

Free by request to residents of Charlton, Charlton City and Charlton Depot

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, November 9-10, 2023

Literacy volunteers honor tutor, student of the year

BY GUS STEEVES

SOUTHBRIDGE — Beshoy Youssef is the kind of student teachers love to see.

The Egyptian immigrant didn't exactly have a lot of free time, since he ran a pizza shop in Carlton while studying English. But that didn't stop him; he studied while making pizzas.

Recently, that got him to his goal – passing the US citizenship test after six years in the country.

Youssef credits that success his teacher, Chuck Bosse, who was

honored with this year's Literacy Volunteers Tutor of the Year award.

"He is my master," Youssef said. "He tried to use his hands to explain."

Youssef is no longer making pizzas for a living. Instead, he took regular day job (5 a.m. to 2 p.m.) in Dudley so he could spend more time with his wife and three kids. Those kids came with him to last week's awards event, but his wife (who also recently became a citizen) couldn't make it.

The Youssefs



Tutor of the Year Chuck Bosse talks to Margaret Morrissey and Connie Montross after the

Mary Spiritual Vineyard Turn To LITERACY page A13

from al-Minya, a small

Nile-side city about 100

miles south of Cairo,

Egypt. When asked what

brought them here, he

was direct - "freedom of

speech, freedom of reli-

gion. In Egypt there are only two religions - Mus-

lim and [Coptic] Chris-

tian." (He's the latter,

which accounts for about

15 percent of Egypt's

roughly 110 million pop-

ulation. Our region has a

notable Coptic Egyptian

presence, which tends to

center on the Holy Virgin

Charlton earmarks ARPA funding for radio improvements

CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The town of Charlton has finalized the use of its remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding prioritizing the money to complete the town's public safety radio project.

After allocating ARPA money to the school district in December, the town was left with more than \$230,000 remaining in the fund. One of the longest-running priorities for the money has been the public safety radio project which is designed to increase radio capabilities for emergency personnel. Town Administrator Andrew Golas provided an update on the ini-

Turn To **ARPA** page **A11**

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers free blood pressure testing

CHARLTON — Shari Russell, Director Charlton Council on Aging/ Senior Center, recently welcomed the Practical Nursing student volunteers. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is again offering free blood pressure testing every last Wednesday of the month, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Charlton Senior Center, 37 Main St.

"It is wonderful for



TRHS craft fair lets locals get an early start on Christmas shopping



Kevin Flanders

The Rivest family, of Palmer, welcomes guests to a Christmas wonderland. is ready for a busy event.

STURBRIDGE — Local residents got an early start on their holiday shopping this past weekend, as the annual November craft fair at Tantasqua Regional High School was bustling for another year.

Held on Nov. 4, the event drew guests and vendors from throughout the community. School leaders and students are thanked for volunteering to make the high blood pressure. By event a success for another year.

The fair also featured appearances from several student groups and organizations.

Turn To FAIR page A11 for more photos

our Practical Nursing student volunteers to be welcomed back at the Charlton Senior Center! Hypertension is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in the US," stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

"It is important for people to know their Blood Pressure numbers because there may not be symptoms that alert you to a potential problem," said Bolandrina. According to the American Heart Association one in three adults has offering free blood pressure testing, the hope is that the interaction with Practical Nursing stu-

dent volunteers encourage more people to manage their overall health by making blood pressure monitoring a part of it. American Heart Association statistics show that more than 76 million people in the U.S. age 20 and older have high blood pressure. Of those, about 22 percent are unaware of their condition, 69 percent are receiving treatment and only 45 percent have their blood pressure controlled.

Michael Wairimu and Regina Njuguna, both of Worcester, were the recent PN student volunteers to report to the Charlton Senior Center. Both are members of the PN Class of 2024. Both are Mental Health First Aid Certified, Dementia

Turn To **BLOOD PRESSURE** page **A11**

Horribles Parade takes over Main Street



Gus Steeves

This Beast's princess is a lot younger than the story's.

(Left) The day also featured a pumpkin carving contest, but it only got two entries. This owl was by far the more detailed of them.



When not out raiding candy baskets, the monsters enjoy some time in a leaf pile.

Gus Steeves

(Left) Evil clowns hang out on the Common.



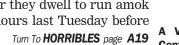


A zombie family awaits the chance to munch on the passing parade.





SOUTHBRIDGE — Monsters, superheroes, angels, demons and all kinds of cartoon characters, plus a few dinosaurs and costumed dogs, emerged from wherever they dwell to run amok for a couple hours last Tuesday before





Gus Steeves

Beware the hungry Minion!



Gus Steeves

A Victorian ghoul watches from the Art

www.StonebridgePress.com



MEDICARE'S ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD ENDS ON DECEMBER 7.

Review your Medicare options with a Mass Advantage Medicare Advisor.

STOP BY AN INFORMATIONAL BOOTH

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

CHARLTON	UMASS MEMORIAL - HARRINGTON 10 N Main Street (Lobby)	Tuesdays, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SOUTHBRIDGE	UMASS MEMORIAL - HARRINGTON Hospital Lobby	Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (excluding 11/23/23)
WEBSTER	UMASS MEMORIAL - HARRINGTON 340 Thompson Road (Lobby)	Mondays, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ATTEND A SEMINAR

STURBRIDGE

PUBLICK HOUSE HISTORIC INN

277 Main Street

November 17 - 10:00 AM December 1 - 10:00 AM

TO REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR or for accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings, please call (844) 513-0529 TTY:711.

Mass Advantage is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract offering HMO and PPO plans. Enrollment in Mass Advantage depends on contract renewal. Other providers and physicians are available in our network.

Representatives are available October 1 - March 31, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week and April 1 - September 30, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday - Friday.

H7670_241271_C

St. Christopher's Craft Fair offers two days of food, fun & holiday shopping

BRIMFIELD -0nSaturday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Nov. 19, Christopher Church will hold its annual craft fair. Located at 20 Sturbridge Road (route 20) it has easy access and plenty of parking. The hours of the fair are Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Admission is free.

"Originally the church's Christmas Bazaar with all items being made by members of the women's club, it has evolved into a craft fair with artisans offering a wide variety of unique creations to find something for everyone on your gift list or for decorating your own home," says president

Cindy Skowyra.

She adds, "There are so many festivals these days with many great crafters and artisans. I think ours is a bit special because it is right at the beginning of the holiday season and the intimate setting provides the warmth and character of a community gathering to support local artisans and our cookie walk, breakfast lunch are great."

On Saturday, our strolling caroler helps bring Christmas spirit.

The craft fair offers a wide variety to choose including unique pieces of jewelry, primitives, Christmas ornaments, scenic wooden wall

stained colors, glass slate, beautiful hand quilted items such as quilts & runners, candles, knitted & crochet hats, mittens & sweaters, stone and shell art, rosaries, wood crafts and toys, organic lotions and soaps, tie dye shirts, all in addition to the

clubs bargain ta-

bles that offer an

array of goods es-

pecially for those

on a tight budget.

The kitchen is open throughout the day and will offer a breakfast menu and a variety of sandwiches, soups, chili, and chowder as well as homemade meat pies and turkey pot pie and desserts. Whole meat pies be pre-orhome. A cookie walk held on Saturday only starting at 9 a.m. Come early as it sells out quickly.

For those who like to take a chance and win something, there are raffles. The main raffle includes donations from local businesses with items such as ski passes, restaurant & other gift cards, hockey tickets, and gift baskets. There is also a raffle comprised of unique gifts from crafters and a favorite for scratch

The fair is organized the Women of Christopher's, faith, charity & service. woman of faith our goal is

ticket fans, a tree

filled with lottery

tickets.

one another and an impact in both those who need big and small us help us flour- ways. I know that ish in and prac- I can always count tice our Christian on this group for faith through our support and that work and provide is important for programs to deep- the life of our en and enrich our parish. I invite faith. The group everyone to come meals to the fair and see provides for families in need or after a funeral mass does reach out to shut Fundraising efforts such as the fair help with costs such as building improvements or repairs and heating costs. This year funds

glass windows. Reverend Jack Brennan, pastor of St. Christopher's, "What they do for the parish of St.

being ear-

marked towards

the maintenance

and repairs of the

church's stained

to be a support for Christophers has

who we are. I also invite you to join us anytime."

Masses held on Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Weekday masses are Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Holy Day masses vary. For

information about the fair or St. Christopher's Church, contact the parat 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@ gmail.com or check it out on the church's Facebook page.

Brimfield UCC Part-time Pianist and/or Organist

Sunday Church Services

- * Choir Rehearsals
- * Special Services

\$12,000 annual salary, paid vacation, additional benefits

Send resume to brimfielducc@gmail.com

Gateway Players presents "Christmas Shorts"

dered to

take

SOUTH-BRIDGE — Gate-Players Theatre of Southbridge presents "Christmas Shorts" written by Lucy Williams. Performances will be held on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 2 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.

All

held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall. Directed by Pat Haddock, Assistant Director Stephen Jean and Producer Kathi Grenier.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13

Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at https:// gateway-players.ticketleap. com/christmas-shorts/.

thing for everyone in this one-act holiday delight made up of short scenes and monologues. You'll find everything here. perfor- for seniors and from kids writing letters to San-

There's some-

ta, to the big guy getting ready for Christmas himself, to a bunch of elves who accidentally Santa's gift bag at the last minute. (Don't worry, Mrs. Claus can fix it!) There's a sports segment featuring the 845th an-Reindeer Games and a holiday quiz show featuring Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Ghost of Christmas Future. A

Turns, a news segment from the North Pole News, and some Christmas-themed commercials round out this fun seasonal comedy.



Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees- Hips. **Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout**

Charles A. Birbara, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School 25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674 "Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

Helping Hand Society announces holiday events

CHARLTON — The Charlton Helping Hand Society is offering two events this holiday season!

The very first "Black Friday" sale will be held on Friday, Nov. 24. This will be held at the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd., Charlton, from 8 a.m. to noon. Holiday wrappings, decorations for hearth and home, gift items and the ever-popular Gramma's Attic. Bargains, choices and fellowship will abound!

Our annual "Christmas Fair" will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon to 2 p.m. Christmas offerings, cookies by the pound, bake tables, raffles and Gramma's Attic.

All monies earned from both events will continue the work begun in 1911 "To Help Us to Help Others."





Best Price! Best Selection! Best Service!

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

.....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.

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

..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435

Heritage School (508) 248-4884

Charlton Middle School......(508) 248-1423

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

Central Baptist Church

www.fedchurchcharlton.org

Sunday worship 10 a.m.

Fiskdale (508) 347-7338

Fri and Sat 7:30 am

Road, 248-5144

a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Service 10:00am.

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Services - Sunday 9:30 am

Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org

www.sturfed.org

Phone 508-347-7297

Pastor Dan Purtell

www.livingwordhcarlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

www.stannestpatparish.com

Church Listings

256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond

Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org,

Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford

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,

• St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext,

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

· Assemblies of God Southern New England

District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771,

snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30

• Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main

Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton,

Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel,

Federated Church of Sturbridge and

Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

• Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA,

www.stjosephscharlton.com,

St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am •St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 16 Church St.,

Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M. Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St.,

248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

.....(508) 943-6700

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

For emergencies, dial 911

Charlton Elementary School

will be our last open Saturday until

Monday-Wednesday:

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

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

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.

Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

Office Hours:

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Methodist Church announces four-star fall community meal

S OUTHBRIDGE — The Methodist Church of Southbridge invites the community to a four-star community dinner on honor of Veterans Day on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m.

The menu will include a pumpk in-curry soup, followed by a mixed greens, romaine, fennel, and dried cranberries salad with a cider vinaigrette. Guests will enjoy baked boneless chicken breast with maple roasted butternut squash and green beans. This amazing (Adults) | Ongoing m eal will end with homemade apple

This gourmet meal will be served r estaurant-style, at individual tables, with tablecloth and the works.

"We are thrilled to offer a different dining experience than we have been doing so far with our free weekly meals," says Pastor Sabina. "It will be a memorable evening, enjoying premium food and honoring Veterans Day. It is a fundraiser to help us continue our ministries to the poor and homeless and we will sell \$15 tickets."

Tickets are available at the church o r online at www.fumcsouthbridge. org. They will be on a first-come, firstserved basis and we are limited to 30 seats. Please note there will be one seating only at 6 p.m.

The First Methodist Church is located at 449 Main St. in Southbridge, and can be reached at 508-764-6501.

15

23

50

55

CLUES ACROSS

8. Large flightless birds

14. Beyond what is natural

15. Beloved comfort food

mode

31. Fast-moving, harmless snake

32. Analyzed into its parts

1. Vital public document

3. Musical performances

7. In a way, disproved

8. Fisherman's tool

11. Commercial flyer

16. Popular R&B performer

22. "Night Train" author

27. Baltimore ballplayer

Я

O S T E

3 H

25. More supernatural

10. Trauma center

17. Regretted

18. Leg (slang)

28. Shoe parts

5. Every body has one (abbr.)

33. In a way, chilled

CLUES DOWN

34. Hindu queen

2. Disinter

6. Utilize

9. Of she

authorization (abbr.)

13. A type of account

1. Happen again

19. Rural delivery

21. Typical

24. Not us

25. Discharge

26. Made empty

30. Fishing net

22. Pie

20. Belonging to us

23. Returned material

Hitchcock Academy announces upcoming classes & workshops

November UpBeat Barre | Nov 6 Monthly - Dec 11

Mindful Movement | Nov 7 - Dec 12

Intro to Papermaking | Nov 14

Intro to Mosaics | Nov

Stained Glass Suncatcher | Nov 28

Let's Cake Decora te: Holiday Truck | Nov 30 Martial Arts Clu b

Learn an Instrument with Tony | Offer ed Violin/Viola | Offered (Adults) | Ongoing

December Yoga with Sharon | Dec 4 - Jan 22

Buddies Dog Training | Dec 6 - Jan 17 Intro to Papermaking

| Dec 12 Intro to Mosaics | Dec

Pilates | Dec 16 - Feb 3 Warrior Yoga | Dec 16

Stained Glass Suncatcher | Dec 20

Martial Arts Clu b

Learn an Instrument

with Tony | Offer ed Monthly

Violin/Viola | Offered Monthly

H itchcock Academy is a community center offering educational, recr eational, and cultural experiences to all ages. It is located at 2 Brookfield R d. in Brimfield. Visi twww.hitchcockacademy.org for more information.

Gateway Players to hold auditions for comedic murder mystery "Death by Chocolate"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "Death by Chocolate," a murder mystery comedy by Paul Freed. They will be held on Wednesday Dec. 6 and Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. The entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). We are looking for actors to fill five male roles and 6 female roles. We are also looking to cast two understudies (one to cover all male roles and 1 to cover all female

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script and physical improv so dress comfortably. No need to sign up, just come on down and get ready to have some fun!

A read through of the script for all those cast will be on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Rehearsals will be Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday nights (with a break for the holidays between Dec. 21 and Jan. 2). Tech week will begin Feb. 18, and performances will be Feb. 23 & 24, and March 1, 2 & 3.

If anyone has questions about auditions or the production, please contact director Mikey Dearn at dearn44@ gmail.com.

"Death by Chocolate" presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

-*Real Estate –*

BRIMFIELD

\$445,000, 26 Hollow Rd, Methuselah Rt, and Kirchner 2nd, Dominic, to Singvongsa, Jennysa, and Baldina, Jockamo. \$334,000, 108 Cubles Dr, Lace, Joseph, and Lace, Renee, to

Patricia A, to Kristen Wood Special Need, and Gruber, William. \$180,000, 230 Park Ave, Rcfam LLC, to Paige Hill Properties

to Moussaid, Manal S, and Moussaid, Reda.

\$85,000, 88 Cubles Dr, Mastroianni Sr, Dominic F, and Mastroianni, Kathleen M, to Soto, Anthony, and Wong, Lisa A. \$38,000, Palmer Rd, Minnie, Leonard R, and Minnie, Joanne, to Jewel Real Estate Inc.

\$250,000, 200 Partridge Hill Rd, Russo John Est, and Russo,

\$50,000, Denfield Rd, Freed Manuel M Est, and Weinberger,

HOLLAND

None

35. Circles around the sun

38. Used for emphasis

39. Reactive structures

40. Recommendations

44. Feel intense anger

community

47. Naturally occurring

48. British watch brand

55. "Pets" you can grow

58. Puts together in time

59. Houses temporarily

29. Scores perfectly

32. Trim by cutting

38. More dried-up

41. In operation

34. Disreputable people

35. Dramatic behaviors

37. Private box in a theater

30. More lucid

36. Disorder

40. Raw

12. Administered medicine to calm 43. Butterflies with brown wings

42. Pillager

45. Disallow

48. Own up

54. Lease

56. Not out

51. Hungarian city

53. Tax collector

52. A way to condemn

R U D

0 0 3 B

0

N Y S

solid material

50. Integrated circuit

51. Being revered

57. Continual

46. Rural Northern Ireland

45. Puke

49. Toddler

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$470,000, 255 Eastford Rd, Fallon, Jonathan, to Kaczynski,

\$380,000, 12 Roger St, Palmerino, Thomas J, to Wilbur,

Weinberger, Mona F, to G & W New Constr LLC.

STURBRIDGE

Anne E, to Drexhage, Paul F, and Drexhage, Lisa A. \$490,000, 7 Mcgregory Rd, Powers, William M, and Powers, Beth M, to Fitzgerald, Gabrielle B, and Fitzgerald, Craig C.

J, to Irvine, Lisa M.

Marichu L, to Farrell, Mark R, and Bauer, Karen Q.

to Cantwell Ft, and Cantwell, Nancy J.

TO PLACE AN AD

WITH STONEBRIDGE PRESS: ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

MIKAELA VICTOR

(774) 200-7308

mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

LEGAL NOTICES:

(508) 909-4127 legals@stonebridgepress.news

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: KERRI PETERSON

(508) 909-4103

kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: E-MAIL

obits@stonebridgepress.news

CALL: 508-909-4149

OR send to Stonebridge Ppress

P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

E-MAIL: news@st onebridgepress.news OR send to Stonebridge Press.

P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550'

The Charlton Villager (USPS#024-954) , The Sturbridge Villager (USPS#024-955) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. The Southbridge News (USPS 504-380) is published Thursays, by Stonebridge Press Inc., PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodicals postage paid at Southbridge Mass. Postmaster: Send address changes to The News at address listed above. Friday delivery (ir county) only for \$18.00 per year. Friday delivery (out of county) only for \$56.00 per year. Web only abscription \$15.00 per year. All mail subscriptions are payable in advance to The News

Carter, Chad, and Carter, Erin.

\$218,500, 85 Hollow Rd, Baldina, Jockamo H, and Baldina,

\$180,000, Sturbridge Rd, Rcfam LLC, to Paige Hill Properties

\$110,000, 33 Sturbridge Rd, Beall Pamela Est, and Beall, Seth,

Lorraine, to Wilson, Dana, and Flynn, Cheryl.

\$225,000, Jennings Rd, Gair LLC, to Rawan Capital Invs LLC. \$95,000, Jennings Rd, Gair LLC, to Salisbury, James M, and Salisbury, Alexander.

Mona F, to G & W New Constr LLC.

Ted S, and Kaczynski, Joyce A.

\$50,000, Guelphwood Rd, Freed Manuel M Est, and

\$500,000, 23 Glendale Rd, Drexhage, Martin G, and Fisher,

\$465,000, 299 Clark Rd Ext, Battista Irt, and Battista, Anthony

\$350,000, 22 Goodrich Rd, Black, Jonathan C, and Black,

\$325,000, 2 Village Grn #2, Pichette Rt, and Pichette, Doris A,

STONEBRIDGE **PRESS**

STONEBRIDGE PRESS President and Publisher Frank G. Chilinski 860-928-1818 ext. 103 frank@stonebridgepress.news

Business Manager Ryan Corneau 860-928-1818 ext. 102

ryan@salmonpress.news OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102 jim@stonebridgepress.news

Editor Brendan Berube 508-909-4106 news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER Julie Clarke 860-928-1818, ext. 305 julie@villagernewspapers.com

news@ stonebridgepress.news POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Stonebridg Press P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.



3 B O Н SOLUTION ٦ ΙВΙ \forall NEB 3 T O A 8 0 О 4 3 원 원 3 3 B S 3 0 J A H 3 D O A S A A 9 3 3 S 3 T A J 3 a Π n S 9 A U 8 E B 3 S N 3 Ы Χ З Я 3 3

Charlton natives to perform in Worcester State Theatre's "The Importance of Being Earnest"

W ORCESTER — Worcester State U niversity's Visual and Performing A rts (VPA) Department will feature Charlton natives Rhiannon Lee Mansur '26 and Jaclyn Morrison '26 in Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being E arnest," a treasured comedy that is celebrated as one of the wittiest plays in the English language, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 in Fuller Theater, located on the second floor of the Administration Building. The show continues at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Nov. 18, and concludes with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Mansur, an English Major and Art Major, plays the role of Algernon. Morrison, an English Major, plays the role of Cecily.

The amusing play about two young c ouples and their pursuit of love makes fun of the shallowness of the rules that society creates for behavior in life and love. While the production first premiered in 1895, Worcester State Theatre designers say that Fuller Theater guests can look forward to some fresh, modern twists.

" Oscar Wilde was relentless in p oking fun at the ridiculousness of



Rhiannon Lee Mansur

English society, and while we live in America in the 21st century, some of our own behavior is just as ridiculous," said Worcester State Theatre Professor Adam Zahler, director of the fall production. "So it's not a big jump from 1890 to 2023 if you just look at how sil-



Jaclyn Morrison

ly we can be. Our production attempts to bridge those 130 years, keeping the spirit of the original with a wink at the modern."

In this digital era, audiences can also expect the incorporation of the role of social media in today's dating scene from a creative and talented group of Worcester State cast and crew members.

Tickets are \$7 for students, \$10 for seniors, and \$15 for general admission. To purchase tickets online for the show, v isit worcester.edu/VPABoxOffice. To p urchase tickets in person, visit the Worcester State Student Center Information Desk or contact the VPA Box O ffice at 508-929-8843 or VPABoxOffice@worcester.edu to make a reservation. Tickets will also be available at the door.

W orcester State Theatre productions feature diverse styles that range from comedy to drama to tragedy, providing students with a variety of performance experience.

In addition to Mansur and Morrison, "The Importance of Being Earnest" cast members and roles include:

Theatre and Communications Major Ryann Jerome '23 as Jacq

Theatre Major Chantel Gonzalez '25 as Gwendolen

Theatre and Communications Ma-

jor Jody Diaz '26 as Lady Bracknell Early Childhood Major Quinn Will-

shire-Rogers '27 as Prism Theatre Major John McAuliffe '27 as

Dr. Chasuble

Environmental Science Major Celina Moore '27 as Lane

Business Administration Major Stephen Nganga '27 as Merriman

V PA's Bachelor of Arts in Thea tre program immerses students in a 39-credit program of study that includes an extensive variety of theatre c ourses, performances, and other hands-on, lab-based experiences with productions such as "The Importance of Being Earnest."

A bout the Visual and Performing Arts Department

The Worcester State Visual and Performing Arts Department offers interdisciplinary and specialized artistic e ducation that prepares students for professional lives in the arts. Its

e ducational spaces encompass the Fuller Theater, practice rooms for music, and art studios at the University's Sagamore Studios. VPA students gain in-depth knowledge of their preferred art form - art, music, or theatre - plus a n understanding of what the arts have in common, and how they are performed and exhibited in the real world. L earn more at www.worcester.edu/VPA or connect with VPA on social med ia: Facebook/VPAatWorcesterState, and @wsuvpa Instagram @WSUVPA. Subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching "VPA at Worcester State."

Historical Society presents "Sturbridge Then & Now" Nov. 16

S TURBRIDGE — On Nov. 16 at 7 p.m., at the Publick House in Sturbridge, the Sturbridge Historical Society will present "Sturbridge: Then and Now," a pictorial history of Sturbridge showing the changes and evolution of the Town over the years. It will be presented by Bob Arnold, and Wally Hersee, both of Sturbridge.

Bob Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian, and avid collector of all things Sturbridge. In addition to serving clients throughout New England, Bob has been documenting life in our community since he and his family moved here in 1970. His work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in our community. Bob still lives in town with his wife, Susan, their dog, Jesse, and thousands of images.

Wally Hersee grew up in Medfield, where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history. A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, "Follow the Light," tells of his photographic journey. Wally retired as a registered nurse in 2019. Today, he lives in town with his wife, Mary, and is active on Town boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes for the Sturbridge Historic Society on their Facebook page.

Arnold and Hersee will be sharing a delightful portion of their collected photos and knowledge, which are guara nteed to enlighten, and to generate reminiscences and discussions.

The program is free and open to the public, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

Country Bank and Bank Director announce first fully certified board

W ARE — Country Bank Board Chair, James Phaneuf, is pleased to announce that the Bank's Board of Directors recently became the first fully certified Board through Bank Director's Certification Program.

The certification provides participants with a thorough grounding in corporate governance and important industry issues that greatly enhance the performance of individual directors. The Board completed the comprehensive training program this past year and was certified in September.

Participants must complete 31 designated online training videos and board briefs focused on the role of the Board, a udit and risk, compensation, governance, and fiduciary responsibilities. In addition to Bank Director's Online Training Series, participants must attend a day-long Corporate Governance Workshop in the Bank Director Certification Program or, alternatively, complete a virtual version of the program.

C ompleting the program and becoming a certified bank director sends a clear message to state and federal regulators that board members take their fiduciary duties seriously and want to be top-performing members of the Bank's Board.

"Country Bank's Board of Directors is deeply committed to the Bank's continued growth and prosperity. They understand their responsibilities to ensure Country Bank remains one of the strongest Community Banks in the region. I look forward to the future with great optimism, knowing that we have such a dedicated group of business professionals and the difference they make for the Bank's long-term success," said James Phaneuf.

"Bank Director is grateful for Country Bank's enthusiastic support for

the Certification Program," said Editor-at-Large Jack Milligan, who created the course curriculum. "This sends a very powerful message that the Country Bank Board of Directors takes its governance responsibilities seriously. It is a testament to our motto that 'Strong Boards Build Strong Banks."

rong Boards Build Str About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B with 17.0 percent Tier 1 Capital mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

About Bank Director

Bank Director reaches the leaders of the institutions that comprise America's banking industry. Since 1991, Bank Director has provided board-level research, peer-insights and in-depth executive and board services. Built for banks, Bank Director extends into and beyond the boardroom by providing timely and relevant information through Bank Director magazine, board training services and the financial industry's premier event, Acquire or Be Acquired. For more information, please visit BankDirector.com.

Country Bank Board Members: Pictured: Elizabeth Rappaport, Theresa Grove, Stacey Luster, Kathryn Crockett, Richard Maynard, Kenneth Riley, Jr., James Phaneuf, Edward Noonan II, Ross Dik, Robert Haveles, Steven Musso and Keith Blanchette.



OCEAN STATE POPS ORCHESTRA

2023 HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

OPENING GUEST: THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY HILL SINGERS

DECEMBER 3, 2023

2:00 PM

TICKETS \$29+

THELOOS.ORG

Capture the magic of the season with a pre-event meet and greet with Santa - don't miss your chance for a photo op!

Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy
150 Route 169 • Woodstock, CT 06281
(860) 963-6789 • boxoffice@theloos.org • theloos.org

Holiday Fair set for Nov. 26

MONSON — The Monson Arts Council's 44th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, which features hand crafted items, will a Republican regardless of whether incumbent open on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and continue P eter Durant wins his special Senate election on Sunday, Nov. 26 from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The fair presents more than 65 artisans, crafters and non-profit organizations who all offer a variety of items. whether I should run for the House, for another The crafters are located in four buildings in downtown Monson (Mass Pike Exit 63, Route 32 South, 200 Main St.). Crafters are set up in Memorial Hall, the House of Art, and the changed and now I'm all in." Universalist and Methodist Churches.

All locations offer a wide variety of gifts and collectibles, He alth and Redevelopment Authority. He said including stained glass, bath products, books, candles, clothing, holiday decorations, jewelry, quilts, soft sculpture, hand tural issues, work on Southbridge's receivership crafted greeting cards, pottery, and much more.

Arts Council as well as several other non-profit groups.

Luncheon will be served in Memorial Hall, and the Methodist Church.

In the past we have had the Girl Scouts sing Christmas carols in front of Memorial Hall at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Last countries for other reasons." year we expanded this gathering to include the community. We encourage everyone to attend and participate in our new plan" for newcomers and for internal migration annual Monson Community Carol Sing.

This holiday music precedes Santa's arrival on a fire since various projections have shown New Entruck at approximately 4:30 p.m. Once he arrives, all chil- g land is likely to get migrants from southern dren may meet Santa Claus in person in the Town's Fire Sta- states as inland Massachusetts is likely to from tion where refreshments will be served.

For information or directions, please call Chase Barnett ams said he'd like to see the state provide money at 413-218-0693.

Monson Art Council Adams targets run for state rep

SOUTHBRIDGE — Even before this year's election day happened, Town Councilor Dave Adams had thrown his hat in the ring for next year's s tate representative race, officially announced Sunday online.

He said he'd run for the 6th Worcester seat as (which was decided this week, after this paper's deadline).

"I've been thinking about it back and forth, Council term, for School Committee," Adams said. "I told [Durant] I'd run if he won, but things

Adams is in his sixth year on the Town Counc il, and was previously on both the Board of his primary goals will be to help address agriculand net school spending issues, assist the district towns with various funding concerns (he specifi-The annual fair is a major fundraiser for the Monson cally noted Dudley's recent overrides), help with the recent surge in migrants to our area, and help develop economic infrastructure in the region.

> R egarding migrants, Adams said, "There's got to be a limit, but you still have to be a human being with empathy. ... We're all migrants. People come here for a reason, and don't go to other

He'd like to see the state devise a "strategic of our own citizens. Although he did not link that to climate change, it could help address them, coastal areas.

When it comes to broader capital needs, Ad-"without a lot of red tape." He specifically pointed to reducing or eliminating the paperwork involved in securing grants and other regulations that take up a lot of local officials' time.

"I'd like to see government shrink a little bit," he said. "We've become too dependent on it to take care of issues we used to take care of on our own."

That said, though, Adams feels the state need to be providing more infrastructure funding for roads and public buildings, because the costs of those projects "are killing the small towns."

So is that for schools - he noted local per pupil cost in Southbridge was about \$10,000 when he joined the Council, but now it's about \$19,000, but educational outcomes have not risen proportionately. He notes the town has consistently increased its school spending, but the state's mini mum requirement has risen faster; Receiver Jeffrey Villar has said Southbridge is at risk of not meeting it this year, depending on how the state's accounting comes out.

Beyond that, Adams said our schools "need to go back to some of the basics of [home] economics, how to spend money, and civics," plus math, writing skills and similar subjects. A large part of that is encouraging more technical education; he noted he has family members who are plumbers and welders "making very, very good money" without huge college debts. Additionally, he said he'd like to see promotion of more personal involvement in community affairs and better u nderstanding of how American government works.

For a little while, Adams talked about recent gun issues, sparked by the Lewiston, ME mass shooting. In that case, he noted the shooter had been recently released from a hospital due to insurance coverage expiring, but had not had adequate care. He said he feels illegal guns "are too easy to get," and we're seeing more mental health issues without legal changes and insurance needed to assist them. But he said he doesn't feel the laws being currently proposed (he didn't specify them) will actually help.

Turn To ADAMS page A10



Community Connection





Learn how to plan for retirement while also putting money aside for your child's education.

It's possible with the right savings plan. Call me today to get started.



Trevor Nielsen 419 Main Street ırbridge, MA 01566 08-347-1420



Specializing in Custom Designs

All types of Jewelry Repairs MASTER (∏) JEWELERS™

BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250 Located at CVS Plaza









Owned and operated by the Cormier family since 1947.

Free jewelry inspection! Jewelry repairs on-site! Custom jewelry design! Jewelry appraisals! We buy gold!

ONLY IN SOUTHBRIDGE!

www.Cormiers.com Call or Text (508)764-7415



East Brookfield, Massachusetts



Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE PRICE PER GAL PROPANE 0-50\$5.70 300-500\$2.55 to 80% 50-75 \$3.40 500 PLUS \$2.40 75-150 \$3.05 Duel Fuel \$3.75 Driver 150-300 \$2.75 Drop off Tanks .. \$3.00 Discretion

DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL! • Monday price 11/6/23 was \$3.79 per gallon* 100 gallon minimum ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT

www.charltonoil.com "Call Us First!" *prices subject to change

VISA





For An Appointment

Mention this ad and get 20% Off

your Pet's First Bath





Stock up **Pre-Orders** now open for Holiday **Prime Rib Roasts!** Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available! To purchase your meat packages FREE LOCAL CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308 **DELIVERY!** Trust Your Neighbors www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com Find Us on Social Media 🚹 🖸 StonebridgePress.com



AUTO BODY / REPAIRS



Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal

Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services Warrantied Work & Repairs Diagnostics • A/C Repair Tune Ups & Engine Repair Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS Alignments • Tires...and more

> Major Insurance Referral Shop **Honoring All Insurance Estimates**

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122) Northbridge, MA 01534 Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231 www.kearnscollisioncom Fully Certified • RS# 2678

BEST WINDOW COMPANY

HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Door and Window Experts MACSL100114 | MAHic150118 | CTHic0619712

Award Winning High Performance Windows & Doors

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE

Lifetime Warranty

508-784-1550

BUILDER



Remodeling Expert

- **♦ FINISHED BASEMENTS**
- ♦ ADDITIONS ♦ GARAGES ♦ SIDING ♦ ROOFING ♦ DECKS
- ♦ WINDOWS ♦ DOORS
- **♦ KITCHEN ♦ BATHS**

Quality Building Since 1985 Licensed & Insured

508-764-2293 + 774-230-3967

Cleaning Services

HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE

Reasonable rates. Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly times available.

~ Bonded ~ Fully Vaccinated

Call Wendy for a FREE

estimate at:

774-262-9166

Granite & Marble

SHREWSBURY MARBLE & GRANITE, INC.



Biggest Selection of Marble, **Granite & Quartz of ANY Fabrication Shop** 300 Colors in Full Slabs to Choose From!

508-842-9800 • shrewsburymarbleandgranite.com 620 Boston Turnpike (Rte 9 E), Shrewsbury, MA (1/4 mi. east of Home Depot – Big Blue Bldg) Mon-Thurs 8-5, Fri & Sat & 9-4

PAINTING

Painting and More

Pro Painter in the Brookfield and surrounding areas.

NOW THROUGH THANKSGIVING, GET 10% OFF **POWER WASHING AND GUTTER CLEANING**

> Call Matt (229)256-6929 or Linda (774)402-0852

PEST CONTROL

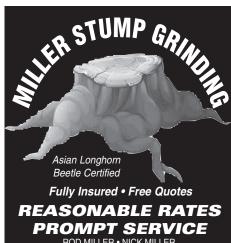
ACCURATE PEST CONTROL

Full Pest Control Services Over 30 years experience Reasonable Rates Owner Operated

508-757-8078

Ask for David or Jason Hight Auburn MA

Stump Grinding



CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CLEANINGS ONLY \$99 ALL KINDS OF MASONRY &

CONCRETE WORK

New & Repairs, Repointing Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry. Need to get it done?

Call me! -FREE Estimates-**Quality Chimney**

CHIMNEY

Guaranteed Gutter

Cleanings

GUTTER

CLEANING

Call or Text (508)450-7472

GUTTERS



508-867-2877 508-754-9054

A. Eagle Gutters aeaglegutters.com ACCREDITED A+

Handyman

No Job Too Small **Home Improvement** -Insured-

MA Reg #174661

- General Carpentry Laminated Floors Remodeling Kitchen. Bath & Cellai Painting
- Handyman Services Floor Leveling Power Washing and MORE!

See Our Work Online nojobtoosmallhome improvement.com Tel. 508.414.7792 Sturbridge, MA

Home Improvement

BONETTI'S Home Improvement Roofing Siding

Decks Remodeling Windows Doors **Basement Finishing**

Gutters Cleaning Pressure Washing Painting Landscaping

Over 25 Years Experience Residential Specialist Licensed and Insured

128231 508-347-4906 Cell 508-688-0072

MASONRY



Chimney Repair Foundation Repair Steps, Patios

Pool Surrounds **Pressure Washing Property Maintenance** Water Proofing **Delivery of Aggregate Cord Wood**

Brian French (413)222-5542 frenchyn45@gmail.com

ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER OWNERS / OPERATORS 508-688-2159

Painting

G1 Leduc Painting

Interior and **Exterior** Power Washing Wallpapering General Repair **Fully Insured**

Over 40 Years Experience

508-764-8548

(508)752-1003 **Plumbing**

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY Plumbina

Water heaters, Faucets, Toilets, New pex water piping Outside hose connections replaced or added, Dishwashers, Garbage disposals, Water filters, Tub & shower valves, Tub & shower replacements

Any repair or replacement needed.

Buy your own fixtures & faucets, or I will supply. Serving all of Worcester County Lic.#MPL-21763 Since 1988 Call John 508.304.7816 We are home owners'

jdrainman714@aol.com

PLUMBING & HEATING INC. Commercial,

Residential, New Construction

369 Main St, Ste 4 Spencer, MA 1-833-969-4330 Fully Insured

MIKELAMBERTSPANDH @GMAIL.COM

ROOFING

David Barbale ROOFING

Roofing/Gutters Repair Work

Fully Licensed and Insured MA LIC #CS069127

INS. # CAC032585 C: 508-397-6709 0: 508-248-6709

davidbarbale.com

MA HIC. LIC #1079721

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING

When protecting your family quality matters. We only use

1-866-961-Roof 508-765-0100

MA Reg #153955 CSL #095459 CT-HIC #0638641 Fully Insured, Free Estimates

the two best products on the market; Certainteed Shingles and Owens Corning Shingles Call Bill Toll-Free

ifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available

amily Owned and Operate

Now Accepting All

Major Credit Cards Financing Available ACCREDITED A+

ROOFING

GUARANTEED **BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

Roofing, siding, gutter cleaning, gutter repairs, Certainteed Shingle Master Certified!

Contact Daniel Truax 508-450-7472 call or text gbmaintco.com

Senior Citizen Discount Credit Cards Accepted Over 30 years of satisfied customers Fully Insured ~ Free Estimates

Financing Available A+ Rating BBB Mass CSL #099487

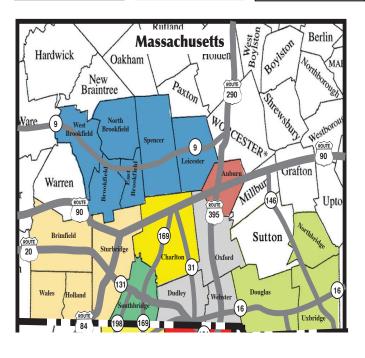
Mass HIC number 124019

Connecticut, HIC number 0665243

Advertise on this page for one low price! Get 7 papers.

774-200-7308

- Spencer New Leader
- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager
- Southbridge News
- Webster Times Auburn News
- Blackstone Valley Tribune





STONEBRIDGE **Press**

25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550 Telephone (800) 367-9898 Fax (508) 764-8015

www.StonebridgePress.com Frank G. Chilinski

Brendan Berube

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

Editor

EDITORIAL

The importance of having fun

In our fast-paced, modern world, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of daily life. We often find ourselves buried under the weight of responsibilities, deadlines, and the endless pursuit of "success". While these are all important aspects of life, it's crucial not to forget the importance of having fun and not taking life too seriously.

Fun is often seen as a frivolous indulgence, something we can afford only when all our work is done. However, this mindset can lead to burnout, stress, and a feeling of emptiness in our lives. Fun should not be considered a luxury; it is a fundamental human need that plays a significant role in our overall well-being.

One of the most valuable lessons we can learn is that life is short and unpredictable. It's easy to become so focused on our long-term goals and aspirations that we forget to enjoy the journey. Taking life too seriously can rob us of the simple pleasures and spontaneous moments that make life truly meaningful.

Having fun isn't just about indulging in hobbies or going on vacations (though those are important too). It's about embracing the little joys in everyday life, whether it's sharing a laugh with friends, dancing to your favorite song, singing into your hairbrush in front of the mirror, or enjoying a craft beer and a Reuben sandwich. These moments may seem insignificant, but they are the building blocks of a happy and fulfilling

Further, fun is not just about personal happiness; it also creates stronger relationships and communities. When we let go of our seriousness and allow ourselves to be playful, we create bonds with others, build trust, and create lasting memories. Laughter is a universal language that transcends cultural and language barriers, bringing people together and bridging divides.

It's important to note that having fun doesn't mean neglecting responsibilities or avoiding challenges. In fact, a balanced approach to life that includes moments of fun can enhance our ability to tackle challenges more effectively. When we are relaxed and happy, we are better equipped to handle stress and solve problems.

Fun is not a distraction from life's responsibilities; it is an essential part of a well-rounded and fulfilling life. It enhances our mental and emotional well-being, strengthens relationships, and fuels creativity and innovation. Embrace the joy of life. Remember to laugh often, prioritize play and to savor the moments that make life truly worth living.

Letter submission policy

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

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

()PINI()N

Pumpkin Pleasures – Round 2

week's column reviewed how to make use of leftover Halloween pumpkins. Still haven't transformed your pumpkins into a delicious dish? Read on for a last ditch "recipe" to recycle your pumpkin into something useful, plus some eye opening pumpkin facts and history to round out the pumpkin season!

Simmering Pumpkin Potpourri

Why not recycle that Jack-O-Halloween Lantern into an autumn aroma that fills your home with the scents of the season? Best of all, you likely have all the ingredients on hand:

Ingredients: fresh pumpkin slices, chopped; 2 cups apple cider, apple juice, or water; a few cinnamon sticks; one tablespoon each of pumpkin pie spice (see recipe below); whole cloves; splash of vanilla extract

Instructions: Mix all ingredients above in a pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a low simmer, replenishing water as needed.

Note: To enjoy the autumn scent for hours without supervision, once the liquid boils, transfer the potpourri into a small slow cooker.

Pumpkin Pie Spice: Mix together the following: three tablespoons ground cinnamon; two teaspoons ground nutmeg; two teaspoons ground ginger; one teaspoon ground cloves; one teaspoon ground allspice. Store in a glass spice jar.

Pumpkin History, and Lore

Facts: Pumpkin Although we think of pumpkins as a vegetable, it is officially classified as a fruit. Pumpkins are not only delicious, they are a rich source of both fiber and vitamin A and naturally low in calories. Best of all pumpkins are very versatile, which have made them the spotlight of many Thanksgiving feasts via pumpkin soups, casseroles and hearty

Pumpkin History: The ame "pumpkin" is an English term which dates from the 1500s. It is derived from the Greek "pepon," meaning large melon. Pumpkins, which are related to cucum-



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN

TRAINOR

melons, squash and gourds, have a past peppered with historical importance:

- * It is documented that pumpkin seeds discovered in Mexico date back to 5500 BC.
- After discovering America, Christopher Columbus brought pumpkin seeds with him to
- * Native Americans revered the pumpkin as a valuable source of food to carry them through the long, cold winters, teaching early English settlers how to grow and prepare pumpkins, which became an important seasonal mainstay of the pioneer
- * The pilgrims utilized every part of the pumpkin, roasting the flesh, drying the seeds, making flour from dried pumpkin, and even weaving floor mats out of pumpkin skins, a method learned from the Native Americans.
- * In New England, colonists made the first crustless pumpkin pies by cutting the top of the pumpkin, removing the seeds and filling it with apples, milk, sugar and spices and baking it whole.
- * The importance of pumpkins in the settlers' diet was documented in 1654 in the "Wonder Working Providence of Sion's Saviour in New England," when author Edward Johnson wrote the pumpkin was "a fruit which the Lord fed his people with till corn and cattle increased."

Jack-O-Lantern Lore: Legend has it the Jack-O-Lantern evolved from an Irish tale involving a drunkard named Jack. According to the longtime yarn, Jack was a trickster who playfully deceived family members. His fate was sealed the day he attempted to trick the devil into climbing an apple tree. Once Jack convinced the devil to climb the tree. he placed crosses around the tree truck, trapping the devil. With the devil

cornered, Jack refused let him down until he promised not to take Jack's soul when he died.

The story goes that many years later when Jack died, he couldn't get into heaven, yet he was turned out of hell too, because of the devil's long ago promise. Jack found himself with nowhere to go. He asked the devil how to leave the gates of hell as there was no light to guide him. According to the tale, the devil threw him an ember from the flames of hell to help him light his way. Jack put the burning ember inside a hollowed out pumpkin.

From that day on, it is said that Jack wandered the earth without a resting place, lighting his way with his lantern, thus the legend of the "Jack-O-Lantern," born.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Do your investments match your goals?



FINANCIAL Focus **TREVOR**

NIELSEN

As you go through life, you'll have various financial goals — and to achieve them. you'll need to invest. But just recognizing the need to invest is not as useful as matching specific types of accounts or investments with specific goals. How can you make these connections?

Let's look at some common goals and how they could possibly be met with appropriate accounts and investments:

Saving for a down payment on a house -When you're saving for a down payment, you want a certain amount of money available at a certain time — so, for this goal, you won't want to take too much risk. Consequently, you might consider investing in certificates of deposit (CDs), which will pay you regular interest payments and return your principal when the CDs mature. CDs are issued in a range of maturities, from one month to 10 years. Other vehicles you might consider are money market accounts or other cash equivalents.

Saving for a child's education - If you have children, and you'd like to help them pay for some form of higher education, you may want to consider a 529 education savings plan. Any earnings growth in a 529 plan is federally tax free, provided the withdrawals are used for qualified education expenses, and you may also receive state tax benefits. A 529 plan can be used for college, approved trade school programs, student loan repayments and some K-12 costs. And if the child you've named as a beneficiary chooses not to continue their education, and doesn't need the money in a 529 plan, you can generally switch beneficiaries to another immediate family member.

Saving for retirement – This is the one goal that will remain consistent throughout your working years — after all, you could spend two or even three decades in retirement, so you'll need to accumulate as many financial resources as you can to pay for those years. Fortunately, you likely have access to several good retirement-savings vehicles. If you work for a business, you might have a 401(k) plan, which offers you the chance to put away money on a tax-deferred basis. (If you have a Roth option in your 401(k), your withdrawals can be tax free, although, unlike a traditional 401(k), your contributions won't lower your taxable income.) If you work for a public school or a nonprofit organization, you may be able to participate in a 403(b) plan, which is quite similar to a 401(k), and the same is true if you work for a state or local government, where you might have a 457(b) plan. And even if you invest in any of these plans, you can probably also contribute to an IRA, which gives you another chance to invest on a tax-deferred basis (or tax-free basis, if you're eligible for a Roth IRA). Try to take full advantage of whatever retirement plans are available to you.

Here's one final point to keep in mind: While some investments and accounts are appropriate for certain goals, they may not necessarily be suitable for your individual situation — so keep all your options in mind and take the steps that are right for

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.

Deer hunting improves day by day

Deer hunting locally is improving every day, with the rutting season heating up. Reports of bucks chasing does, is a sure sign that the doe are coming into heat. One archer was sitting in his tree stand this

past week, and had a couple of doe's go running by his stand. He never had a chance to get a shot. The two does stopped a bit out of range, but the archer noticed the two deer looking back. It was only a few seconds after when he heard a buck snort, and the buck also went running by the archers stand at a high rate of speed. Again, no opportunity for a shot with his bow!

This week's picture is of Sean Halpin, Jr. with a real impressive 12 point buck he harvested from Mass. with his bow. The antlers were in good shape, often indicating that he possibly had not gotten into a fight with another big buck for rights to breeding does in the area. Antlers are often damaged or broken off during flights of two big bucks, and often get their antlers locked together, unable to get free. If they are not found, the two big bucks could die, becoming exhausted, trying to get free.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS RALPH TRUE

Their antlers are often damaged in numerous ways during their fight for survival. A whitetail deer in this area actually has a very short life, with very few surviving more than five to seven years. A few documented exceptions have reported deer actually living 20 years or more. With hunters being the

number one predator, harvesting more than 10,000 animals annually, and a high rate of deer dying at a very young age with automobile deer collisions, the deer herd continues to grow annually.

Without hunters harvesting a high number of deer annually, the herd could possibly die from starvation during extremely harsh winters, or they could contract numerous diseases out there in the wild. Lyme disease carrying ticks are also a killer of deer, and man is also being threatened by Lyme disease carrying ticks.

This past weekend, a local angler fished Wallum Lake in Douglas hoping to catch a few trout but the action was slow, so he decided to change his tactics a bit and started to drift live shiners. He reported catching numerous smallmouth bass in the one- to two-pound range, which made

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



This week's picture shows Sean Halpin, Jr. with his 12 point buck that he harvested recently in Mass, using his bow!

Harness the reins of your thoughts

Earl Nightingale said, "You become what you think about."

I've struggled with this concept for many years. Over and over again, I've thought, "What does that mean?" Its meaning seemed to dance just out of reach, a melody heard but not entirely understood.

If I think about elephants all day long, will I one day become a pachyderm? Obviously not. The essence of Nightingale's words is something more profound.

It's straightforward to grasp that our focus directs our actions.

For example, when our heads are full of worries and fears, it's like building a massive wall that stops us from getting the life we want. Fear sneaks in quietly and tricks us into thinking that it's better to stick with what we

know than to go after what we want. We can see our dreams out there, waiting for us, but fear keeps us stuck in place, too scared to move because we think we might mess up.

Conversely, if we choose to immerse ourselves in the imagery of success, letting it consume our every thought, embracing the belief that victory is not just possible but inevitable, we forge a different path. This road is paved with the courage to rise after every fall.

Yet, even understanding this, the phrase still poses a puzzle. To become what we think about is more than just attaining what we desire.

We are chemical-electric beings. Just like a cellphone or any electrical device has a radiation field around it, we also

POSITIVELY SPEAKING produce electricity and have a measurable field of energy emanating from our bodies.

TOBY MOORE

Thoughts are

There is a direct correlation between the thoughts a person thinks and the strength of their energy field. Thoughts that produce feelings of joy, freedom, gratitude, love, peace, compassion, and patience cause the field to become stronger, whereas thoughts of hatred, envy, jealousy, pride, lust, apathy, and depression will cause the field to vanish.

Think about this.

We've all heard of brainwaves. There are five different types of brain waves, all measured and categorized by their frequency. For example, Alpha waves hum between 8 to 12 Hz. Beta waves step it up a notch with frequencies from 13 to 32 Hz. Gamma waves are clocking in between 33 to 100 Hz.

We can measure these waves from outside our skulls. That means our brain's vibrations reach into the space around us, like the ripple in a pond when rain splashes.

Do these frequencies communicate with a more significant force that produces what our brain frequencies and energy field tell it to make?

Like planting a seed in the soil, the soil doesn't care if the seed produces a deadly and poisonous plant or food that nourishes the body. The soil only produces what is planted.

Our thoughts may be seeds, and they are being planted whether we like it or not.

With all of this in mind, what does it mean that we "Become what we think about?"

I don't know, but I'm beginning to understand.

There is a Hollywood producer who is now in prison for the rest of his life, and I couldn't understand how someone so rich, so powerful, and so well-connected could end up in prison.

If we become what we think about, does that mean the thoughts of prison dominated his thinking? Doubtful.

He is there now because of the terrible things he did, and also, on a deeper level, what if the reason he's there is because his thought vibrations matched the frequencies of a criminal?

Decades before his sentencing, he was already

a prisoner in his mind, and he became what he thought about.

Don't get me wrong. Terrible things happen to good people, and in no way am I victim-blaming. All adverse events are not the results of your

thoughts.

I'm simply saying that if you want success, embrace the triumph before it unfolds. If you wish to love, immerse yourself in its energy and let the vibration of love resonate within you. If you seek happiness, cultivate joy within and live each moment with gratitude.

It's all essential to harness the reins of your thoughts; their power shapes your path, for indeed, we become what we think about.

Gifts with multiple functions and styles



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company This bamboo seed saver kit contains storage envelopes, glass vials and compartments to organize seeds and hold them in place.

The holidays are quickly approaching and finding the perfect gift for those on your list can be challenging. With many people downsizing or striving for a minimalistic lifestyle, finding the perfect gift gets even

more difficult. Gifting something that is unique, useful and provides multiple functions may be the solution.

Consider gifts that help family and friends on your gift list save time and space and support

their lifestyle and hobbies. These are gifts that are more likely to bring delight than end up in the donation box.

Most people, whethdownsizing or not, are looking for ways to organize what they have and save space. Storage bins are often the best solution and come in a variety of styles. Those like the Mod Hod work well for gardeners, crafters and those looking to organize their pantries. Gardeners can use them to harvest their produce, wash off the soil right in the garden, and bring them into the house to store. Crafters can organize their supplies and everyone can stack and store snacks, produce, and just about anything in these.

For a more traditional look, consider the Garden Hod of wood and vinyl-covered mesh. These were originally used by Maine clam diggers to hold and rinse their catch. Gardeners use it to hold and rinse their garden produce, while crafters transport their supplies to their workstations. Those that like to entertain can fill it with and display party supplies at any event.

Help the gardeners on your list keep their seeds organized. Most gardeners have lots of open packets of seeds, newly purchased seeds, and

those they have collected from their gardens. It can be challenging to keep them stored properly, safe from rodents, and organized so they are easy to find for future gardens. Management of seed inventory also saves money by preventing the purchasing of duplicate seeds.

Consider a seed-saver kit for the gardeners on your list. Make one from a plastic bin and hand-crafted dividers. Or purchase one like the Deluxe Galvanized Seed Saver Kit for avid gardeners with lots of seeds who prefer a more industrial look. The minimalist on your list may prefer a Bamboo Seed Saver Kit that contains storage envelopes, glass vials and compartments to hold everything in place. Crafters and other hobbyists in the family will also find something like this useful.

garden and at home is a great way to maximize every square inch. Reaching items on the top shelf may require a step stool. Consider one that also functions as a basket and stool like the Bamboo Garden Stool and Basket Combo (gardeners.com). This sturdy basket with comfortable handles makes carrying tools to the garden, produce back

Going vertical in the



GARDEN
MOMENTS
MELINDA
MYERS

from the garden or any project supplies an easy task. Once you arrive in the garden or workstation, empty the contents and flip it over so you have a comfortable seat.

Gardeners that grow vertically have lots of stakes, trellises, and other items to support plants throughout the growing season. Leaving them in the garden for winter may not be an option. Stuffing them into a shed or garage can take up valuable space needed for other tools, equipment, and the car. Contain and organize these items with wall storage. Offer to help your gift recipient install hooks on the wall to keep these items organized and out of the way. Or gift them something like the Plant Support Wall Storage container that can be mounted on the wall and is designed to hold plant supports of various sizes and shapes.

Cooks and gardeners alike can always use a cutting board. Gifting one that has multiple functions like the Do-It-All Culinary Cutting

Board may eliminate the need for multiple kitchen items. This cutting board has a builtin mortar and pestle, a chopped food compartment, and a knife sharpener on two sides.

And for the person who has everything or wants nothing more, a living gift is the perfect option. A basket of forced spring flowering bulbs can brighten anyone's mood as they watch the plants grow and bloom.

Finding the perfect gift is a challenge but consider the joy it will bring. When you see the look on the recipient's face and the item in use, you'll both benefit from your efforts.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything' instant video and DVD series and Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Mvers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply Company for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www. MelindaMyers.com.

State officials scramble to address worsening migrant crisis

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION — State officials are scrambling to manage a dire new phase of the migrant crisis, which has rapidly worsened amid heavy demand for shelter.

Gov. Maura Healey recently announced that, by the end of October, the state would no longer be able to add units to its emergency shelter system for families experiencing homelessness.

"For months, the state's emergency family shelter system has been expanding at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand driven by increasing numbers of newly arriving migrant families and slower exits of families in long-term emergency shelter stays," read a statement released by the Governor's office late last month. "The state will not be able to accommodate more than 7,500 families, or approximately 24,000 individuals, and will likely hit this number by the end of the month."

As of Oct. 16, there were nearly 7,000 families with children or pregnant women in emergency shelters across Massachusetts, which remains the only right-to-shelter state in the nation. About half of the individuals in emergency shelters are children, officials said.

Healey also announced several actions that her administration has taken to address the crisis, including the appointment of Lt. General Leon Scott Rice as Emergency Assistance

"For months now, we have been

expanding shelter capacity at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand. Despite the heroic work of public officials, shelter providers, and the National Guard, we have reached a point where we can no longer safely or responsibly expand," said Healey. "Lt. General Rice has extensive experience leading large-scale emergency management operations, and we are confident he is the right person to lead us through this new phase of the emergency shelter system."

Additionally, the Governor's team pledged to focus on helping families exit shelters quicker and move into more permanent housing. To do this, officials plan to add new initiatives for connecting eligible individuals with work opportunities.

Since the summer months, the Governor and her staff have remained under intense scrutiny for their handling of the crisis, which has dominated a turbulent first year for the new administration.

"The Governor and I understand the strain that has been placed on Massachusetts communities over the past year, as we have all come together to ensure that families have access to the shelter and resources they need," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "Together, we will move forward on our efforts to connect families with work and permanent housing, while continuing to call on the federal government to help us meet this moment."

In his new role, Rice will oversee management and coordination of the state's emergency shelter system, including leading the Healey

Administration's Incident Command Team. Launched in May, the team includes representatives from multiple state agencies.

"He will be responsible for implementing this new phase of the emergency shelter system, coordinating directly with local, state and federal officials, and updating the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on daily developments," read the statement released by the Governor's office.

Rice has more than 40 years of experience with the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, retiring as a Lt. General and disabled veteran in 2020. He was the Director of the Air National Guard from 2016-20, managing an \$11.5 billion budget and more than 100,000 personnel spread across every U.S. state and territory. He also served as the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard from 2012-16

"I'm honored that Gov. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have placed their faith in me to lead this critical mission to ensure the safety and wellbeing of families in Massachusetts," Rice said. "I've spent my career leading large-scale organizations and emergency response operations, and I've learned that communication and partnership are key to meeting any challenge."

As of Nov. 1, the state is no longer able to add new shelter units. Families seeking shelter will be assessed by teams across the state, and those with health and safety risks will be prioritized for placement, officials said.

Families who are not immediately

Administration's Incident Command connected with shelter resources will Team. Launched in May, the team be placed on a waiting list.

Meanwhile, the Healey Administration plans to expand supports for rapid rehousing and rental assistance initiatives, such as HomeBASE. This will facilitate additional transitions to permanent housing, officials said.

State leaders are also calling on the federal government, local communities, faith-based organizations, and others to help support homeless families during this difficult period.

"Gov. Healey will continue to use every tool at her disposal to advocate for federal assistance to this federal problem. She has made multiple requests to Department of Homeland Security Secretary (DHS) Alejandro Mayorkas for federal funding and improvements to the work authorization process," read the statement released by the Governor's office.

Last month, a DHS consultant team visited Massachusetts to evaluate the situation, holding multiple meetings with officials over two days and visiting shelters

Moreover, the United Way Migrant Relief Fund continues to support the needs of families, including temporary accommodations, food, clothing, diapers, hygiene items, transportation, health screenings, and translation services. The fund has raised \$1.2 million since it was launched in August.

Additional information on resources and relief efforts can be found at www.mass.gov.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth M. Stevens, 94



CHARLTON
– Elizabeth M.
(Seale) Stevens,
94, of A.F.
Putnam Road,
died on Thursday,
November 2, 2023,
at the Life Care
Center of Auburn,
after a period of
declining health.
She was predeceased by her hus-

band of 52 years, Herbert C. Stevens of Charlton who died in 2015. She is survived by two children, Daniel S. Stevens of Charlton, and Janice A. Pena and her husband Juan "Carlos" of Southbridge; her brother, David R. Seale and his wife Patricia of Hernando, FL; two sisters, Joan Carlson of Middlesex, VT, and Anna L. Donahue of Attleboro; three granddaughters, Ashley C. Bastien and her husband Mark of Ellington. CT, Chandler S. Goodhue and her husband Cole of Enosburg Falls, VT, and Madison M. Stevens of South Boston; and two great-grandsons, Brody R. Knight and Thomas P. Bastien, both of Ellington, CT. She was predeceased by a son, Nathan S. Stevens who died in 1967; and a brother, William B. Seale.

She was born in Dedham, daughter of the late Ralph and Bertha L. (Ekberg) Seale, and lived in Dedham before moving to Charlton in 1962. She graduated from Dedham High School.

Mrs. Stevens worked at Southbridge Savings Bank in Charlton for many years, retiring as assistant branch manager in 1992. Previously she worked for Norfolk and Dedham Insurance Company in Dedham for many years. She was a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Oxford, and was an active participant at the church over the years. She was a former member of the Finance Committee in Charlton. Mrs. Stevens enjoyed cooking, baking, visiting relatives, and caring for her grandchildren. She believed that family was everything and there was always room at the table for one more.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 270 Main St., Oxford. Burial will be private at a later date at West Ridge Cemetery in Charlton. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 270 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

ADAMS

continued from page 6

"People don't want to divulge mental health problems, but we've got to have some way to identify these issues" before they get guns.

A mong other things, he said he favors "red flag" laws and mental health checks, which he said aren't in conflict with the Second Amendment.

R egarding mental health overall, A dams said he feels Southbridge already has "a lot of resources," and the public needs to be talking about the issue more. Overall, he sees a problem with the fact that police and schools have both, in some respects, become social workers, and that there is no good single point of contact for people needing assistance.

A dams was born and grew up in

Santa Ana, Calif., which he described as a middle-class "bars on our windows community." He went into the Marine C orps at age 19, retiring in 2013 after about 26 years. When he moved to Southbridge, he taught at Trinity Catholic Academy for about 5 years and got involved in town government and veterans issues. Most recently, he's been s pearheading a revamped veterans monument in Dresser Park and serving as Veterans Agent for the town of Oxford.

"I didn't grow up in Southbridge, but I love this town," he said. "... I have nothing I need when it comes to what the state is providing [for state reppay]. It's just about helping our local communities."

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

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news

* * Triday's Child * * *



Amy Age 14 Hi! My name is Amy and I am a passionate writer!

Amy is a smart, polite, and resilient teenager with a spunky personality and a great sense of humor. She is very friendly and social; Amy loves being around others and has positive interactions with peers and adults. Amy enjoys a variety of activities and spending time in the community, but also enjoys quiet relaxing time at home. Amy loves most typical teenager activities such as shopping, music, and makeup. She enjoys shopping at Five Below and listening to country music.

Amy is enrolled for this year and is able to be most successful when provided supports that align with her learning style. She is passionate about writing and journaling. Amy has a number of positive coping skills and is a great advocate for herself. She responds well to active empathetic listening and responses, as well as validation of her emotions and feelings.

Amy's ideal family would be a two-parent home, where she is the only child or oldest child in the home. She will thrive with a very patient and laid back family that can provide a calm, nurturing, stable home and support her independence, privacy, and social activities as a teenager. Amy would love a home with pets, especially dogs. Amy's hopes and dreams are to find a forever family that will love her unconditionally.

https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6102

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 toons in foster care.

Roger E. Lamoureux, 73



O X F O R D

Roger E.

Lamoureux, 73, of Wheelock Street, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at UMass M e m o r i a l Medical Center

University Campus in Worcester. He

is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jeannette I. (Plaza) Lamoureux; his daughter, Monique Angel Lamoureux of Rutland; three sisters, Lorraine Lamoureux of Webster, Lisette Ford of Oxford, and Lavena Shenette and her husband Brian of Oxford; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, Randy Lamoureux who died in 2013, and

Raymond Lamoureux who died in 2004. He was born in Worcester, son of the late Joseph E. and Claire M. (Gauvin) Lamoureux, and lived in Webster before moving to Oxford five years ago. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1968.

Mr. Lamoureux was a diesel mechanic at Day Brothers Trucking in Auburn for 38 years. Later, he worked for Thibeault Trucking in Worcester for 10 years. He loved nature and enjoyed camping, fishing, and feeding the birds. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

A private funeral Mass will be held at St. Roch's Church in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Fundación MAPFRE donates \$70,000 to United Way for childcare and nutrition programs

S OUTHBRIDGE — United Way of South Central MA (UWSCM) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$70,000 grant from Fundación MAPFRE, a global non-profit organization that provides social assistance and promotes road safety. The grant is the first major gift this year that will support UWSCM's Bridging the Gap Campaign, which provides funding for critical childcare and nutrition programs in South Central Massachusetts.

"We are grateful to Fundación MAPFRE for their generous support of our partner agencies that provide affordable childcare and nutrition services for families and older adults." said Mary O'Coin, Executive Director at UWSCM. "This funding will help us to ensure that children in our community have access to the high-quality preschool and afterschool childcare and nutrition for families so they can all thrive."

The Bridging the Gap Campaign supports a variety of programs that p rovide childcare and nutrition assistance to low-income families in South Central Massachusetts. These programs include:

Childcare subsidies that help families afford high-quality childcare at the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley.

N utrition assistance programs through Tri-Valley, Inc. that provide food to older adults and individuals with disabilities.

A weekly dinner program for families through the YMCA – Tri-Community Branch "What's for Dinner" program.

"Fundación MAPFRE is pleased to support the United Way of South C entral Massachusetts in its important work in the community," said Jaime Tamayo, President and Chief Executive Officer of MAPFRE Insurance and Chief Representative of Fundación MAPFRE in the U.S. "We are proud to help the United Way's Bridging the Gap Campaign to provide more essentials to children and adults."

About Fundación MAPFRE

Fundación MAPFRE is a global non-profit organization that provides social assistance and promotes road safety. The foundation was established in 1975 by MAPFRE, a leading insurance company. Fundación MAPFRE works to improve the lives of people in need through a variety of programs and services, including support for children and families, disaster relief, and road safety initiatives.

About United Way of South Central MA

United Way of South Central MA is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of people in need in the towns of Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, Dudley and Webster. UWSCM funds more than 26 programs and services that address the critical needs of the community, including education, income, health, and housing.

The 2023 campaign will run through December 31. People can donate online at www.uwscm.org or by mail to United Way of South Central MA, 176 Main St., Suite 400, Southbridge, MA 01550.









NEW & USED APPLIANCES

508-867-3122

Parts Hotline 888-229-1027 www.davesapp.com 42 W. Main St., Brookfield, MA Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-6 • Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-3



FAIR PHOTOS

continued from page 1



Members of the Modugno family, of Brimfield, get ready for the event.



The Gelineau family, of West Brookfield, is eager to greet guests.



Ten-year-old Emma-Lynn, of Ware, spends the morning with Samantha.



Tantasqua Regional High School students volunteer at the event.



Mark Capone, of Clinton, introduces guests to his creative offerings.



Author Gail Olmsted, right, and Tracey Ryan celebrate all things lit-



Members of the TRHS Model United Nations group welcome guests.



Grace Lavalley, of New Braintree, is ready for a busy event.



At Barbara Karpowich's table, guests can find a unique combination of local sports, seasonal themes, and snowmen.

BLOOD PRESSURE

continued from page 1

Care Certified and completed training in Domestic Violence.

Wairimu has experience as a youth counselor (Nairobi) and social work volunteer (P.C.E.A. St. Stevenson, Kenya) and was a student at Kenya Institute of Psychological Counseling-Nakuru, prior to joining Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Njuguna is a direct support staff with Venture Community Services. She holds a certificate in computer applications from St. Francis of Assisi Computer College and a diploma on Purchase and supply management from Nairobi Institute of Business Studies. Both anticipate their completion of the PN program and graduation in June 2024.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Acad-

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a P ractical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by

t he: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing, 239 Causeway St., Boston, M A 02114 617-973-0800 www.mass.gov/dph/boards/ rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education, 840 Roswell Rd., Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 3 0350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org

ARPA

continued from page 1

tiative during a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Oct. 24 explaining where funding has been appropriated so far.

"We're trying to improve the overall radio signal cove rage throughout town for public safety radios. We've is-

sued a purchase order for the radio equipment and repeater e quipment for \$311,000 and had some ancillary upgrades at dispatch for \$151,000. We just got the quote in for the t ower component up at Bay Path which is going to come in at about \$489,885," said Golas.

The town has contracted with CyberCom and LB Communications to spearhead the project.

The budget for the project was set at \$800,000, all from A RPA funds, but Golas reco mmended that the remaining ARPA money be allocated to complete the project. He proposed moving a combined \$222,402 to the budget which includes funds left over from

p urchasing a vehicle for the Board of Health and digitiz ation of town documents. W hile a full board wasn't present, those selectmen who d id attend the meeting vote d unanimously to support G ola's proposal. The move effectively utilizes all that remained from the ARPA funding in Charlton. Golas did not

provide a timeline for when t he radio signal improvements will be completed, however the purchase and installation of a radio tower is one of the most significant steps in the process. Golas said they will continue to monitor every ARPA project with the intent to utilize available town funds to complete each initiative.

Now booking holiday parties Any size from 10 to 250 guests

Spencer Country Inn



Family Dining & Gift Guide

Too Busy to Cook?

Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out! Treat yourself to a nice dinner out anytime! Restaurant gift cards make perfect hostess gifts!

Call Mikaela at 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news to advertise on this page





Salem Cross Inn

Buy Entree Get 1 1/2 price (dine-in only) Cannot be used on holidays or private parties With this ad. Exp 12/31/23 Fish N' Chips To-Go ~ Fridays Only \$14.95

SUNDAY BRUNCH All You Can Eat \$19.95 (plus tax & gratuity 500 Main St., Spencer, MA

508-885-9036 www.spencercountryinn.com Lunch: Fri & Sat 11:30-2:00

Dinner: Fri & Sat 5:00-Close Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm

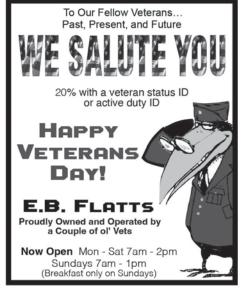
Come on in

for a delicious meal!

Don't forget...

TAKEOUT is available!







chowder demonstrations, deep dish apple pie with fresh whipped cream, horse drawn wagon or sleigh rides (weather permttng)

website www.salemcrossinn.com (508)867-2345

Main Dining Room Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5 Hexmark Tavern Hours: Thursday & Friday 4-8

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PUBLIC HEARING

The Brimfield Select Board will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for the following:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid. requests permission to Locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Jane's Hill Cross Road: #30855899 Reason: Jane's Hill Cross Road. -National Grid to install (1) SO Pole on Jane's Hill Cross Road beginning at a point approximately 150 feet West of the centerline of the intersection of Allen Hill Road. Install pole #1 Jane's Hill Cross Road approximately 150+/- feet from the centerline of Allen Hill Road, Brimfield MA.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Martin J. Kelly Select Board, Chairperson Town of Brimfield November 3, 2023 November 10, 2023

Public Meeting Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 5:30 pm to review a Request for D etermination of Applicability (RDA) permit application submitted by Tyler P. Russo to determine if the proposed project for site improvements with minor grading within the buffer zone. (Assessor's Map: 5-5.5) is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act (as amended).

Project location: 27 Champeaux Road (Assessor's Map: 5-5.5)

Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield, MA at 5:30

R oger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia. B rimfield Conservation Commission Co-Chairs 11/01/2023

CC: Board of Health Planning Board November 10, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. WO23P3730EA **Estate of:** Benjamin Robert Giacomelli Date Of Death: September 12, 2023 **INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner

Robert B Gionet-Giacomelli of Sturbridge MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

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

are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

November 9, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate** and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO23P3864EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Linda Louise McKissick

Also known as: Linda McKissick Date of Death: 05/06/2018 To all interested persons:

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by

Larry McKissick, II of CharltonMA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Larry McKissick, II of CharltonMA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/05/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an

INVENTORY OR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS WITH THE COURT. PERSONS INTEREST-ED IN THE ESTATE ARE ENTITLED TO NOTICE REGARDING THE ADMINISTRA-TION DIRECTLY FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND MAY PETITION THE COURT IN ANY MATTER RELATING

estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 02, 2023 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate November 9, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

B v virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stephen P. Clark, Kristen J. Clark to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, d ated July 29, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 3 6986, Page 58, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

M ortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to The Bank of New Y ork Mellon as Trustee for the C ertificateholders CWALT, Inc., A Iternative Loan Trust 2005-45 M ortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-45, recorded on December 16, 2009, in Book No. 45240, at Page 135

for breach of the conditions of said m ortgage and for the purpose of f oreclosing, the same will be sold a t Public Auction at 2:00 PM on December 1, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 110 Mashapaug Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, M assachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

B EING the most easterly portion of I and now or formerly of Jeannette C urboy, containing 1.59 acres and k nown as Lot 1A on a plan entitled "Plan of property surveyed for Jeanette Curboy, located at Mashapaug Road, S turbridge, MA", drawn by Jalbert Engineering, Inc., dated November 28, 1 990. Said parcel being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe located in the Northerly line of Mashapaug Road 503.90 feet Westerly of a Worcester County Highway Bound located at station 102+ 72.29 on the County Road relocation layout for Mashapaug Road; THENCE North 54 degrees 56' 35" W est along the Northerly line of M ashapaug Road, 96.10 feet to a bound point. Said bound point is located at station 96+ 72.29 on said prev iously mentioned County Highway Layout;

THENCE following the Northerly line of said road to a curve to the right of the with a radius of 1160.00 feet, and a length of 68.90 feet to the point at r emaining land now or formerly of Jeannette Curboy;

THENCE North 30 degrees 37' 56" East along the remaining land now or formerly of Jeannette Curboy 420.22 feet crossing an old coach road to a point at land now or formerly the United States of America New England Division of the Army Corp's Engineers. THENCE South 54 degrees 09' 31" E ast along said United States of America land, 165.00 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Daniel Curboy; THENCE South 30 degrees 38' 00' West crossing over said coach road and along said Daniel Curboy land, 420.00 feet to an iron pipe. Said iron pipe being the point of beginning.

Lot 1A contains 1.59 acres. F or mortgagor's(s') title see deed r ecorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 30225, Page 331.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, p ublic assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing e ncumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions. e asements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE:

Adeposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, M assachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

BANK OF NEW YORK THE MELLON AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS CWALT, INC. ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2005-45 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-45 Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 23216 November 9, 2023 November 16, 2023

November 23, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by George Golebiowski, Cheryl R. Golebiowski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for AmTrust Bank, dated April 17, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44127, Page 80, of which mortgage the undersigned is the

present holder, by assignment from: M ortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for AmTrust Bank, its successors and assigns to Green Tree Servicing LLC, recorded on April 11, 2014, in Book No. 52207, at Page 248

Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree S ervicing LLC to New Residential Mortgage LLC, recorded on March 26, 2020, in Book No. 62103, at Page 262 N ew Residential Mortgage LLC to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on April 12, 2023, in Book No. 69013, at Page 386

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 PM on December 8, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 189 Durfee Street, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land with the buildings thereon situated in said Southbridge at the northwesterly corner of Durfee Street and Jacobs Road, bounded and described as follow: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at the end of a wall on the northerly line of Durfee Street at land of Edward F. LaChance et ux, formerly of Sly; THENCE by said LaChance land: northerly along wall 141 feet, easterly at right angles 7.5 feet, and northerly along wall about 35 feet to a drill hole in wall at land now or formerly of Milton R. Thorburn, et 'ux, formerly of Arthur R. Anderson, et ux; THENCE S. 55° 55' E. by said Thorburn land about 162 feet to an iron pin at the westerly line of Jacobs Road; THENCE S. 29° 33' W. by the northerly line of Jacobs Road, 213.3 feet to a bound at the intersection of t he northerly line of Durfee Street; Thence westerly by the northerly line of Durfee Street, about 189 feet to the point of beginning. Containing .78 acre, more or less.

F or mortgagor's(s') title see deed r ecorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 9607, Page 316.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, p ublic assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other munic-

ipal assessments or liens or existing e ncumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, e asements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE:

Adeposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, M assachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

N EWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 24328

November 9, 2023 November 16, 2023 November 23, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO19P4195EA Estate of:

Rosarie Anne Ducey Also known as: Rosarie A. Ducey Date of Death: 10/08/2019 **CITATION ON PETITION** FOR ORDER OF **COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Jason W. Ducey of Eastham MA

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/05/2023.

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

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court November 03, 2023 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

November 09, 2023

Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing The Zoning Board of Appeals will

h old a public hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:15 pm at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland MA 01521 or remotely. For more information, please refer to the t own website at https://town.holland. ma.us under Zoning Board of Appeals under agendas for the date specified above. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request from Kyle Moreau for a variance according to Bylaw section 7.

R elief requested: Construction of garage.

The property is located at 27 Old Acres Rd, Holland MA. Parcel ID #R22 − C − 7. Don Beal, Chairperson Zoning Board of Appeals Date: October 26, 2023 October 26, 2023 November 9, 2023

For Legal **Advertising** Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@ stonebridge press.news

LITERACY

continued from page 1

in Charlton.)

Life in Egypt today "is not much different, but here you can find a lot of jobs," he said. "In Egypt, not a lot of jobs." But he said that country is "very safe" for the most part, and he'd like to return for a visit.

His son Isaac wasn't quite so sure. He said the schools were "very cruel" there, with teachers who punish students who get answers wrong. But he didn't really understand the trip here at age 5.

"I was too young to think about it," he said. "I was basically wondering why we were on a plane."

Library Director Margaret Morrissey can relate to the Youssefs' immigration experience, although she had the advantage of knowing English first. She arrived here from Ireland in 1986 and found many things she didn't understand. Take, for example, drive-ins: She recalled visiting one thinking it was a restaurant in New York and wondering "How will they know we're here? The owner called people over too look at these idiots."

"I don't take this lightly at all," because immigrants leave family, friends, culture, and basically everything they know behind, she noted. "I am impressed with anybody who can come to the desk, ask if I speak Spanish, and I say no, and they speak perfect English. They just didn't have the confidence."

Students like Youssef are "striving for a big goal and learning English is the key," she added, telling them, "I hope you see improvements in your daily lives ... and you can connect with your community."

A lot of that depends on the tutors, who help newcomers "understand the culture and its nuances." she said.

Literacy Volunteers Director Emily Farrell agreed, saying "Whatever our students' goals are, that's what our goals are." She described Youssef as "one of the most driven people I've ever met" and Bosse as someone with "an incredible abili-

ty ... to make everyone feel included ... and draw people out of their shell to participate."

Bosse, a resident of Sturbridge, has been a literacy tutor for 24 years, mostly in Connecticut but five here. In his stint here, he's been running the Literacy Cafe in Webster and via Zoom, and established the 10-week Citizenship Study Group in September with Farrell. Farrell noted he spends a lot of extra time preparing for his students, providing tech support, and otherwise helping them.

"It's wonderful to do such rewarding work," he said, noting he started tutoring after college and "this was meant for me. I enjoy it just as much as when I first started."

"The students' energy just brightens my day," Bosse added. "Making a difference in a small way brightens my world."

This year's Student of the Year could not attend the event, and Farrell only used her first name, Marlena, a musician from Poland. Farrell praised her for the way she "engages everyone around her to be just as involved" and described her as "a joy to be around."

Farrell noted the organization's tutors are serving 73 adults in area towns this year, and her goal is 100 next year. It gained nine new tutors this year, which she described as a 30 percent increase from last year.

One of them is Marilyn Gerrard, a retired nurse who just finished her zoom training class last Monday and doesn't yet have a student. She described training as "very intense," and wanted to do it in part because she loves to read and wanted to help others do so.

"I can't imagine going to another country and not having language skills to advocate for myself," she said.

Literacy Volunteers is always looking for new tutors and students. People interested in either can contact them at Jacob Edwards Library by phone, email or visiting their office in the basement.

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





Central Massachusetts, I've always known what a special community we live in. For generations, we have trusted our local newspaper. Local news and advertisers you can trust, week after week. As the local advertising rep for your newspaper, it brings me great pleasure to help a local business get results!

Our readers trust our advertisers.
Our advertisers trust us.

And you can trust me! Your neighbor, Mikaela

Mikaela Victor
Local Resident
Advertising Account Executive
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news
(774)200-7308



LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Carla Martel to First Franklin A Division of Nat. City Bank of IN, dated September 30, 2005 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37463, Page 127 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Wilmington Trust, National Association, as successor trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 is the present holder by Assignment f rom First Franklin, a division of National City Bank of Indiana to First Franklin Financial Corporation dated December 1, 2005 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 38103, P age 150, and Assignment from First Franklin Financial Corporation to CitiBank, N.A., as Trustee for the Holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 dated February 7, 2013 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 5 0427, Page 144, and Assignment from CitiBank, N.A., as Trustee for t he Holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan A sset-Backed Certificates, Series 2 005-FF12 to Wilmington Trust, N ational Association, as successor trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee f or First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 dated November 9, 2016 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 56354, Page 372, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged p remises located at 38 Clark Road a/k/a 38 Clarke Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on December 5, 2023, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mort-

gage, to wit:

T he land, with buildings thereo n, located on the southeasterly
s ide of' Clarke Road in Sturbridge,
W orcester County, Massachusetts,
b eing shown' as "Lot 25" on a "Plan
o f Property Surveyed for C.M.O.
Development Corp. Located on Clarke
R oad, Sturbridge, Massachusetts"
b y Jalbert Engineering, Inc. dated
November 21, 1995, which is recorded
in the Worcester District Registry of
D eeds at Plan Book 699, Plan 103,
b ounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe located on the southeasterly side of Clarke Road, at the southwesterly corner of said lot, and at the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of St. Anne's Church; T HENCE S. 74° 30' 28" E. along I and now or formerly of St. Anne's C hurch 225.00 feet to an iron pin;

THENCE N. 14° 33' 56" E. along land now or formerly of C.M.G. Development C orp., 121.25 feet to an iron pin; THENCE N. 79° 55' 56" W. along Lot 24 as shown on said plan, 224.75 feet to an iron pin located on the southe asterly side of said Clarke Road; T HENCE S. 15° 29' 32" W. along t he southeasterly side of said C larke Road, 100.00 feet to the i ron pin at the point of beginning. C ONTAINING an area of 24, 8 27 square feet, more or less. R eserving unto the Grantor, it's a ssigns and successors in interest, the right to enter upon a strip of land fifteen 915) feet wide along the sidelines and street line of said premi ses described above to install and maintain drainage pipes and ditches. BEING the same premises conveyed to Michael McLear and Donna Heffernan-McLear by deed of Candace M. Gordon, Trustee dated October 31, 1997 and recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith as Instrument #213 B EING, however, more Accurately d escribed in a Deed recorded in t he Worcester Registry of Deeds a t Book 37463, Page 125, as: The land located on the Easterly side of Clark Road a/k/a Clarke Road in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being shown as "Lot 24" on "Plan of property for C.M.G. Development Corp. located on Clarke R oad Sturbridge Massachusetts" by Jalbert Engineering, Inc., dated November 21, 1995 which is recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 699, Plan 103, b ounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point located on the e asterly side of said Clarke Road at the northwesterly corner of said, Lot and at the southwesterly corner of Lot 23 as shown on said plan; T hence South 85° 19' 11" E a long Lot 23 as shown on said p lan 229.51 feet to a point; Thence South 14° 53' 56" W. along land shown on said plan as "Remaining L and of C.M.G. Development C orp." 121.25 feet to a point;

Thence North 79° 55' 56" W. along Lot 25 as shown on said plan 224.75 feet to a point located on the easterly side of said Clarke Road; Thence North 15° 29' 32" E. along the easterly side of said Clarke Road 100.00 feet to the point of beginning Containing an area of 24,702 square feet, more or less.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37463, Page 125.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or

rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced

Wilmington Trust, National Association, as successor trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Martel, Carla, 14-017448 November 9, 2023 November 16, 2023

November 23, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeanne M. Button and Thomas R. Button to Bank of America, N.A., dated March 4, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38585, Page 379 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Release of Liability as to Thomas R. Button, dated May 28, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67681, Page 182 of which mortgage Bank of America, N.A. is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 140 Paradise Lane, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00 PM on November 27, 2023, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts shown as lot #36 on a plan of land entitled "Plan of lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts surveyed for J & J Realty, June 6, 1996, Para Land Surveying, Incorporated, Southbridge, Massachusetts, scale 1" = 40', said plan being recorded with Worcester District Registry of deed at plan book 705, plan 73, said land being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

beginning at the northwest corner of land herein described, at a point on the easterly side of Paradise Lane as shown on said plan; thence S. 69° 03' 41" E. Along land now or formerly of J & J Realty and Nathan Southwick, a distance of 440.14 feet; thence S. 10° 47' 29" E. Along land now or formerly of Sturbrook Realty Trust, a distance of 244.50 feet; thence S. 60° 01' 26" W., along land now or formerly of G. M. N. Inc., a distance of 150 feet; thence N. 47° 00' 19" W. Along lot 35 as shown on said plan, a distance of 212.03 feet; thence N. 51° 09' 08" W. Along said lot 35 a distance of 249.10 feet to a point on the easterly side of paradise lane as shown on said plan; thence N. 07° 21' 43" E. Along said paradise lane a distance of 173.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing an area of 2.7566 acres. Being the same property conveyed to Thomas R. Button and Jeanne M. Button by quit claim deed of Donald W. Garfield recorded 10/16/98 in Book 20539, Page 59, Doc. 152069.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44818, Page 223.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Bank of America, N.A.
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Button, Jeanne M. Button and
Thomas R. Button, 12-009647
November 2, 2023
November 9, 2023
November 16, 2023

SPORTS



Souther State of the State of t

Southbridge's Addrian De Choudens bumps the ball to make a pass.

Blanca Agudo of Southbridge digs the ball while returning a serve.

Tigers pull off comeback victory over Southbridge in State Tournament opener

BY NICK ETHIER SPORTS EDITOR

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Douglas varsity volleyball team had its collective back against the wall when facing off with Southbridge in the Division 5 State Tournament Round of 32 matchup on Thursday, Nov. 2. The 17th seeded Tigers dropped the first two sets to the 16th ranked Pioneers, and they trailed in the third set, 19-18.

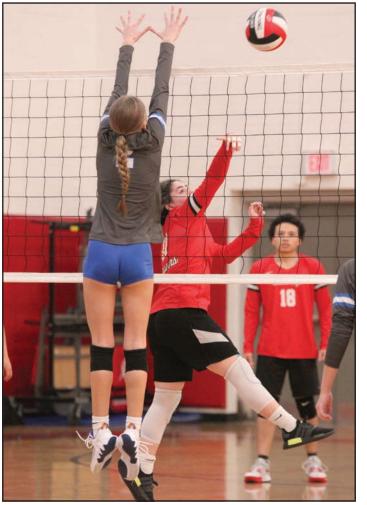
Douglas then completed what head coach Greg Bernard called a "reverse sweep," as they fought back to win the third set, 25-21. They then grabbed the fourth and fifth sets to win in comeback fashion, 3-2. Set scores were 16-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-14, 15-11.

"We were just trying to not let this be our last game," explained Bernard. "The best way for us to do that is keep our composure. Southbridge is a really good defensive team, so you have to be patient and not try to rush the points because more often than not they're going to send the ball back to us. Once we got the momentum going and the positivity on the bench, everybody was just up."

On the other side, the loss was a tough pill to swallow for Southbridge head coach James Proulx.

"This one hurts probably more than anything that I've dealt with. My winningest team in school history and up 2-0 in our own gym," he said.

The Pioneers defeated the Tigers in regular season play, 3-1, back on Sept. 8, but



Nick Ethier

Southbridge's Jaimarys Oquendo hits the ball up and over the reach of a Douglas defender.

Proulx did not put too much stock into that

"I couldn't really go too much by that because it was so early in the season, second game, and I don't think they had everybody," said Prouly

For Douglas (8-11), Ava Lemire (28 kills, 22 digs, 4 aces), Joranni Souphida (35 digs, 5 aces), Julia Oskirko (38 assists, 2 aces) and Emily Torres (5 aces, 4 kills, 15 service points) filled the stat sheet. Torres rallied off 10 straight service points to all but end the fourth set.

"We're happy to be still playing. I'm happy for our seniors. I think at the end our whole team fought for our seniors," said Bernard.

The Tigers then had the daunting task of facing off with No. 1 Mount Greylock (19-0) in the Round of 16 on Tuesday, Nov. 7, after press time.

Addrian De Choudens (15 digs, 5 aces, 7 kills), Jaimarys Oquendo (12 digs, 4 aces, 7 kills) and Gabriella Hernandez (14 digs, 4 aces) played well for the Pioneers.

Southbridge had its best season in the 10-year history of the program, going 17-4 and defeating league rival Millbury for the first time. But Proulx noted that the loss "really stings"

"It's going to be tough tomorrow collecting jerseys," he added. "Everybody except for one team finishes their season with that loss. Ours was just a little bit earlier than I wanted it to be."

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@ stonebridgepress.news



State Tournament Scoreboard

All scores are through Monday evening, Nov. 6

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Division 4 Volleyball Round of 32

(30) Saint Paul 3, (35) Bay Path 0 — The Minutemen reached the playoffs with a .500 record but finished 10-11 after falling to Saint Paul.

Friday, Nov. 3

Division 6 Football Sweet

(1) Norwell 55, (16) Bay Path 20 — The Minutemen are now 6-3 after losing to the tournament's top seed. Bay Path will now look to repeat as State Vocational Champions, as that tournament gets underway with the Minutemen hosting Essex North Shore on Thurs-

day, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 6

Division 4 Boys' Soccer Round of 32

(13) Advanced Math and Science Academy 6, (20) Bay Path 0 — AMSA proved to be too much for the Minutemen, whose season concluded with a record of 10-8.

Division 3 Girls' Soccer Round of 32

(8) Tantasqua 2, (25) East Bridgewater 0 — The Warriors (15-4) kept their season alive with a playoff win. Tantasqua was next scheduled to host No. 9 Danvers in the Round of 16, after press

Division 4 Girls' Soccer Round of 32

(6) Littleton 2, (27) Bay Path 1 — The Minutemen were narrowly defeated by the Tigers, ending their season at 10-7-4. But Bay Path did take care of business in its Preliminary Round contest against No. 38 Excel Academy, winning that game 8-0 on Thursday, Nov. 2. The Minutemen also competed in the State Vocational Tournament but fell short against Greater New Bedford.





Tantasqua's Trevor Harris avoids contact with North Middlesex player Rowan McCarthy's foot while pursuing the ball.

Logan Oko of Tantasqua, right, controls the ball with his right foot in front of North Middlesex defender Rowan McCarthy

Tantasqua 'couldn't buy one' in State **Tournament setback to Patriots**

BY NICK ETHIER

TOWNSEND — After spotting North Middlesex a pair of goals in the game's first 23 minutes, the Tantasqua boys' varsity soccer team not only settled down, but also outshot and generated more corner kicks than the Patriots when the two met in the Round of 32 inside the Division 3 State Tournament on Monday evening, Nov. 6.

The Warriors wound up with 13 shots on frame to North Middlesex's five and had two more corners (7-5) as well. But nothing found the back of the net for No. 21 Tantasqua, who fell to the 12th seeded Patriots by that 2-0 score.

"We couldn't buy one," said head coach Matthew Guertin. "We had a couple skip by the post, a couple players saved them from going in the goals. I mean, we did everything we could to try to put that ball in the net, man. We just fell short tonight."

Guertin was pleased with the play of the Warriors, who finished the season with a record of 14-4-1.

"I thought the guys played well. They picked up the momentum," said Guertin. "We switched up our formation a couple times just to try to get things going, but they were good,



Tantasqua's Cole Pattee shields a North Middlesex defender while waiting for the ball to hit his chest.

Tyler Jastrab scored both goals for the Patriots (12-4-3), tallying in the 19th and 23rd minutes. On both occasions Jastrab chased down a through-ball while beating his defender and then placing a shot into the twine.

Jastrab. "Watching their tapes, they his grasp. From there, Aaron Lidonde



Cole Casinghino of Tantasqua throws the ball back into the realm of play.

hit the back post and that's what they

want to do." One of Tantasqua's glorious scoring opportunities came in the 33rd minute following a throw-in. North Middlesex keeper Ryan Arsenault got "He's a speedy guy," Guertin said of his hands on the ball, but it escaped

found the ball on his foot and shot into what perceived to be an open net. But a Patriot defender emerged and cleared the scoring attempt out of the zone.

"Next thing you know, someone's in the way," said Guertin.

Then, in the 37th and 40th minutes, Trevor Harris got dragged down while on the rush on a pair of occasions, which led to yellow cards and coinciding free kicks. Logan Oko took those kicks, but one sailed high of the net and the other was eventually saved by

Harris continued to have scoring chances in the second half, but to no

"He created so many chances for us this season. He had 26 goals," Guertin said of Harris. "He's been our leading guy. He was getting killed in the box,

After the final whistle sounded, Guertin reflected on the game and the season that was.

"We competed, and that's all I could ask of my guys," he noted. "It's a successful season. It's just that every team in the playoffs is tough. I'm just proud of my boys, and let's get ready for next

Thirty years later, Shepherd Hill boys' soccer remembers Division 2 State Championship

for Dudley Soccer Club together since they were 8 years old, the crop of seniors on the 1993 version of the Shepherd Hill boys' varsity soccer team were accustomed to not only their togetherness, but also to

winning. That applied to the Rams, who won the Division 2 State Championship that year, and this fall they celebrate their 30th anniversary of that title. Those include seniors Derek Graves, Jon Graves, Cory Geanis, Justin Cyganiewicz, Roy, Jesse Lapomardo, Joey Greenseid Mark Szela.





High School Notebook

still play soccer in

adult leagues.

later, the group

remained

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Tantasqua varsity golf finishes 12th at State Championship — The Warriors took park in the Division 2 Tournament and finished 12th as a team. The low Tantasqua player was sophomore Sam Pieczynski, who carded a 6-over par 76 at Thorny Lea Golf Club, which tied for sixth place. Congratulations to the Warriors on a great season.

Friday, Nov. 3

Tantasqua varsity football 35, Algonquin 12 — The Warriors hosted and won a non-playoff matchup at the Reservation. Quarterback Adam Howe was 16 of 19 passing for 180 yards and a pair of touchdowns (to Noah Wotton and Lucas MacNevin), and he also rushed for 43 yards and a score. Logan Arrastia rushed for 79 yards and two touchdowns, and Luke Marvin was 5 for 5 kicking extra points. The Warriors improved to 4-5 with the





BLACK ERIDAY



DOORBUSTER



One of our BEST deals of the year ends on ends on November 27!

NOV. 1-NOV. 27 ONLY!

Buy 1 window or door, get 1

40% OFF

Minimum purchase of four.

★\$500 OFF

every entry & patio door¹

\$75 OFF

every window¹

Minimum purchase of four.

+\$0 Down, 0 Monthly Payments
0% Interest for 1 year¹

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

An affordable gift for yourself that you'll enjoy for decades to come!

Our Design Consultants excel at building your window and door project to fit your budget needs. And with our easy pay options and amazing financing, replacing your windows and doors won't affect your plans this holiday season.

Shoddy vinyl windows can be more costly than you think.

You may think you're saving money with low-cost vinyl windows, but they'll likely need to be replaced again in a few years. So, how much are you really saving?

With our windows made with Fibrex® composite material, you won't have to think about this project again for decades.²

We're very particular about who installs our windows and doors.

A poorly-installed window or door not only looks bad, it can cause problems like leaks, drafts and mold. We put your custom windows and doors in the most trusted hands.

Our Certified Master Installers are specially trained and only install

windows and doors for us.

Call for your FREE Window and Door Diagnosis

1-800-209-2746









Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Window and Patio Door Manufacturer Brands, 4 Years in a Row

For J.D. Power 2023 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards. ¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 12/9/2023. You must set your appointment by 11/27/2023 and purchase by 12/9/2023. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 11/1/2023 and 12/9/2023. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$75 off each window and \$500 off each entry/patio door, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 11/27/2023 and purchase by 12/9/2023. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire your entry discount applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. 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® Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details. "Renewal by Andersen® and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



Fine Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker Licensed in MA, CT & RI





Featured Listing! **WEBSTER - 20 COOPER ROAD**

Colonial with all the bells & whistles! 2500 +/- Sq. Ft. 4 bedrooms 2-1/2 Baths! Open Concept 1st floor. Hardwood Floors, 2 car garage! Artesian Well! Town Sewer. One of 4, to be built,

\$485,000 Now Framed!

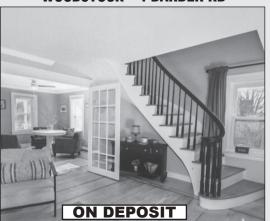
June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * John Kokocinski

Featured New Listing! **WEBSTER - 30 EAST MAIN ST**



INVESTORS TAKE NOTICE! Family Owned 50+ Years! 3 Unit - SOL-ID BRICK Commercial/Residential Building! Zoned GB4. On Webster's Bustling East Main St! 2 res. apartments, +1ST Floor Business Unit! Numerous UPGRADES in 2023! Add 30 East Main St. to YOUR Portfolio!

WOODSTOCK - 4 BARBER RD



Circa 1800 Vintage 3 bedrooms. Renovations included kitchen & 2 baths, refinished wood flooring, interior painting & more...Barn, large lot. \$399,000

WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE



"BEING BUILT! Framed & Sided!! SPRAWLING ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME! Situated on a Level 1/2 Acre Lot! Private backyard. OPEN FLOOR PLAN Living room, Dining room, Upscale Kitchen with 8' Island, 3 bedroom, 2 Baths, Garage. HARDWOOD FLOORS, Central air. **\$615,000.**

DUDLEY - 61 BRANDON RD



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Family Home for many years! 4-5 BRs Cape, 1-1/2 bath! 1,806 SF. REHAB PRO-

JECT. OFFERED & SOLD *AS IS* REASONA-BLE OFFERS WILL BE CONSIDERED! CASH OR REHAB FINANCED BUYERS ONLY.

WEBSTER - 131 LAKESIDE AVE



THIS Cape is Clean, Maintained, Move-in Ready! 10,000 SF LOT! CORNER ATT'D

GARAGE. Spacious Living Rm 2 - 1st Flr BRs w/Gleaming Hardwood Firs! 2 2nd fir bedrooms. Near WEBSTER LAKE'S LAKESIDE SANDY BEACH & BOAT RAMP

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

RE/MAX



Webster Lake -245 Laurelwood Drive Waterfront Lot!

Approximately 11,000 Sq. Ft. of mostly cleared flat land, gentle decline to waters edge. Sandy Shore line! Western views. Call for a viewing!

\$695,000



Webster Lake

1404 Treasure Island WATERFRONT CONDOMINUM!! Overlooking the Marina.. Enjoy Scenic Lake Living Sunrise Sunset Boating Sailing Skiing Swimming Fishing and SOO MUCH More! 2 Boat Slips!.. Sandy Beach Access & A Salt Water Heated Pool! 2 Bed, 2 &

Webster Lake 13 South Point Rd.

100' of frontage on the water & road. An old cement block garage is located on the property.. Land area surveyed, DEP approval to build. Property suitable for small craft dockage/off season storage. Town Water & Sewer available

100 \$185,000



PUT YOUR TRUST IN US TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE

Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044 Diane Luong 774-239-2937 Maria Reed, Realtor Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator Jenna Gouin, Client Coordinator

ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604 **CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS** Licensed in MA & CT



WEBSTER LAKE THOMPSON, CT

DUDLEY-Log Home on Nearly 2 Acres

*3 Bedroom & 1.5 Baths

* Cathedral Ceilings: Living • Dining • Kitchen

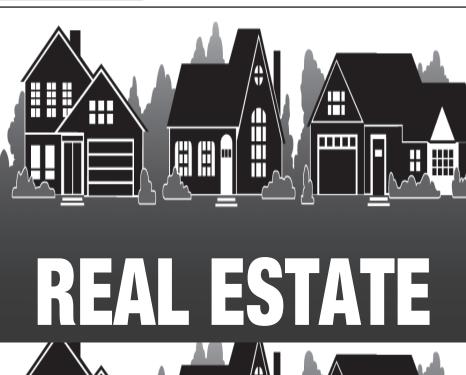
*Gas Hearth * Easy Highway Commute- Rte. 290, 395,

12,16, 20, Mass Pike

<u> 145 Baker Pond Road \$399,900</u>

OXFORD SZYMCZAK SELLS **SOLD**

HOLDEN 2400 SQ. FT.





The state of the s



CONDO

Seller Received **Homes for Heroes** Award 1 acre *2 Full Baths vou Oual Inground Poo *2 Fireplaces Fireman • Teachers 2.5 Baths *2 Car Garage Law Enforcement Fantatic Family room *1st Floor Family Room overlooking private yard Medical • Veteran *3 Bedrooms Finished Lower Level 190 Meadow Wood Dr. \$699,900 31 Old Turnpike Rd \$329,900 27 Walnut Street



MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



"I SOLVE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS **ReMax Professional Associates** Licensed in MA & CT We need properties to sell – any type! **Conrad Allen** 508.400.0438 callen 1995@aol.com





Toward Your Dreams

ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame



MESRealty.com Mary@WillSellit.com

508.612.1382







Patrick Sweeney Realtor License #9529769 (774) 452-3578

774-230-5044

Carrie Abysalh Realtor (508) 641-0150

License #904677

Licensed in MA and CT



Sandi Grzyb 50 Years in the Real Estate Avenue Real Estate

I look forward to serving you in all of your real estate Buying Selling

Investing



255 Park Avenue, Suite 704, Worcester, MA 01609

DUDLEY- Are you a Homes for Heroes Buyer or Seller- Call for details *Best Value Today!



CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS

*Great Neighborhood! *Great Condition! * Family Room * 2.5 baths *Fireplace

*Hardwood Floors *Central Air **ReMax Vision** IR MLS 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604 Licensed in MA & CT

Moving You www.StonebridgePress.com







111 East Main St., Webster, MA Professional-Personable-Knowledgeable Specializing in waterfront property Servicing all Central MA • GO WITH MOE! maureencimoch@gmail.com







ERA Key Realty

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT SINCE 1991 NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER

SERVICE **TOP ACENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS**

SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME EDA HALL OF FAME 415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562

Put 39 years of co

160 B Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562 maryangela87@yahoo.com Each office is independently owned and operated

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



Why call the **Michelle Terry Team** to sell your home?

We have a great marketing plan that includes:

- Home staging services Home warranties
- 3D videos
- Professional photography
- Ramped up open houses!
- And so much more...



YOUR LOCAL **REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS**

130 W. Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 Michelle Terry • Broker /Owner

michelleterryteam.com

facebook

Give us a call today! 508-202-0008

Bay Path nurse educators learn about diversity

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty (pictured above), Dr. Sarah Grant, DNP, MSN, MBA, RN; Professor Angela McGrath, BSN, RN; Dr. Ana Liza Olivar, EdD, MSN, RN, CRRN, and Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, all completed the MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing) Fall Conference at the Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross, all earning 6 contact hours. The conference, "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging: Oh my...Let's Build the Competencies" was led by Dr. Danica Sumpter.

Dr. Danica Sumpter is an accomplished nurse educator and scholar with a passion for promoting health equity and anti-racism in nursing education. She holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and has served as a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing for the past 11 years. Recognized for her excellence in teaching, she is a Certified Nurse Educator and a Provost's Teaching Fellow. As a 2020 Macy Faculty Scholar, Dr. Sumpter's scholarship focuses on facilitating faculty development to build the consciousness and capacity for anti-racist teaching. A sought-after speaker, she actively contributes to equity and justice efforts in nursing through her involvement in various organizations and advisory boards. Her dedication to transforming nursing education and advancing health equity continues to make a significant impact in the field.

The presentation allowed participants to reflect upon what is meant by structural racism and, through self-exploration, allowed participants to develop tools to build diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging principles into course outlines, syllabi, and assignments. Attendees contemplated the meaning of structural racism and engaged in self-exploration to acquire the tools necessary to integrate DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion, & belonging) principles into course content, syllabi, and assignments.

Conference learning objectives included naming ones' purpose and motivation for wanting to create inclu-



sive learning environments, stating the importance of creating inclusive environments in nursing education, supporting the need for introspection (mirror work) in addition to external action, and discussing the nature and impact of biases on those we care for and serve.

About MARILN

The Massachusetts Rhode Island constituent of the National League for Nursing. MARILN aims to imhealth, and other organized nursing services by encouraging nursing through nursing education and awarding scholarships to students in nursing programs to encourage their education. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health, Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/ dph/boards/rn). The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org).



Pictured: Debra Paciello, Central One Westborough Branch Manager, Traci Heath, Walk Manager from the UMASS Chan Medical School, Owen Russell, Central One Vice President

Central One Federal Credit Union matches \$2,500 raised by employees to benefit UMass Cancer Walk

Central One Federal Credit Union matches \$2.500 raised by employees to benefit UMass Cancer Walk

SHREWSBURY — Central One Fed-League for Nursing (MARILN) is a eral Credit Union employees proudly participated in the 2023 UMass Cancer Walk, an annual event that raises vital prove nursing at hospitals, public funding and awareness for cancer research at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester. Through their fundraising efforts, their team, named "The Central One-ders," raised over \$2,600 to benefit this amazing cause. In a show of support and gratitude, Central One was honored to donate an additional \$2,500 to the UMass Cancer Walk.

About Central One Federal Credit Union

Central One Federal Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit, cooperative financial institution serving Massachusetts residents and businesses. Central One has become one of central Massachusetts's largest federal credit unions serving Worcester County and parts of Norfolk and Middlesex counties. Branches are in Auburn, Milford, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Westborough, and Worcester. To learn more, visit our website at www.centralfcu. com.



Town-to-Town

Home Town Service, BIG TIME RESULTS

CLASSIFIED

774-200-7308









Spencer senior resident needs snow plowing for two driveways call 508-885-6562

Town of Charlton

Light Equipment Operator

The responsibilities of the Light Equipment Operator include operating vehicles and power equipment in connection with construction, maintenance and repair of streets and related facilities. Salary range: \$26.02/hr. to \$29.03/hr. depending on licensing (union position). To apply and view the full job description go to www.TownofCharlton.net/472/ Employment-Opportunities.

Position will remain open until filled.

FOSTER PARENTS

WANTED: Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details

Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769

Devereux

WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED: **WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING!** Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Rags, Uniforms, etc Over 40 years' experience. Call David (508) 688-0847. I'LL COME TO YOU!

Town of Spencer Light Equipment Operator:

Operate light equipment and perform work for the Highway Department. Assist in maintenance and repair projects. High School diploma or GED, plus one year of related experience. CDL Class B license with snow plowing experience and 2B hoisting license required.

Submit resume and town application available at spencerma.gov to Town of Spencer, Town Administrator's Office, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. Salary range: \$24.17 (step 1) to \$30.37 (step 9) per hour plus benefits. Subject to Union Rules and Regulations. EEO Employer.

TOP PAY • GREAT COMPANY!

HELP WANTED GENERAL LABORERS

& OPERATORS

Would you like to earn above-average pay while working for a reputable company?

We offer 401 K health insurance, vision, dental and more.

Chappell Construction & Hardscapes is a growing leader in the segmental MSE & sound wall industry.

We take pride in our professional approach and quality of work. We are a growing company with room for advancement.

- We are looking for laborers experience & OSHA 10 a plus, but will train the right person. We are looking for equipment operators with
- experience only. Must be able to operate all types of equipment. Must have a MA and RI hoisting license.
- Travel is required/supplied



860-317-1207 office@cchwalls.com



Spiderman and his daughter the Polka-dot Witch await the parade's departure near Town



Even Fred and Wilma Flintstone made the trip from the last ice age to participate.



Gus Steeves

Heaven and hell joined forces to lead the Southbridge High band, which at one point played Michael Jackson's classic "Thriller."

HORRIBLES

continued from page 2

returning to the netherworld for another year. As usual, the annual Hor-

ribles Parade was guided by police and fire vehicles, with the various beasts likely ending their day with an intense

sugar high after going trick-or-treating afterward.







red hot prices... limited time only!

SPECIAL SAVINGS ON

- **★ BEDROOMS**
- ★ LIVING ROOMS
- * RECLINERS
- **★ OCCASIONAL PIECES**
- **★ ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS**
- **★ SEALY MATTRESSES**

0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com

Sundeen Furniture

241 Providence Rd Whitinsville, MA 01588 • 508-234-8777

FREE LAYAWAY • FREE DELIVERY M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; THURS, FRI. 9:30-7:00pm; SAT. 9:30-6:00; Sun. 11-5

Opening New Doors For Families

Everyday If you, your friends or family are in need of real estate services - CALL ME - over 15 years real estate experience



Your Local Real Estate Professional LISA CARON REAL ESTATE, LLC LISA CARON, REALTOR®, Broker, Owner Graduate REALTOR® Institute, GRI 2016-2022 Top Producer Accredited Buyers Representative, ABR Certified Seller Representative Specialist, SRS Real Estate Negotiation Expert, RENE C2EX Commitment to Excellence Endorsed Certified Seniors Real Estate Specialist, SRES Certified Military Relocation Specialist, MRP Certified Pricing Strategy Advisor, PSA New Construction Specialist Certified Loss Mitigation Specialist, LMC Certified Distressed Property Expert, CDPE Certified Advanced Digital Marketing, E-PRO

Lisa Caron Real Estate

42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506 Cell: 508-341-8299



Search Homes Instantly: http://www.lisacaron.com



LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR - 100's OF DEALS & REBATES! THOUSANDS OF TOYS!

TOREWIDE SAVINGS!

FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499) FULL: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

50" Hisense... (Regularly \$549.99) .\$279^{.99} 55" Hisense... .\$299.99 .\$399.99 .\$399.99

65" Hisense... 55" Samsung. .\$749.99 75" Samsung 85" Samsung... .\$1399.99 **INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000**

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER #7150 CHEST **FREEZER** \$24999 \$32999 FRIGIDAIRE

SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR

\$10**99**99

MAYTAG TOP

FREEZER

\$69999

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER \$469⁹⁹

GAS RANGE

\$599⁹⁹

MAYTAG DRYER S549⁹⁹ GE FRONT LOAD WASHER

\$699⁹⁹

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

SAMSUNG

WASHER

\$69999

WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER S1599⁹⁹ 20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

MAYTAG

DISHWASHER

\$54999

\$**899**⁹⁹

CHEST FREEZER S43999 LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$69999

WE HAVE THE

BEST PRICES ON

140 MAIN STREET SPENCER, MA 508.885.9343

news@ stonebridgepress.news

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? NEW EASY FINANCING TERMS ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE! SEE WHITCOSALES.COM FOR 100'S OF DEALS!



WAS \$7,076
BUY ALL 4 FOR ^{\$}4,146 **SAVE \$2930 PLUS GET A \$500 BUY MORE SAVE MORE DELIVERY REBATE** FRIGIDAIRE

GALLERY.

21.5 CU FT COUNTER-DEPTH **4 DOOR FRENCH DOOR RE-FRIGERATOR REG \$3499**

6 CU FT FRONT CONTROL GAS RANGE WITH TOTAL CONVECTION REG \$2099

1.9 CU FT 1000 WATT OVER THE RANGE SENSOR MICRO-WAVE MODEL# GMOS1962AF **REG \$529**

POCKET HANDLE DISHWASH-ER WITH CleanBoost WASH SYSTEM AND MaxBoost DRY **REG \$949**

WAS \$6,976 **BUY ALL 4 FOR SAVE 41%**



GE APPLIANCES



22.1 COUNTER-DEPTH FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERA-TOR WITH SPACE SAVING **ICEMAKER** MODEL# GYE22GYNFS REG \$3499

5.3 CU FT WI-FI ENABLED SLIDE-IN ELECTRIC CONVEC-TION RANGE WITH AIR FRY REG \$1949

1.9 CU FT 1000 WATT OVER THE RANGE SENSOR MICRO-**WAVE WITH EASY CLEAN** INTERIOR MODEL# JVM7195SKSS **REG \$529**

TOP CONTROL 45 dBA DISH-WASHER WITH STAINLESS INTERIOR AND THIRD RACK REG \$999



GE 5 3 CU FT FI FCTRIC CONVECTION RANGE WITH AIR FRY AND DUAL SIZE ELEMENTS MODEL# JB735SPSS REG \$1099



NOW \$749

GE 5 O CU FT GAS CONVECTION RANGE WITH AIR FRY AND 18,000 btu power boil BURNER Model# JGB735SPSS





LG 6.3 CILFT SMART WI-FI ENABLED TRUE CONVECTION INSTA VIEW ELECTRIC RANGE

REG \$1249

NOW \$949 VALID 11/16 thru 11/29

YOUR CHOICE ELECTRIC OR GAS

ENABLED TRUE CONVECTION INSTA VIEW GAS RANGE WITH AIR FRY MODEL# LRGL5825F REG\$1849

LG 5 8 CILFT SMART WI-FI



MAYTAG MAYTAG 5 8 CILET GAS RANGE WITH TRUE CONVECTION REG \$1449 \$949



FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY. FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY 5.0 CU FT GAS RANGE WITH TRUE

> REG \$1849 \$1049



LG 6.3 CU FT SMART PRO-BAKE CONVECTION INSTAVIEW GAS SLIDE-IN RANGE WITH AIR FRY MODEL# LSGL6335F

REG \$2099



FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY. FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY 6.2 CU FT SLIDE-IN ELECTRIC

INDUCTION RANGE WITH TOTAL CONVECTION MODEL#
GCF13060BF REG \$2299

\$1499







LG 4.5 CU FT SMART FRONT LOAD STEAM WASHER WITH TURBO WASH 360 System Model# WM4000HWA REG \$1099 NOW \$749 VALID 11/16 THRU 11/29

LG 7.4 CU FT SMART ELECTRIC STEAM DRYER WITH TURBO STEAM MODEL# DLEX4000W REG \$1099 NOW \$749 VALID 11/16 THRU 11/29









GALLERY. FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY TOP CONTROL DISHWASHER WITH ORBITCLEAN WASH SYSTEM MAXBOOST DRY REG \$729 \$479

GE FRONT CONTROL DISHWASHER WITH STAINLESS INTERIOR AND THIRD RACK

MODEL# GDF650SYVFS





FRIGIDAIRE 18.3 CU FT TOP FREEZER REFRIGERATOR WITH EVEN TEMP COOLING SYSTEM MODEL# FFTR1835VS







ELECTROLUX 4.5 CU FT FRONT LOAD PERFECT STEAM WASHER WITH LUXCARE WASH SYSTEM MODEL# ELFW7437AW





^{\$}699 VALID 11/16 THRU 11/29

^{\$}749

facebook.

111/1-111/29

Wilbraham 413-543-2467 Westfield

Hadley 413-585-8544 Greenfield 413-772-0113

Leominster 978-710-0762 Framingham MA 508-626-2321

Sutton MA 774-808-7240 **Keene NH** 603-363-4100 **Claremont NH** 603-287-8689 **Canton CT** 860-693-6337

