly-paved, van is working on that. partly stone dust mul-A different project tiuse trail, most of state-owned railway from the Dudley line to Sturbridge. Some parts will be on streets, mostly in the Crane/ a short stretch along Rotary. An art display and pocket park is being designed for the section downtown near the Registry; work on town Transportation

which aims to completely redesign the flow of traffic through the area. There has also been some talk of adding historical and ecological information signs or kiosks in various areas.

The work is slated to begin this year and will last 420 days.

This project was conceived at least 20 years ago, but only really started blossoming due to extensive grant work by Dean in recent years. At one point, the council stalled it over concerns about liability for contamination, but later approved the 99-year lease with the state after getting clarification that using DEP best practices for containment would

protect the town. A subsequent agenitem allocated \$273,000 to BSC Group for construction administration, sight and licensed site professional work, the tamination. Dean said that figure is covered in the trails grant, and such oversight is something the federal Economic Development Administration is "adamant" about. She recommended using BSC

because they designed the trail, and therefore already know about a lot of its issues.

friends. All enjoyed the

walking trails and a few even tried some fishing. The scenic and beauty of the Westville Dam

area has been the go-to recreation area for our

lodges for the past 33

years. We must reserve

the large pavilion area at least a year in advance.

The children were running around laughing,

and games were played

by young and old. Most

pleasant of all was the

tasty food and the com-

radery had by all. If you

are interested and would

like more information

about Freemasonry, go

to www.massfreemaso-

nary.org and find a lodge

nearest you.

Daniel said this project has required "more than one leap of faith," but "now we have a trail." He described it as "something that adds to the character of the town. Why not Southbridge?"

In an issue somewhat tangential to development, Planning Board member Pam Paquin rose at citizens' forum to object to the fact the town recently granted a tent permit to the Italian Club when her board has been trying to get that group to go through the formal process of approving changes to its parking lot. She cited several parts of the bylaw the Club needs permits for, and dubbed it all "decent stuff," but noted they have not applied for

Jovan said he's talkd to the Planning Board chair about this and is seeking files "that can't be found" related to it.

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

## SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the follow- Mill/West area and ing arrests during the week of July 22-29.

A 43-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest East Main through the latter to address conon July 22 for multiple counts of Assault & Battery.

A 32-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody for un-

disclosed reasons on July 22. Christian Luis DeJesus Perez, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on July 23

in connection with a warrant for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle. A 32-year-old female from Westford was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on that part will overlap July 23 for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense) and Possession of a the start of the down-

Megan Battista, age 26, of Killingly, Conn. was arrested on July 25 in connec- Improvement Project, tion with multiple warrants.

Class C Drug (Clonazepam) with Intent to Distribute.

A 74-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on July 25 for a Marked Lanes Violation.

A 22-year-old from Southbridge was taken into protective custody for undisclosed reasons on July 26.

Jonathan Pagan, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on July 26 in connection with a warrant for Possession of a Class B Drug.

Darilys M. Maldonado, age 39, of Southbridge was arrested on July 26 in connection with a warrant for Distribution of a Class B Drug.

A 23-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on July 26 for Assault & Battery.

A 62-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on July 27 for Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Mariah J. Moriarty, age 29, of Charlton was arrested on July 27 for Possession of a Class B Drug, Vandalization of Property, Larceny From a Building, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

A 45-year-old male from Plantsville, Conn. was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on July 27 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and operating a motor vehicle while not in possession of a license.

A 43-year-old female from Woodstock, Conn. was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on July 28 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Drive in the Right Lane, and possessing an Open Container of Marijuana.

A 30-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on July 28 for Threatening to Commit a Crime.

# Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

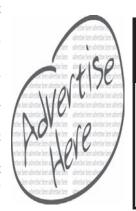
WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2024 Dean's List:

Ryan P. Bonja, of Sturbridge was named to second honors.

Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield was named to second honors.

Sean Thomas Keane, of Sturbridge was named to first honors.

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



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# **Venture Community Services adds** three to Board of Directors

STURBRIDGE — Venture Community Services, one of the Commonwealth's leading providers of innovative human services, today announced the appointment of three individuals to its Board of Directors following its merger with Life-Skills, Inc.

#### The new directors are:

Paul Haughey, Superintendent, Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District;

Nancy Noonan, Nurse Practitioner, Commonwealth Care Alliance; and Janice Smith, Co-Founder, The Fam-

ily Voice (now the Autism Alliance)

"The growth of our board mirrors the growth of this agency as we join forces with Life-Skills to further enhance the lives of the individuals we serve." said Donna Peters. President of Venture's Board of Directors. "As we embark on this new chapter, we eagerly welcome Paul, Nancy and Janice, and the commitment that they bring and their expertise in education, health care and advocacy."

Paul Haughey served on the Life-Skills Board of Directors since 2015. He has over 30 years of experience in education. In addition to being a school district superintendent, he is currently teaching and overseeing practicum supervision experiences in special education and serving as visUniversity and other Massachusetts colleges and universities. Haughev served the Town of Blackstone in various positions, including representing its Board of Selectmen on the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission to enhance the life and work of people living in the region. He earned a bachelor's degree from Framingham State University, master's degrees in education from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Framingham State University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University.

Nancy Noonan served on the Life-Skills Board of Directors for more than 20 years. She is a palliative care nurse practitioner at Commonwealth Care Alliance. She also practices at St. Anne's Free Medical Program, which is part of the Worcester Free Care Collaborative, providing basic, quality healthcare and social support services, regardless of income, insurance, or housing status. Noonan is president of the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society and is a board member of St. Anne's and St. Peter's Free Medical Programs. Noonan holds advanced board certifications in oncology, hospice and palliative care and earned an associate's degree in nursing from MassBay Community

> ing from Fitchburg State University and a master's de-

iting professor at Framingham State from Sacred Heart University.

Janice Smith served on the Life-Skills Board of Directors for nearly 20 vears. She has devoted much of her life to her son who has autism and to being an advocate for autism awareness. In 1993, Smith co-founded a support group, The Family Voice, for families navigating autism during a time when there were minimal resources devoted to this community. This group would become the nonprofit Autism Alliance, which currently includes 2,700 families. She serves on an Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts taskforce and is an active member of her community, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and her local food pantry. Smith is retired and previously served as an administrative specialist at Franklin Pierce University, an employee consultant at Advocates Inc., and as a project coordinator and documentation supervisor at Bose Corp.

#### **About Venture Community** Services

Venture Community Services is committed to providing compassionate, person-centered services to nearly 600 people with developmental disabilities and autism across Massachusetts. From its beginnings with two small group homes, Venture has evolved into one of the state's premier human service providers with more than 1,000 employees. Venture encourages independence through a continuum of support, which includes community residential services, day programs,

supported employment, transportation, autism supports and shared living. Next year, the agency will celebrate its 50th anniversary of providing support to those in need.

#### VILLAGER ALMANAC

#### OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL Monday-Wednesday:

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

#### **JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 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

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200 Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays ......7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays......7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. visit www.townofcharlton.net

or more information. Individual offices may vary **Public Library (248-0452)** For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250) Monday to Friday...... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For emergencies, dial 911 FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)

Monday to Friday...... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. POST OFFICES Charlton Center Post Office... (800) 275-8777

Charlton City (01508) ...... (800) 275-8777 SCHOOLS

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District .....(508) 943-6888 Charlton Elementary School

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

.....(508) 943-6700 Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108 Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486 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. Sum-

mer 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.

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.livingwordhcarlton.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

College, a bachelor's degree in nurs-

gree in nursing

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\$700,000, 485 Stafford St, Cornerstone General Contr, to Denis, Dean R, and Denis, Christine P.

\$370,000, 60 Hill Rd #A, Leblanc, Ronald, to Novotny, Karen M, and Fogle, Sean A.

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Donna, to T Reardon Builders Inc. \$205,000, 45 New Spencer Rd, Biando Sharon L Est, and

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#### 8. Kilometers per hour 9. Set an example 10. It's among the "Great" ones 12. VVV 13. Murdered 16. Icelandic poems 17. Seas 20. Famed cartoonist 22. Partner to "Ma" 25. Equal to one quintillion bytes

26. Speak incessantly

29. Parts per billion (abbr.)

27. Disquiet

**CLUES ACROSS** 

5. Hairs on the back of a dog

14. Consume too much food

11. Ones who build anew

18. Provides weapons

19. Become less lively

23. Thought or suggestion

29. Expression of acidity or

21. Engine additive

24. South Korean city

28. Midday rests

alkalinity

30. Group of rockers

32. Very fast airplane

something

**CLUES DOWN** 

6. Keyboard key

7. Prefix indicating mutual

5. Idol

33. One who is paid to do

1. Nasal mucus

15. Praised

1. No seats available 31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.) 2. Russian river 34. S. American plant 3. A European river 36. Monetary unit of Thailand 37. Regions

35. Buzzing insect

39. Strong dark beer

42. Square measures

languages

56. In a normal way

58. Rode a bicycle

60. Charitable

62. Verandas

63. Uncredited

47. Afflict in mind or body

52. Municipality in Stockholm

41. Blood type

46. Present

49. Duty

36. Monotheistic religion founder

44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic

38. Baseball legend Yogi 40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans 43. Fishing net

45. Tinseltown 48. MacBeth's wife was one

50. Took a spill 51. Adversary to pets

53. Town in Galilee 54. Secret racist society (slang) 55. About aviation

57. Longing or yearning 58. Hawaiian dish

59. Field force unit

61. Partner to "Pa"

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# Bay Path graduate recognized with two citations

CHARLTON — Massachusetts State Sen. Ryan Fattman, through Amanda Galonek Hellyar, MPA, Deputy District Director and Special Projects Coordinator from the Office of Sen. Ryan Fattman, Worcester & Hampden, presented a citation to John Martin Wanji-

State Rep. John J. Marsi, Jr. also presented a citation to John Martin Wanjiru as acknowledgement for accomplishments and award as the MassCTE. org Post-secondary student of the year, Central Chapter. Citations are awarded to constituents who have reached a significant personal or professional milestone.

Ryan C. Fattman currently serves in the Massachusetts State Senate. Previously, he represented the 18th Worcester district in the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a Repub-



John J. Marsi, Jr. is currently serving as a Republican member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 6th Worcester district.

Both Senator Fattman and Representative Marsi honored John Martin Wanjiru at his graduation and pinning ceremony June 21 at the Overlook Performance Arts Center.

John Martin Wanjiru of South Grafton graduated with the PN Class of 2024.

"What an honor to witness and celebrate this recognition for our nursing graduate," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. "We are proud of John Martin for this achievement and grateful to both Senator Fattman and Rep. Marsi."

John Martin pursued a career in nursing, having been motivated by his experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Certified Home Health Aid (CHHA), and a direct support professional.

"Giving the best version of a nurse whenever I will be working, to create a positive environment for the residents and colleagues," John Martin noted.

He spends his free time giving back to those who give their service to the country. He collected items for care packages that were sent to soldiers. He spoke in front of the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 about this initiative. Care bags were filled and donated to the https://militarymissions.org/ sent via USPS at 570 Delzan Place, Suite 10, Lexington, KY 40503. He felt encouraged and empowered to show appreciation to the veterans.

John Martin was a CNA at the River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center since 2021. From 2019 to 2022, he was a direct support professional at Venture Community Services. Originally from Kenya, he obtained his certification at Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya for CISCO Networking Academy, 2012). He completed his secondary education at Kiamuya Secondary School (Nyeri, Kenya 2009).

John Martin is certified in BLS/HCP CPR, mental health first aid, and dementia care. As a member of the PN Class of 2024 he was a member of the admissions panel interview and coordinated the Alzheimer's Association memorial luminary during the longest night in December. Through https:// www.betherecertificate. org/he received his Be There Certificate. The Be There Certificate is a selfpaced learning experience designed to increase mental health literacy. The training provides knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to safely support anyone who may be struggling with their mental health. From "It provides a deep understanding of Be There's 5 Golden Rules — a simple but actionable framework on how to recognize when someone might be struggling with their mental health, your role in supporting that person, and how to connect them to the help they deserve."

# Western New England University celebrates Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements over 670 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Thomas Andolina of cal Engineering. Uxbridge is working to-

ward a BA in Psychology. Owen Boyns of Charlton is working toward a BS in Actuarial Science.

Lex Lovell of Uxbridge is working toward a BS in Computer Science.

Austin Ayotte of Charlton is working toward a BSBA in General Business.

Sarah Johnston of Uxbridge is working toward a BSBA in General Business.

Ashley Figueroa of Charlton is working toward a BSE in Biomedi-

Thomas Schreiber of Uxbridge is working toward a BSE in Civil Engineering.

Courtney Farrell of Sturbridge is working toward a BA in Psychol-

Claire Hill of Brimfield is working toward a BS in Actuarial Science.

Kaylin Tietz of Brimfield is working toward a BS in Biology.

Emily Moran of Holland is working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.

Makenna Matczak of Wales is working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.

Meghan Caplette of Fiskdale is working toward a BS in Forensic Biology.

Braylon Casinghino of Brimfield is working toward a BSBA in Finance.

Ethan Ahearn of Brimfield is working toward a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduSpringfield as a division of Northeastern College. WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 fulltime undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of

ates. Founded in 1919 in 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

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



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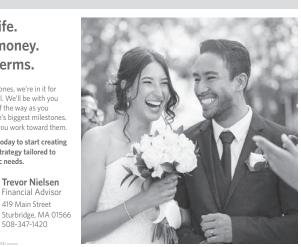




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> Frank G. Chilinski PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

Brendan Berube

Editor

#### **Beyond memes** and headlines — the imperative of informed voting

In an age where social media dominates the landscape of information dissemination, it's too easy to fall into the trap of making decisions based on quick headlines and catchy memes. However, the upcoming election is of such paramount importance that it demands a deeper level of engagement from every voter. The stakes have never been higher, with one candidate making unprecedented claims that, if elected, no one will ever have to vote again because they'll have it "fixed real good." On the other side, a candidate is fiercely advocating for the preservation of American freedoms. This is a critical moment in our history, and we must take it seriously.

The rhetoric of patriotism and freedom has been used by both sides, often skewed and manipulated to serve political agendas. However, we must look beyond these slogans and closely examine what the candidates are truly saying. The promise of never having to vote again is a direct threat to the core of our democracy. Imagine if the Democratic nominee made such a statement—there would be widespread outrage. Yet, when the Republican candidate makes this claim, it is somehow normalized. This normalization is dangerous and undermines the very foundation of our democratic process.

Democracy is built on the right to vote. It is the cornerstone of our political system and the means through which we, the people, hold our leaders accountable. Any suggestion that this right could be taken away should be met with fierce resistance. It is not just a political issue; it is an existential threat to the values upon which our nation was founded. When a candidate threatens to erode this right, it is a call to action for all citizens to rise above party lines and defend the principles of democracy.

In this election, more than ever, we must be vigilant and well-informed. It is not enough to rely on snippets of information from social media. We must delve into the policies and promises of each candidate, understanding their implications for our future. We must listen to what they say and, more importantly, believe them. Their words and actions are a reflection of their intentions, and we must take them at face value.

The narrative that one side is the sole defender of patriotism and freedom is a distortion. In reality, the fight to maintain government out of our personal decisions and to preserve our freedoms is being waged by those who are committed to upholding democratic values. The threat to our democracy is real and immediate. If we are to preserve the freedoms we hold dear, we must act now.

For those who are still uncertain about the gravity of the situation, I urge you to do your research. Look beyond the memes and headlines. Seek out reliable sources of information and educate yourself on the stakes of this election. Understand that democracy is a fragile system that requires our active participation and protection.

This election is a defining moment in our history. The choice we make will determine the future of our democracy. We cannot afford to be complacent or misinformed. We must take the candidates at their word, understand the implications of their promises, and vote to protect our democratic rights. This is not just another election. Do not be fooled by party lines or catchy slogans. Believe in the power of your vote and use it to safeguard the principles of freedom and democracy.

# ()PINI()N

# The Peach Harvest is In!

Nothing mid-summer like sweet, juicy peach, and here in New England, the long awaited peach crop is in! In celebration of the sweet harvest, this week's column offers the following "peach primer."

Perfect Peaches: Using three of your senses will confirm when a peach is perfect to eat:

Ripe peaches should have reddish and yellow hues. Peaches that show any tinge of green are not yet ripe. Also, a fully developed peach at its peak of ripeness should be round; typically, oblong peaches aren't yet ripe.

Smell: Take sniff. You should be able to smell a sweet, familiar scent when a peach is fully ripe.

Touch: Peaches should be slightly soft to the touch, with a little give. Hard peaches are not ripe.

Rev up Ripening: If the peach is hard, you can accelerate ripening by placing it in a brown paper bag for a day or two. If you have multiple peaches, do not pile peaches in the bag, rather spread them out so they do not touch.

Or, perch peaches on a kitchen windowsill to speed up ripening.

Ripened peaches will keep their flavor for up to five days in the vegetable crisper drawer of the refrigerator.

Have too many ripe peaches? Try freezing them. Cut unbruised fruit up and freeze on a cookie sheet. Once frozen, place the chunks into a plastic freezer bag. These sweet morsels can be used for smoothies, fruit salad, cobblers, and more as they should stay fresh up to six weeks when properly frozen. Try this quick and easy Peach Yogurt recipe using peach chunks straight from the freez-(from JustATaste. com):

Ingredients: Four frozen peach chunks; 3 tablespoons honey; ½ cup plain yogurt; one tablespoon fresh lemon juice.

Direc tions: Place the frozen peaches, honey, yogurt and lemon juice into the bowl of a food processor. **Process** until creamy, about 5 minutes.

Serve the frozen yogurt immediately transfer it to an airtight container and store it in



TAKE THE HINT KAREN TRAINOR

the freezer for up to 1 month.

Want frozen peaches to keep their flavor longer? Peaches can last up to one year in the freezer, according to the National Center of Home Preservation if you follow this process:

- 1. Wash, and remove pits from peaches.
- 2. Place peaches into a freezer-safe container, leaving at least 1/2 inch of headspace.
- 3. Pour water or syrup over the peaches to cover. To make a syrup, dissolve sugar in lukewarm water and mix until clear. You can use anywhere from 10% to 50% sugar in your syr-
- 4. Place the peachfilled container labeled with the date into the freezer.

Nutrition: A medium peach has 0.5 grams of fat, 0 grams of cholesterol and sodium, 15 grams of carbohydrate, 13 grams of sugar, 2 grams of fiber and 1 gram of protein.

Peaches are also an antioxidant, diuretic, expectorant, and a laxative. Studies show the potassium in peaches, coupled with the fiber of the fruit, can help lower blood pressure.

Peaches are considered a super fruit. they contain anti-inflamantioxidents, matory therefore, peaches can be an effective treatment for skin inflammations, such as allergies.

P e a c h e s Past: As noted viously in this column, peaches were first grown in China, traced as far back as 551 BC. Peaches are a member of the same

which accounts for its

rose,

policy

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sweet fragrance. But early peaches, which were tiny and tart with a larger pit and lots of fuzz, barely resembled today's plump, juicy fruits. Despite its shortcomings, the historic peach earned its place in early Chinese folklore, as it was considered to bring luck and immortality. In fact, today, the Chinese still consider peaches are proper birthday gifts.

Strains of early peaches attracted favor and the tasty fruit traveled from China through Europe and finally to the "New World," gaining legions of fans along the way. The Romans fondly dubbed peaches "Persian Apples," for the country that first introduced the sweet fruit to the west. Louis XIV of France was so fond of peaches that he once awarded a pension to the man who provided him with peaches from Montreuil, a suburb of Paris.

While Spanish explorers brought the peach to America, Native Americans credited with spreading their cultivation. Eventually, Georgia was named the Peach State, for its abundant peach crops, which flourished in the warm, southern climate.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip

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

#### How strong is your emergency fund?



FINANCIAL Focus

> **TREVOR NIELSEN**

You can't predict financial emergencies — but you can prepare for them.

To do that, you can build an emergency fund to pay for unexpected expenses, some of which may be sizable. Without one, you might be forced to dip into your investments, possibly including your retirement accounts, such as your IRA or 401(k). If this happens, you might have to pay taxes and penalties, and you'd be withdrawing dollars that could otherwise be growing over time to help pay for your

In thinking about such a fund, consider these questions:

How much should I save? The size of your emergency fund should be based on several factors, including your income, your spouse's income, and your cost of living. However, for most people in their working years, three to six months of total expenses is adequate. Once you're retired, though, you may want to keep up to a year's worth of expenses in your emergency fund — because you don't want to be forced to cash out investments when their price may be down, and you may not be replenishing these accounts any longer.

How can I build an emergency fund? Given all your normal expenses mortgage, utilities, food, transportation, and others — you might find it challenging to set aside some extra money in an emergency fund. But you do have opportunities. If you're working, you could set up a direct deposit so that part of your paycheck goes directly into your emergency fund. You could also save a portion of any extra income you receive, such as bonuses and tax refunds.

Where should I keep the money? An emergency fund has two key requirements: You need to be able to access the money immediately and you need to count on a certain amount being available. So, it's a good idea to keep your emergency fund in a liquid, low-risk account that offers protection of principal. For this fund, you're less interested in growth than you are in stability. But because interest rates have recently changed, you may be able to get a reasonable return without sacrificing liquidity or safety.

What types of emergencies should I prepare for? Your emergency fund could be needed for any number of events: a job loss or early retirement, housing or auto repairs, unreimbursed medical bills, unexpected travel, and so on. But this fund may also be needed to help you cope with other threats. Consider this: In 2023, the U.S. saw a record 28 weather and climate disasters, each of which resulted in at least \$1 billion in damages — and often many times this amount — according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Depending on where you live, your home or business may be susceptible to tornadoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes and extreme heat and cold waves. These events can, and do, result in property repair and relocation costs, higher insurance premiums and even price increases for basic goods, such as groceries and prescription medications.

One final word about an emergency fund: It takes discipline to maintain it and to avoid tapping into it for everyday expenses or impulse purchases. The name says it all — this is a fund that should only be used for emergencies. By keeping it intact until it's truly needed, you can help yourself weather many of the storms that may come your way.

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.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

# **Letter submission**

family as the

will not be accepted.

# Poor flowering and fruiting in the vegetable garden

Another summer of above-normal summer temperatures in much of the country may be taking its toll on your vegetable gardens. Temperature extremes can interfere with flowering and fruit set, resulting in poor flowering, blossom drop, and a lack of or misshapen fruit on tomatoes, peppers, squash, and more.

The impact of temperature on plants depends on the stage of the plant's development. Plants ready to flower or developing fruit during times of optimum temperatures will be fine but plants that are ready to flower or develop fruit during more extreme temperatures experience problems.

Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny condi-



GARDEN

MOMENTS

MELINDA

**MYERS** 

tions but when daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees Fahrenheit and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees Fahrenheit blossom drop and poor fruit development may occur. This combined with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the pollen is too sticky and doesn't move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollina-

On the other hand,

tion, the flowers won't

be fertilized, and fruit

will not develop.

when night temperatures are below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit, less viable pollen is produced so fewer fruit will form. Cooler temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit can result in misshapen fruit and cat-facing. Fortunately, this malformed fruit is still tasty and safe to eat.

Temperature also impact tremes pepper productivity. When temperatures climb to 95 degrees or higher, the pollen is sterile and flowers may drop. Small fruit may also fall from the plant during such hot spells. Pepper plants also experience poor fruit set when night temperatures drop below 60 degrees or rise above 75 degrees.



Melinda Myers

Cooler temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit can result in misshapen fruit and cat-facing as seen in this photo.

Flowering in squash produce separate male

and cucumber plants and female flowers. The is also influenced by male flowers usually temperature and other appear first, and it is environmental factors. not until both the male These plants typically and female flowers are present that pollination, fertilization, and fruit production can occur.

The research found dream every single day, even if it was just cool temperatures, half an hour or one small task. They nevbright sunlight, and shorter days encourage female flower pro-It's not about large bursts of effort but duction while male small, persistent, daily efforts. You set flowers are more protiny goals that you know are achievable, lific during warmer and you keep doing them daily. You real-temperatures, less sunize that consistency is one of the most polight, and close spacing. and cucumbers is also impacted by nitrogen

> In addition, rainy formed cucumbers.

of male flowers.

These aren't the only Eggplants, a close relative of tomatoes and grees. Beans stop flowering or the flowers

The simplest solution is to wait for optimum temperatures and begin producing fruit. Be sure to harvest reguproducing.

If poor productivity caused by weather is a yearly problem, consider planting varieties better suited to these extremes, adjust the planting times, and if needed, find a more suitable growing location.

When the harvest is delayed, extend the season with the help of row covers. These fabrics allow sunlight, air, and water through while trapping heat around the plants. Loosely cover the plants and anchor the edges with stones, boards, or landscape staples when frost is forecasted. You can leave the fabric in place for the remainder of the year. Just lift it to harvest and secure the fabric when done.

this summer's weather leaves you disappointed with the harvest, remember there is always next year.

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

# Consistency

lenging. If you're like most people, unless you have financial backing, you're probably juggling a day job, a night job, taking care of a family, and then pursuing your dream.

Once you decide to pursue your dream, it's often easy to get started because, at this early stage, you have all the motivation. You're convinced of suc-

Pursuing a dream can be very chal-

cess and can see a future where your hard work pays off in a big way. You picture the people you'll help, the industry you'll revolutionize, and the competitors you'll surpass. This vision fuels your enthusiasm and propels you forward with energy and optimism.

But once you've laid the foundations, you may see flaws. Things may go differently than planned. You'll undoubtedly encounter many roadblocks. You might feel you've tried so hard for so long that you need a break.

Days turn to weeks and weeks into months, but suddenly, you remember your dream, get a burst of inspiration, and go at it again. You start getting some results, but there's still a long way to go. You work your socks off for a while, doing those 16-hour days and making sacrifices, but then life gets in the way. Family obligations may arise, your day job demands more time, and you may put your dream on hold again, still unwilling to let it go.

Maybe you have a friend, acquaintance, or even family member who pursued their dream, and you're in awe of how far they have gotten.

Out of frustration, you pick up the phone and give them a call, all while wondering how on earth they've managed to make it all work.

Luckily, they answered your call and gave you 30 minutes of their time. They ask you a series of questions, and you give them all the answers, detailing the ups and downs and the starts and stops.

Suddenly, you hear their Aha moment. They have an answer, and as you eagerly await, they say, "My friend, it seems you've got a consistency problem," and it hits you like a bolt of lightning. Consistency!

The word reverberates as you think of all the times you started and stopped.

Your friend says that they, too, had the same prob-

Positively SPEAKING

> **TOBY MOORE**

> > tent ingredients for turning your dreams Flowering on squash into reality. As the days turn into weeks and the weeks into fertilization. Too much months, you start to see progress. Your business be- can prevent female gins to grow steadily. The challenges stay, but your flower formation while

lem, and one day decided to work on their

er took a break; they just kept churning.

consistent efforts help you navigate them better. You insufficient amounts find that consistency builds momentum, and mo- can reduce the number mentum keeps you moving forward.

What are some things that will make you inconsistent? Drugs and alcohol are certainly significant weather or improperfactors. While some people claim substances like ly applied pesticides marijuana or alcohol make them more productive, that prevent bee acover time, they often find the opposite to be true. tivity and pollination When they quit, their productivity usually improves can also result in malsignificantly.

Other things that can lead to inconsistency include procrastination, which creates a cycle of stress vegetables impacted by and rushed work, and lack of sleep, which severely temperature extremes. impacts focus and energy levels.

Poor time management without a clear plan or peppers, do not set fruit schedule can lead to distractions and overwhelm. until night tempera-A negative mindset, filled with self-doubt and pessitures are above 55 demism, can sap motivation.

Unhealthy relationships can drain your energy die when temperatures and focus, pulling you away from productive habits. rise above 85 degrees. Constant distractions from social media, emails, or a noisy environment can also break your flow and hinder consistent progress.

Ultimately, you learn that consistency is not just proper humidity levels a habit; it's a powerful force that transforms aspirator return. Once this tions into achievements. It's the difference between happens, the plants will those who succeed and those who don't.

Dedicate yourself to your dream every single day. larly to keep the plants

Let consistency be the engine that propels you toward your goals and turns your aspirations into reality.





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Sale ends August 31!

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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/17/2024. You must set your appointment by 8/31/2024 and purchase by 9/17/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door, are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$150 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 8/31/2024 and purchase by 9/17/2024. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ²Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

# Voter registration for Primary ends Aug. 24

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town Clerk's office advises all residents that the last day to register to be eligible to vote in the state Primary to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3 is Saturday, Aug. 24. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Town Clerk's office at (508) 764-5408.

# Helping Hand Society to hold yard sale

CHARLTON — The Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc. is holding a yard sale at the Dodge Chapel & Meetinghouse, 81 Hammond Hill Rd. Charlton, on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. Our theme is "Beach Party."

Fun, fellowship, selections & beach balls await! After more than 100 years, our mission remains the same-to help the residents of Charlton and continue to be good guardians of the Dodge Chapel.

# Comic workshops at Charlton Public Library

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library is hosting two workshops with Comic Artist Jack Purcell on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

In Intro to Comics (3-4:30 p.m.), learn the basics of comic book creation with Jack Purcell, including the production process, drawing technique, page layout, and character design. Published work (DC Comics, Marvel) and original art will be used as examples.

In Intermediate Comics (5-6:30 p.m.), explore elements of creating comic book artwork with both traditional materials and touching on digital. Learn how to publish your work and develop scripts and page designs for successful storytelling. Both workshops are for Adults and Teens ages 13 and older. Registration is required for each workshop. Please visit our website at www.charltonlibrary.org to register. Jack Purcell graduated with a bachelor's degree in Illustration from Massachusetts College of Art in 1996. He began his work by penciling and inking various independent jobs with multiple companies. Titles include Gotham Underground, Teen Titans, Green Arrow, Detective Comics, Batman, Countdown, Batgirl, and others. Jack considers it a dream come true to be working for the "big two." The Charlton Library is located at 40 Main St.

# VTSU congratulates Chase Abbott on graduation

RANDOLPH CENTER, Vt. — Vermont State University is pleased to announce that Chase Abbott, of Charlton, is part of VTSU's inaugural graduating class for May 2024!

This diverse group of over 1000 students hailed from more than 200 Vermont towns, over 20 states, and various countries around the world. Congratulations to Vermont State University's Class of 2024!

Vermont State University combines the best of Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College and serves students on five campuses and multiple learning sites across the Green Mountains and beyond, as well as online. Vermont State provides a high-quality, flexible, and affordable education for students seeking associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, certificates, and in-demand professional credentials. The university builds upon a history of public higher education in Vermont dating back to 1787. Learn more at VermontState.edu.

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# **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 MARCH 9, 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: 2011 HONDA PILOT (TAN)

VIN: 5FNYF4H58BB027444 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Arturo E Morales, 339 PLYMOUTH ST MISSOULA, MT 59801

VEHICLE: 2013 Chrysler Town and Country VIN: 2C4RC1BG5DR662649

LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Travis Kyle Austin 47 WALLER ST PROVIDENCE RI 02908 VEHICLE: 2005 Mercedes-Benz E-Class

VIN: WDBUH82J15X171996 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Ute Gannett 60 Washington

Mendon MA 01756 VEHICLE: 2011 Ford Escape (Black) VIN: 1FMCU9D74BKB43078 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Evan Anderton, AND Laura I Anderton, Evan Anderton, AND Laura I Anderton, 16 SOPHIES WAY

BRIDGTON, ME 04009 VEHICLE: 2014 Tovota Tacoma Vin: 3TMLU4EN3EM151450 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Joseph Dandurand 12120 COLORADO BLVD, APT D105

Thornton CO 80241 VEHICLE: 2009 NISSAN MURANO VIN: JN8AZ18W69W129089 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Amanda Liz Santiago 37 PROVIDENCE ST, APT 3,

Worcester MA 01604 VEHICLE: 2007 BUICK LUCERNE VIN: 1G4HP57247U194825 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Julie Ann Scricco 15 Sullivan Blvd

oxford MA 01540 VEHICLE: 1997 FORD RANGER VIN: 1FTCR15X7VTA15373 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Gabriealla Diana Tanacea 29 PECK ST, APT 2 **SOUTBRIDGE MA 01550** 

VEHICLE: 2008 Infiniti G37 VEHICLE: 2008 Infiniti G37 VIN: JNKCV64E08M118298 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Tracy A Rose, 1242 CARDINAL ST

NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745 VEHICLE: 2007 Mitsubishi Outlander VIN: JA4M131X07Z012509 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Dewin Castillo 489 MAIN ST, APT 37

FISKDALE MA 01518 VEHICLE:2017 HONDA ACCORD VIN: 1HGCR2F54HA136298 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Luis Carlos Paredes Acosta, 113 COMMERCIAL ST, APT 1, LYNN, MA 01905

VEHICLE: 2003 Honda Odyssey VIN: 5FNRL186X3B147350 LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Sarah E Mandell 94 CENTRAL ST MILLVILLE, MA 01529 VEHICLE: 2010 NISSAN ALTIMA VIN: 1N4AL2AP8AN556439 LAST REGISTERED OWNER:

23 PEARL ST, APT 1, SPENCER MA 01562 SPENCER MA 01562 VEHICLE:2008 SATURN AURA VIN: 1G8ZV57738F120175

Jessica Lyn Thomas.

LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Anty C Darwulo, 43 ACTON ST, APT 1L WORCESTER MA 01604

August 2,2024 August 9,2024 August 16,2024

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSA-CHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL **COURT** Docket Number: 24 SM 002625 ORDER OF NOTICE To: Raymond K. Perry; Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Fiskdale (Southbridge), numbered 294 Brookfield Road, given by Raymond K. Perry, Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 3, 2021, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66563,

Page 353, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemem-

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before September 9, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on July 23, 2024. Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 26108 August 1, 2024

#### **Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Special Permit RLS Complete Propco, LLC**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 7:05 PM in the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of RLS Complete Propco, LLC for the property located at 90 Charlton Road.

The applicant requests a Special Permit as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XVII §300-17.5E regarding the erection and maintenance of signs in excess of what is specifically allowed in the Bylaw. In accordance with the plans and application submitted, the applicant is proposing a 70 sq.ft. building sign and a 96 sq.ft. free-standing sign, both where 30 sq.ft. is allowed under the sign bylaw.

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

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

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

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

Charles Blanchard Chairperson August 1, 2024

#### **Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing** Application for Site Plan Approval Town of Sturbridge Cedar Lake Recreation Area

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:35 PM in the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of The Town of Sturbridge for the property located at

60 Cedar Street. The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to make ADA improvements to the playground and beach recreation area. In accordance with the plans and application submitted, the improvements include the addition of two (2) ADA parking spaces, ADA accessible ramps to access the pavilion and playground area, ADA accessible pads to accommodate portable toilets, ADA accessible beach mats, reconstructing of the existing playground surface, and a dumpster pad with fenced enclosure. The project also includes the construction of stormwater controls to address existing conditions and the new impervious area.

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

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

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

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

Charles Blanchard Chairperson August 1, 2024 August 8, 2024

#### **CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

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 August 14, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Susan

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability to remove 6 trees within 100 feet of South Charlton Reservoir. The project location is: 79 Leland Drive, Charlton, MA.

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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjlMZGlhUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3l-WZz09

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

Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission August 1, 2024

(SEAL)

#### **COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court**

Docket Number: W024P2110GD Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of Calie G. Long of Charlton, MA Minor

#### NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED **PARTIES**

Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on an Amended Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 05/08/2024 by Olga Lopez of Montgomery, TX will be held 08/06/2024 08:30AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing

Located Worcester Probate & Family Court

Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court

#### ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)

finds that it is not in the minor's best in-

IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date listed above. Service must be made by sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.

If Service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, IT IS ORDERED that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of

Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first

class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity or whereabouts of an interested party is not known, IT IS FUR-THER ORDERED that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in Southbridge Evening News, Southbridge publication to be at least Seven (7) days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be shed lar first class mail at least Seven (7) days prior to the hearing

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice Date: June 25, 2024 Stephanie K. Fattman.

Register of Probate August 1,2024.

#### **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 August 14, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Susan

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the repair of a septic system for an existing single-family home. The project location is: 91 Blood Road, 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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjlMZGlhUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3l-WZz09

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

Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission August 1, 2024

#### **Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Approval Town of Sturbridge Trails Committee**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:50 PM in the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of The Town of Sturbridge for the property located at 9 River Road.

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to construct an eleven (11) vehicle parking lot off of River Road to provide access to the Grand Trunk Trail extension in accordance with the plans and application submitted.

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

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

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

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

Charles Blanchard Chairperson August 1, 2024 August 8, 2024

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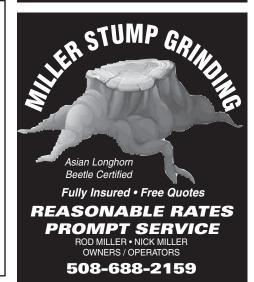
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# Golden Bear Pride shines as local students graduate from Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Andrew Joseph Loin of Southbridge graduated Magna Cum Laude from Western New England University with a Juris Doctor. Kelsey Anikso of Charlton, Beatrice M. Korman of Brimfield and Amanda T. Volpe also graduated with Juris Doctorates, Anisko Cum Laude.

The graduate ceremony was held on Sunday, May 19, at the MassMutual Center in downtown Springfield. More than 350 graduate students received their master's, law, and doctorate degrees from its Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy, and School of Law.

In his remarks, President Robert E. Johnson urged graduates to "embrace the future with confidence, courage, and optimism" and assured students that wherever their future career takes them, they are "equipped with the skill-set and the mindset to excel and make a meaningful impact on society."

The Western New England University graduating class of 2024 hailed from 26 states: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina,

Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Graduates also came from Canada, India, Malaysia, and Pakistan.

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

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

# Western New England University celebrates President's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 540 students who have been named to the President's List for the Spring 2024 semester.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Elise Palfreman of Charlton is working toward a BA in Psychology.

Ellen Butler of Charlton is working toward a BA in Psychology.

Jack Leland of Brimfield is working

toward a BA in History.

Kylie McDermott of Fiskdale is working toward a BSBA in Management & Leadership.

Cole Crosby of Brimfield is working toward a BSBA in Sport Management.

Jaden Darnell of Southbridge is working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.

Western New England Univer-

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

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# **OBITUARIES**

#### Claire R. Goulet, 87

Sturbridge: Claire R. (Wassmer) Goulet, 87, of Fairgrounds Rd., passed away on Wednesday, July 24th, in the UMass Memorial Harrington Hospital, Southbridge, after a brief illness.

She leaves her husband, Wilfred J. Goulet, having celebrated their 69th anniversary this past Tuesday, July 23rd. She also leaves her two children, Scott M. Goulet and his wife Pam of Holly Springs, NC and Tammy Goulet-Warren and her husband

Peter Warren of Monson; her two grandchildren, Benjamin Goulet and Sara Goulet of Holly Springs, NC; her eight sisters, Denise Thompson of Brimfield, Kate Strum of Webster, Julie Blouin of Brookfield, Sandra Buckner of Sturbridge, Vivian Latour of Southbridge, Taddy Dupuis of Hopkinton, Betsy Biron of Brimfield and Beatrice Chartier of Southbridge; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Butch Wassmer and her two sisters, Theresa Mogavero and Jean Beaudry. She was born in Woonsocket, RI the daughter of Hector and Ceceile (Martin) Wassmer.

Claire was a longtime hairdress-



er and owned and operated Claire's Hair in Sturbridge. She also previously worked in fiber optics for several local companies including Karl Stortz in Charlton where she worked last. Claire was a lifelong artist, working primarily in oil paints. She also loved interior design. She was athletic by nature, always walking and was walking on the treadmill for 30 minutes a day up until recently. She loved lake life at her cottage on

Cedar Lake and was a great lover of animals. She was also an avid gardener and loved taking several trips to local nurseries to replenish her garden's needs.

A graveside service for Claire was held on Friday, August 23rd, at 12:00pm in North Cemetery, Maple St., Sturbridge. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Halfway Home Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 614, Chicopee, MA 01021.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

# Golden Bear Pride shines as Western New England University bonors Class of 2024

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 19 at the MassMutual Center, celebrating the Class of 2024. The keynote speaker, esteemed journalist Latoyia Edwards, talked about the importance of bringing passion and intensity to one's work without overshadowing what's most important: family. "If you don't remember any piece of advice that I give you this morning, remember to never take anyone who loves and supports you for granted."

Congratulations and best wishes to the newest Golden Bear Alumni. WNE is proud of you!

Evan Jeffrey Donovan of Charlton graduated Cum Laude with a BS in Health Sciences. Evan also graduated with a minor in Chemistry.

Owen William Boyns of Charlton graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Actuarial Science.

Colin Patrick Donovan of Charlton graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Elementary Education/Psychology.

in Civil Engineering/Environmental Engineering.

Maxfield Wyatt Phaneuf of Brimfield graduated Magna Cum Laude

Ryan W. Paxton of Uxbridge graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BSE

with a BSE in Civil Engineering/Environmental Engineering.

Meghan Elizabeth Caplette of Fiskdale graduated Honors Program

Graduate with a BS in Forensic Biology. Meghan also graduated with a minor in Chemistry and Criminal Justice.

Ethan Michael Ahearn of Fiskdale graduated with a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

Ryan Michael Sears of Fiskdale graduated with a BSBA in Sport Management

agement.

Kimberly Lan Ngo graduated Magna Cum Laude from Western New En-

gland University with a BS in Neuroscience.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than

47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

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

# Charlton's Kelsy Brown awarded Ronald J. Deanult Scholarship

CHARLTON — The Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship of \$1,500 was awarded to Kelsy Brown, a 2024 honors graduate of Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Brown resides on Old Oxford Road in Charlton, and will be attending Assumption University in the fall.





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# **Exciting** August at the **Ruth Wells** Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — Our August artist is Jim Wilton, who will be exhibiting art and photography in our lovely galleries at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge. Opening reception is Saturday, Aug. 17, noon to 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Gallery hours will be Saturday and Sunday throughout the month. The public is welcome to visit the Ruth Wells Center-serving the community since

Wilton's Facebook followers will have the opportunity to view his body of work, as well as have the opportunity to meet the artist. Don't miss his show.

There are still spaces in the Kids Art Workshop Aug. 5-9 for ages six to 16. The Monday through Friday workshops will have 2 sessions. Kids ages six to 10 come at 10 a.m., kids 11-16 will come at 11:30 a.m. Sessions run one hour, and kids will have the opportunity to explore various facets of art and creativity- all under the direction of Simone Germain. The open house is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 11 from 2-4 p.m. All are invited to view the kids' creative projects. For more information, call 508 764 3341.

Many thanks to Katherine Oakes for a spectacular July exhibit. Her stained glass and illustrations were terrific.

## Charlton resident Marisa DeJesus named to Dean's List at Boston University

BOSTON — Marisa DeJesus of Charlton has been named to the Dean's list of Boston University. DeJesus received academic honors at Boston University for the 2024 spring semester.

A rising junior at BU, DeJesus is majoring in Earth ly Charlton will host neurologist & Environmental Sciences, with a dual minor in Bi- Andrew Budson, MD on Tuesday, ology and Marine Science, in the University's College Aug. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Charlton of Arts & Sciences.

nationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With nearly 37,000 students, it is one of the largest private residential universities in the United States. BU consists of 17 schools and colleges, along with the Faculty of Computing & Data and Dementia." He will explain Sciences and a number of multi-disciplinary centers how individuals can distinguish and institutes integral to the University's research changes in memory due to Alzheiand teaching mission. In 2012, BU joined the Association of American Universities (AAU), a consortium medications, diets, and exercise of leading research universities in the United States regimes can help, and the best haband Canada.

# Sip, savor, celebrate

#### Chamber to welcome New Moon Magick Café to Southbridge

**SOUTHBRIDGE** The Chamber of Central Mass South is thrilled to welcome its newest member business, Moon Magick Café, at a Grand Opening Celebration & Ribbon Cutting on Friday, Aug. 2. Woman-owned and operated, Moon Magick Café is a coffee shop located in the historic Flat Iron Building at 210 Hamilton St. in Southbridge. The Southbridge location of Moon Magick is the sister to the original Moon Magick Café in Danielson, Conn.

Moon Magick Café is open Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is the perfect spot for breakfast, lunch or a coffee break. Moon Magick is renowned for their delicious sandwiches, paninis and wraps, iced, hot



Now open in the Flat Iron Building, Moon Magick Café celebrates its official grand opening this Friday.

and cold brewed coffee, hot and iced Lattes, Matcha, & Chai, Espresso, Cocoas & Frappes, Teas, Italian Soda & Smoothies, Salads, Pastries, and more. You can view their menu offerings and even order online at www. moonmagickcafe.org or reach them by phone at (774) 318-8776.

Local dignitaries will be on hand to present proclamations to the

new business. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the owner Chey and her awesome crew and wish them well in their new venture. All are welcome to join in and check out this new Southbridge meetup spot as the Chamber snips the official red ribbon at 1 p.m. sharp on Friday, Aug. 2. The Grand Opening Celebration continues through 3 p.m. Drop by and say hello when you can. There is no cost to attend, and no RSVP is needed.

The Chamber of Central Mass South is the leading advocate for local business, promoting the success of its members, and enhancing regional prosperity through networking, education, and promotion. Learn more and join the Chamber today by visiting cmschamber.org.

## Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., Sturbridge 508-347-2512 mayent@cwmars.org

For Kids: Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 10:45 a.m. - Stories on the Common. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

For All: Saturday, Aug. 3 at 1 p.m. Beginning Birding with Hands on Nature. Come learn fun and easy ways to get started in the world of birding. Begin by identifying birds in your own yard, plus learn a few common bird songs. Lastly, create two simple bird feeders to take home. Suitable for all ages. Children ages five and up must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

Crafts for Teens & Adults: Take & Make Crafts. There will be a different craft available beginning Monday mornings each week during summer reading. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

END OF SUMMER READING -Zoomobile Animal Show - Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 11 a.m. For Kids of all ages. Registration is required. Preference will be given to those signed up for summer reading. Sponsored by the Friends of the

Go to sturbridgelibrary.org for more events and information.

# Neurologist/author Dr. Andrew Budson to speak at Charlton Public Library

CHARLTON — Charlton Public Library and Dementia Friend-Public Library's Dexter Hall.

Budson will discuss managing Founded in 1839, Boston University is an inter- issues with memory, language, vision, behavior, driving, incontinence, sleep, and more from his guide for families, "Six Steps to Managing Alzheimer's Disease mer's versus normal aging, what its, strategies, and memory aids to use, from his book "Seven Steps to



Dr. Andrew Budson

Managing Your Aging Memory." And he will share some tricks and techniques that everyone, young and old, can use to improve their memory, based on his book, "Why We Forget and How to Remem-

> ber Better." The presentation will be followed a question-and-answer session. Books will be available for purchase af

ter the Q&A.

Educated at Haverford College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Budson is Chief of Cognitive Behavioral Neurology at the VA Boston Healthcare System, Associate Director of the Boston Universitv Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Professor of Neurology at Boston University, and Lecturer in Neurology at Harvard Medical School.

This talk is part of the Dementia Friendly Charlton initiative, a local initiative that is part of Dementia Friendly Massachusetts. Free and open to the public, but registration is requested. To register, please visit our "Programs & Events" page at www.charltonlibrary.org, or call the library at 508-248-0452.

Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall.

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#### **PICKLEBALL**

continued from page 1

The town has partnered with Harry Conover East Coast Sealcoating for the renovation. As of this

writing, Rydlak reported that he had reached halfway in his goal towards \$5,000 between a GoFundMe campaign and other donations. He said he has been humbled by the number of

people who have made pledges to the project.

"It feels great to have the support. I'm close to getting my Eagle done which it an amazing accomplishment. It feels great to have these peo-

The need for public donations is far from over. Rydlak still has a way to go to reach his full \$5,000 goal and he will also be seeking pub-

ple behind me," said Ry- lic donations of nets, balls, paddles, and other equipment to kickstart an introductory pickleball program at Charlton Middle School. The court itself it expected to hold a grand opening

in August. Donations toward the cause can be made through Adam Rydlak's campaign by searching "Eagle Scout Project: Pickleball Courts in Charlton" on GoFundMe.

#### KENNEL

continued from page 1

mound by the road awaiting a final decision on permanent capping. For years, the town has had a slow back-and-forth with the DEP and EPA on testing and other issues, and has set aside money to do the work.

McClure said if the project does find contamination in that area, it'll require a soil management plan and other things. "But I'm being told, the LSP [licensed site professional] told me, this is not an area of concern," he said.

Town Manager Jack Jovan said the project has \$545,000 in funding set aside, plus another \$200,000 from the town's remaining America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money. The McClure contract will come from the latter, which needs to be encumbered by this September and spent by the end of next year. Some project money was also donated by the Claire Birtz Trust, he added.

This project has been in limbo for a while, in part because it's bounced between locations. Over the years this has been considered, the town has looked at the sewer plant (where the current, decrepit kennel is) and across from Charlton Street School, among other sites. It had plans for the latter before the council pulled the plug and opted to move it to the DPW last year, and McClure plans to revise those for this site.

"We have a fairly comprehensive concept" now, McClure said.

He noted he was waiting for the committee's contract approval to start scheduling meetings with the architect and Animal Control Officer Kaitlin Jewell. This contract covers work "up until construction oversight. It'll get us through bidding," he said.

From the very small audience, Maureen Doyle suggested naming it for George Angell, the Southbridge resident who founded the ASPCA. "This would be a great tribute to him," she said.

Chair Scott Lazo noted others have also been suggested, and someone will be chosen later.

"We have to have a wall to put it on first," he said. There was some discussion of the legal aspects of donated labor, with Lazo asking if that would require paying prevailing wages.

Jovan said the person owning the firm and direct family members don't fall under that law, but other staff would. Such donated work couldn't be accepted after the project goes to bid, since its cost would already be included in those documents.

But Chief Shane Woodson noted donated money and services do have to fall under state guidelines.

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

#### COUNCIL

continued from page 1

council to renew the agreement. He said the collaborative "came in when asked when we needed help," and assisted with running the vaccination center.

Hugo later said the program to run such collaboratives is funded by \$200 million in federal ARPA money, \$52.6 million from the CDC, and \$15 million a year from the state DPH. All of its programs are paid by those grants, with nothing paid by the participating communities, he added.

Hugo was particularly not happy about the June meeting, saying, "I was mortified. I've never seen a health director spew more misinformation, disinformation and personal interpretation of a grant in my life."

He was referring to Daniel Wasiuk but did not cite him by name, and noted he saw that meeting on video.

When contacted by email afterward, Wasiuk said he did not attend and had not yet seen

the council meeting video, but applauded the council's siding with him. Referring to Hugo, he said, "I believe individuals like this have no respect for Southbridge and only seek to have their narrative met.....a narrative full of erroneous information and lies. As I stated in the previous BOH meeting, these type of collaboratives are nothing short of a chance to control and manipulate, and their main purpose is to seek state money to fund their

Hugo said he knows of just

impotent endeavors."

two other towns seeking to withdraw from such collaboratives, and believed both were because of issues surrounding those directors. Hugo said one issue is that the state's workforce standards recently changed such that "your director does not qualify to be a director," but he expects the state to grant Southbridge a waiver because he's already in the role. Hugo noted the goal is to expand the workforce, not cut people.

"This is the town we should be making a poster child for

what this grant can do," he said. To him, the town could benefit from the program's shared social worker to address senior needs, housing, hoarding, nutrition, teen pregancy and other issues, but that person has never been here.

"If you don't think you do [have such issues], it's because you're not looking and you're not serving," Hugo said.

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

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# Local students gaining real-world experience with summer internships at Cornerstone Bank



Courtesy

Pictured left to right: Bella Smith, Reese Levansavich, Collin Heenan, Zach Hebert, Kevin Skagerlind, Will Pieczynski, Jack Seery, Sam Quink and Jack Gaudette.

WORCESTER — This summer, Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is hosting nine college students in its internship program. The goal is to provide them with hands-on experience that complements their studies and allows them to explore career opportunities and begin to build a professional network.

"We are committed to providing these bright students with solid work experience that

integrates what they learn in the classroom with real-life experiences in a professional setting," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "They gain valuable skills, work on meaningful projects and make professional connections. We also benefit from their enthusiasm and perspectives, so it's a win-win situation."

This year's group of interns includes:

Investment Services Intern Jack Gaudette from Sturbridge attends Elon University in North Carolina.

Retail Intern Zach Hebert from Dudley attends Nichols College in Dudley.

Commercial Lending Intern Collin Heenan from Holden attends Worcester State Univer-

Community Relations Intern Reese Levansavich from Auburn attends Saint Anslem College in New Hampshire.

Investment Services Intern Will Pieczynski from Fiskdale attends Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

MIS (IT) Intern Sam Quink from Sturbridge attends the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Facilities Intern Jack Seery from Brookfield attends the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Community Relations Intern Kevin Skagerlind from Holden attends the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Learning and Development Intern Bella Smith from Sutton attends Assumption University in Worcester.

Cornerstone The interns attend an orientation on their first day before joining their respective departments and have regular checkins to ensure they are getting what they want out of their experiences. The students also have opportunities to engage in community support efforts, attend Cornerstone Bank events and network with each other.

"At the end of the summer, we ask them to reflect on their time

with us and provide feedback," said Tallman. "This allows us to continue to refine the internship program to make sure we are providing truly valuable experiences."

Cornerstone's internship program started in 2021 and is open to both high school and college students. It offers both part-time and full-time internships, with most students choosing to intern for 38 hours per week. Each intern goes through an interview process so that they can be placed into the department that best aligns with their goals and interests. All interns are paid and are eligible to get school credit upon completion of the

#### **About Cornerstone** Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and busi-

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nesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or partnership, personal Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank. com or call 800-939-9103.

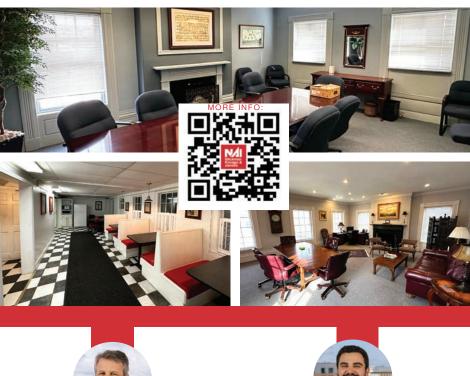




- · Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- · Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$650,000 • Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished





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