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Friday, October 21, 2022



Fun in the sun at Sturbridge Harvest Festival

Gus Steeves photos

Just one row of the tents shows how much foot traffic the Festival drew Saturday. The event also took place on Sunday.

STURBRIDGE — October weather and the turning trees provided a glorious backdrop for this year's Harvest Festival, and the Common was quite crowded to celebrate. Dozens of local crafters, vendors of

various kinds, several food enterprises, a few politicians, the library book sale, a parade of performers, and a few town departments all showed their stuff. But one long-time attraction was missing: the cre-

ative and fanciful collection of scarecrows usually sponsored by the Publick House across the street.

Turn To **HARVEST** page **A14**

Looking at a history of history at Old Sturbridge Village

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Kitty Lowenthal knows Old Sturbridge Village really well. She spent more than 21 years there, and shared the mindset behind it and some of the more interesting experiences of her tenure with the Historical Society last week.

"You can get somebody out of [OSV], but you can't get the Sturbridge out of them," she said.

Lowenthal described the period from about 1960-2000 as the heyday of the "living history" concept, which was "a new idea of how to present museums." That was partly because of the social ferment of the early days, when many people were interested in going "back to the land" and learning from the Foxfire books.

By then, though, OSV founders AB and Chaney Wells already had a very large collection of historic stuff — tools, clothes, clocks, furniture, etc.

— that filled whole rooms. Back in the 1920s, they heard about Williamsburg, Va., the first "place you could walk through" outdoors, followed soon thereafter by Henry Ford's similar site in Deerfield, Mi.

They sought to start something like that here, so they bought the David Wight Farm in Sturbridge and opened Old Quinebaug Village. It grew quickly as they hauled buildings to the new site and had landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff design what's now the common. Lowenthal said he designed it to drop 10 feet from west to east to "create the image of space."

OQV opened in 1946 with just a few buildings and a lot of trial and error. She noted, "The costumes were..." "...Horrendous," fellow OSV retiree Jim O'Brien finished.

"Their effort wasn't in reality," Lowenthal explained. "It was in having someone on the spot who could talk and maybe demonstrate" the old skills.

Lowenthal agreed, noting the first ones were "sometimes kinda made up," but were discarded as they found evidence. The goal was to present people "based on what we were expected to do," showing "hard workers and people dressed up," and they "had to be worn accurately," she said.

Over time, and with copious research that many staffers got into, OSV gradually became more authentic in its portrayal of its 1820s time period. Data came from almost anywhere — books, newspapers, land records, deeds, paintings, etc.

For example, before being moved to OSV, the Bixby House was subject to an extensive archaeological study in its original Barre location which even considered which door people tossed the trash out. When it arrived, the staff rearranged the neighboring street to make it look like Barre and even corrected the way wallpaper went

Turn To **HISTORY** page **A6**

Middle school libraries thriving in digital age

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Libraries remain one of the most important resources across the country providing increased access to information, literature, and the internet in a digital age. For the younger generation, the libraries in their schools play an important role in helping them research, learn, and even socialize. While these resources are often overlooked by the general public, local school officials are stressing the important role these facilities have in students' lives.

During a meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee on Oct. 12 the principals of Charlton Middle School and Dudley Middle School Dean Packard and Christopher Starczewski spoke about the roles that their school libraries play in their students' education and lives and how they are working to continue that relevance into the digital age. Both principals explained that their libraries have seen heavy usage and have become increasingly utilized resources as both class spaces and for student gatherings.

In Charlton, Principal Packard said that classes often utilize the 30 Chromebooks they have on hand and that 85 books had been checked out since the start of the school year. The library also plays host to the school store making it a vital part of the school community. It's also become a pop-

ular meeting spot for students during lunch hours.

"We opened it up two weeks ago to have kids come in here and you should have seen the influx of students," said Packard. "I think It's important to give the students an opportunity to get up from their lunch tables to be able to come over here and socialize a little bit."

It's a similar story at Dudley Middle School where the library has seen significant use both as an educational resource and a place to socialize especially during lunch. Principal Starczewski said he has a good team on hand that helps keep the library functioning and provide a myriad of services to students and school staff.

"We have a high level of usage. Teachers use the Google Calendar to sign out one of three instructional spaces — We've got our computer system and we also have some flexible seating for groups and other types of learning activities. We don't have as grandiose a space as Charlton Middle School, but we are using it to the max," said Starczewski.

Both principals also noted that the library plays host to after school programs and, in the case of Charlton Middle School, the library is also the host of the School Committee's monthly meetings every other month. Principal Packard said he sees a bright future for the libraries as they continue to evolve to the changing needs of

Turn To **LIBRARIES** page **A18**

Capital items to take center stage at Fall Town Meeting

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — The town of Charlton will hold its fall annual town meeting on Monday, Oct. 24 with a light agenda made up primarily of capital items.

The warrant contains only six articles, but several are

multipiece motions regarding a slew of capital expenditures to repair or upgrade town facilities as well as purchase new vehicles and other items essential for town departments. Article 4 will be the main topic of the evening.

Starting off the discussion will be \$80,000 for the town

cemetery department for an excavator and a garage design study. Conservation officials are seeking \$220,000 for fencing at the South Charlton Dam and repairs to the Glen Echo Dam. The Charlton Library is asking for \$214,000 for repairs to the roof and gutters, fire alarm

Turn To **MEETING** page **A3**

Educating nurse educators at Fall conference

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty Virginia Dockstader, BSN, RN, Sarah Watson, MSN Ed, RN, Sarah Grant, MBA, MSN, RN, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, and Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN, completed the MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing) Fall conference at the College of the Holy Cross. The conference, "Finding Our Joy in Teaching" focused on the value of being explicit about our values, working with multigenerational teams, and implementing fair and just culture in nursing education with speaker Gerry Altmiller, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, ANEF, FAAN, Professor of Nursing, Director Quality and Safety Innovation Center at the College of New Jersey.

The purpose of the program was to assist participants to reconnect their values to purpose in their work. Emphasis was focused on strategies to 1) engage people in the work of healthcare professions and education, 2) create stronger work connections in multigenerational work teams, and 3) build a fair and just culture in the academic environments to ensure fair and just culture in the practice settings.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40-week, (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



Courtesy photo

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty, seated from left, Virginia Dockstader, BSN, RN, Sarah Watson, MSN Ed, RN, Sarah Grant, MBA, MSN, RN, standing Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, and Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN, completed the MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing) Fall conference at the College of the Holy Cross.

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).

Final Poets at Large event coming to Whitinsville

The last free poetry/spoken word event for this year from Poets at Large will be held on Oct. 23, 2-4 p.m. at the G.B. & Lexi Singh Performance Center, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, MA. This reading is recommended for ages 14 and up. There will be an open mic



segment after intermission and light refreshments will be served. Reading will be Brad Davis, Rebecca Olander, Elizabeth Thomas and Susan Powers.

Charlton's inaugural Fall Festival set for Oct. 22

Charlton's inaugural Fall Festival, set for Saturday, Oct. 22, will take place on the Town Common from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come support local non-profit vendors while you are shopping at the Town's yard sale and having kids enjoying Trunk or Treat at the Community Center.



OCTOBER NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH

An opportunity to raise awareness about the benefits of physical therapy, where every move makes a difference.

Let's Make This Month All About Taking Care Of Ourselves

Reap the benefits of physical therapy

Injuries have the potential to sideline people for weeks, months or permanently. Injury to the body can occur when participating in organized sports, fitness regimens or even after being in an accident.

Recovering from incidents that can impact mobility and range of motion takes time, but physical therapy can help the body acclimate to regular activity once more. Physical therapy also can help healthy people as well.

Those who have suffered a sprain or a broken bone or even spent a duration of time immobile in the hospital due to an illness are often prescribed physical therapy as part of their follow-up treatment. Physical therapy programs

try to progressively increase strength, improve mobility and help the body return to a state where it can function as best as possible. In many cases, a person can regain his or her original capabilities.

According to the American Physical Therapy Association, a physical therapist is a trained and licensed medical professional who has the experience to diagnose physical abnormalities, restore physical function and mobility, maintain that function, and promote proper form for future activity. Physical therapy sessions can take place in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, fitness settings, private practices, and much more.

Not only can physical therapists react to and treat an injury, but they can also teach exercises, stretches and techniques to help prevent problems in the first place. Experts at Bay State Physical Therapy indicate that physical therapy extends beyond disabled or injured people. Physical therapists can educate a person on weaknesses in the body and can guide correction on poor body mechanics that cause pain. This way a person can make changes to prevent future pain and injury. Rather than being reactionary, healthy individuals can take a proactive approach to avoiding pain and injury.

When one opts for physical therapy, he or she may:

- undergo a physical exam and evaluation of pain, movement, flexibility, and performance
- receive a clinical diagnosis and plan of care

- establish long-term goals
- participate in physical therapy treatment, which may include stretching, movement and weight-bearing activities based on the therapist's guidance
- be given at-home work to further progress in between sessions.

While physical therapy can be used for recovery from strokes or paralysis, injuries, trauma, and musculoskeletal conditions, it also benefits healthy people. For example, women can use physical therapy to learn exercises that may prevent pelvic floor dysfunction. In addition, physical therapy can teach people how to improve their balance and prevent falls.

When people hear about physical therapy, they tend to think it is for people with injuries. While physical therapists can help heal injured parts of the body, physical therapy continues to evolve to assist with overall wellness.



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"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving." Albert Einstein

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GWCF grants aim to increase capacity of food security organizations

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation announced the first round of grant awardees for GWCF-sponsored Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Food Security funding. To date, the Foundation has distributed over \$1.6 million Federal Grant Dollars, which are administered in the State by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Last year, the Foundation was asked by the Commonwealth to disperse federal grant dollars – a new partnership for the Foundation. Over the last two years, the Foundation has dispersed State of Massachusetts funds to support undocumented immigrants; that program's success became the catalyst for the Foundation's CDBG partnership.

To date, \$1.6 has been awarded to 17 grantees serving Worcester County. Grant money was exclusively awarded for supplies and equipment to build up the capacity of food security organizations to respond to increased demand as a result of the pandemic, population growth, and the recession. With the first grantees, that translates into 14 vehicles, 2 forklifts, and a remarkable amount of food storage and food distribution supplies and equipment. The Foundation has an additional \$600,000

available to disperse in the coming months.

"Food pantries and distribution programs are essential to addressing food insecurity in Worcester County. We are pleased to be able to strengthen the capacity of those organizations to do their work," said Tim Johnstone GWCF Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. "Importantly, the Foundation also works with these and other partners to address the root causes of food insecurity. Far too many people in our community experience hunger every day – children, seniors, and working families among them – and that is unacceptable, particularly in a community as vibrant as this one."

Those organizations receiving funds are: (See Chart)

About the Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization that enables local citizens to create positive change within our region. Established in 1975, this permanent endowment is used to create personal and lasting legacies that improve lives and conditions within the community. The Foundation has awarded more than \$123 million to cultural educational,

2Gether We Eat	Worcester	\$275,000.00
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester	Worcester	\$101,500.00
Community Harvest Project	North Grafton	\$75,000.00
Dismas House of Massachusetts	Worcester	\$106,000.00
El Buen Samaritano Food Program	Worcester	\$ 84,500.00
Friendly House	Worcester	\$73,500.00
Living in Freedom Together	Worcester	\$ 112,500.00
Net of Compassion	Worcester	\$75,500.00
Pernet Family Health Services	Worcester	\$95,000.00
Provision Ministry	Westborough	\$5,000.00
Quinsigamond Community College Foundation	Worcester	\$ 160,000.00
Regional Environmental Council	Worcester	\$106,500.00
Rock of Salvation	Worcester	\$14,500.00
Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA	Worcester	\$ 101,000.00
The Wellstorm	Southbridge	\$23,250.00
Tri-Valley Inc.	Dudley	\$145,000.00
Yes We Care	Worcester	\$91,000.00

human service and civic organizations. Today, the Foundation stewards a charitable endowment exceeding \$153 mil-

lion in over 600 named funds. For more information, visit www.greaterworcester.org.



Children and adults dressed up for Halloween at the Quinebaug Lodge parking lot Trunk or Treat past event.

MEETING

continued from page A1

panel, and front masonry, and another \$100,000 is to be allocated for technology replacements and improvements. All these items will be funded through free cash.

The second set of proposals are all from the fire department and EMS. Three items will be included in the motion comprised of \$70,000 for a fire inspection vehicle and \$50,000 for improvements to Station 1 all from free cash. The third proposal for a replacement for Ambulance 1 costing \$350,000 will be funded through ambulance receipts. The third motion will involve two purchases for the Department of Public Works, a \$440,000 dump truck with a sander and a plow and a \$32,000 replacement for the vehicle wash bay water recovery system both from free cash.

Four police capital items will be discussed next. These include three replacement cruisers for \$220,000, replacement cruise laptops for \$15,000, \$30,000 for station repairs, and \$48,000 to replace the digital and hybrid portable radios all from free cash. The fifth and final motion in Article 4 will be for Water and

Sewer projects. These include a new forklift for \$35,000 and the repaving of the upper parking lot at the sewer plant. These will be funded from the sewer retained earnings.

The warrant will also seek to move \$500,000 from free cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, allocated another \$571,113 from sewer retained earnings to the sewer stabilization fund, and move \$250,000 from water retained earnings to the water stabilization fund. The final article of the night, Article 6

which will seek to transfer over \$98,000 initially borrowed to pay for the public safety building project to be used instead to pay costs associated with the police station roof reconstruction, is expected to be passed over due to the roof project bid coming in lower than expected.

Charlton Fall Annual Town Meeting will be held at Charlton Middle School at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24.

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Saturday
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Trunk or Treat is here at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge

It's that time of year again when the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge Community Outreach Program holds one of its annual events. Children and adults alike dress up in their costumes to retrieve candy and treats from rows of cars all decorated for Halloween in the parking lot of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge.

This event will be on Saturday October 22nd from 12-5 at 339 Ashland Ave in Southbridge. Come experience

the excitement of the kids running to each vehicle and the passing cars beeping their horns as they drive by. Many lodge members and volunteer students from Nichols College offer their time and resource to put on this event for the kids in the surrounding communities. So come one come all to this event sponsored by the Freemasons of Southbridge. If it rains October 22 the rescheduled rain date will be Saturday October 29 from 12-5pm.



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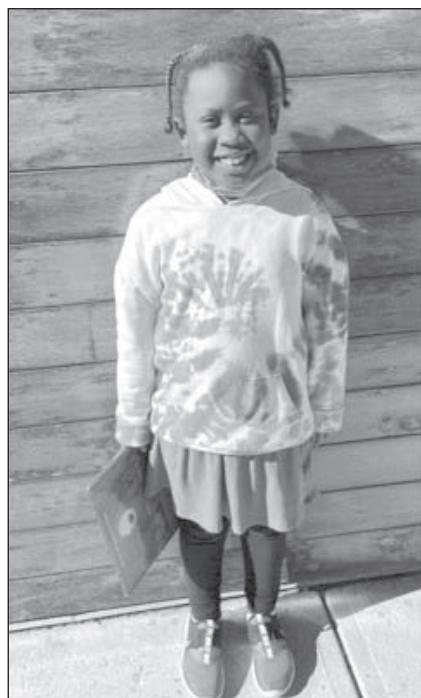
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Friday's Child



Laren
Age 7

Hi! My name is Laren and I love jewelry!

Laren is a friendly, fun-loving, and energetic girl of African American descent. Laren enjoys drawing, playing outside, and dancing. Laren also enjoys being involved in active adventures.

Laren is in a small first-grade classroom setting in a public school, where she receives the supports she needs to succeed. Laren does well with positive interactions with staff at her program.

Legally freed for adoption, Laren will do well in a family of any constellation. It will be best if Laren is the youngest child in the home. A family for Laren will need to be able to support her relationship with her grandmother and sisters.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8313>

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.

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EARTH BORN GUS STEEVES

The Sword of Damocles dangles on a dangerously thin thread over our heads.

Back in 1962, our Ancestors (many still alive) were going through the Cuban Missile Crisis this week. Then, we missed having a nuclear war by the vote of just one Soviet sub officer who refused to use nuclear torpedoes against US ships that were depth-charging them.

That ended with negotiations that pulled Soviet missiles from Cuba and US missiles from Turkey.

Today's Ukraine crisis has to end the same way if we want to live. Yet our government is arrogantly and stupidly refusing to sit down with Moscow. It is not our place to decide who governs Russia; only the Russian people can do that. Our responsibility is to demand our government act like responsible adults and negotiate with whomever they choose to lead them (meaning Putin and Lavrov), and that must happen NOW.

While the Russians formally began the war by invading Ukraine in February, our government has been provoking it for years; funding it to the tune of billions of dollars; supplying the Ukrainians with train-

ing, weapons, intelligence and probably special ops forces on the ground; and propagandizing the hell out of everybody in its favor.

Every few days, it seems, something happens to ratchet up the tension. Last week, that was Ukraine's bombing of the Kerch bridge sparking Russia's retaliatory missile strikes on various power plants and other targets. Now, NATO insists on running its annual Steadfast Noon exercise - specifically aimed at practicing nuclear weapons use, this year over the North Sea - despite the fact that will definitely hike Russia's nuclear wariness. Our leaders clearly do not remember the Able Archer 1983 exercise, a similar situation the Soviets saw as pretext for attack and nearly provoked them into launching a first strike.

To quote Larry Johnson, "The smart move by the West, in light of the heightened tensions with Moscow, would have been cancelling the exercise. The West is not smart."

If this stupidity continues, it could easily become nuclear war, by accident or design. For a couple years now, the Doomsday Clock has been officially at 100 seconds to midnight. By now, it's probably closer to 20 or so in reality, and every move pushes it up a second or two.

There's more nuke rhetoric flying around now than at any time in my life. A tremendous amount is sheer propaganda, mostly taking Putin's statements out of context when he

warns NATO that Russia will likely use nukes if they feel the Russian state faces destruction. But others, on both sides, have directly advocated for first strikes of various severities, with ridiculous claims that "limited" nuclear wars can be won.

That's insane. At Responsible Statecraft, writer Harry Kazianis recently noted he's run 30 wargame scenarios all based on the current Ukraine War. In 28 of them, US/NATO provision of weapons led to a nuclear exchange of some kind with Russia. He doesn't indicate how severe, but I'd imagine it varies from localized to global. The only two that avoided such a fate did so because negotiations led to a ceasefire.

His results reflect countless wargames and broader studies over decades. Almost all of them show use of "tactical" or "battlefield" nukes escalates into World War III. In theory, "tactical" use might stop the killing if it sparks global horror ... but it tends to spark nationalistic outrage that spirals into mutual suicide.

Even if only one side fires its missiles, the climate catastrophe sparked by hundreds of cities burning in nuclear fires will reach around the world, likely destroying global agriculture for years and starving billions. If both sides fire, human extinction is possible, and ecological devastation assured. Even if there are long-term survivors that manage to make it through to something resembling stability years afterward, they'll be trapped in a toxic, severely-injured, species-poor and dangerous world FOREVER.

Guaranteed, their view of our behavior will not be positive. I doubt they'll care at all



Gus Steeves photo

Some area peace activists protest the nuclear danger at US Rep. Jim McGovern's Worcester office last week.

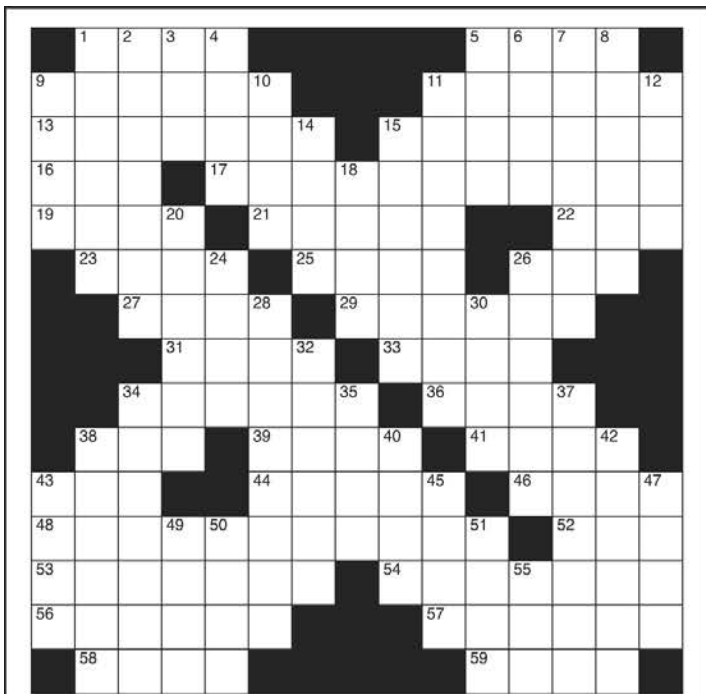
who launched first, whether it was intentional or accidental, what the various leaders' claims were, or whether someone's stock portfolio was doing well. They won't care whether the war was triggered by corporations, peak oil, Putin, Biden, the "trans-agenda," Neo-Nazis, "lizard people," Democrats, Republicans, or anything else. They will care that we, as their Ancestors, betrayed them and caused (or at least failed to prevent) something so crassly stupid and omniscidal. They will care that we left them struggling in the ruins when we had so much we could have given them. Most likely, they'll see us as crazy along the lines of the Native American wetiko concept, consumed by cannibal spirits or demons. At worst, they'll see us as demons incarnate.

Do we want to leave our descendants such a legacy?

The obvious answer

is no, and we cannot rely on our leaders to do this. They're clearly insane.

We, the people of the world, MUST come together to stop this war immediately, stop the idiotic blame games, propaganda, posturing and profiteering that drive it, and act as if the future really does matter. We must force our leaders to really talk to each other. When that's done, we must take the next step and force the nuclear weapons states to disarm, force the giant corporations that rule us to break up, and declare our loyalty to the one source of life we all share - Mother Earth - over any nation, party or leader.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A way to communicate
5. Historic city
9. Not the same
11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
13. One hurt the Titanic
15. Fine dense cloth
16. Architectural structure
17. Where Serena works
19. Stringed instrument
21. Estimate
22. Where sailors work
23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
25. Popular slow cooked dish
26. Twisted Sister's Snider
27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
29. Put the ball in the net
31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
33. High school math subject
34. Looked into
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A pea is one type
39. You can put it on something
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Inanely foolish
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is one
57. Soothers
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Triangular bone in lower back
2. Building toy
3. Pointed end of a pen
4. Insect repellent
5. College army
6. Highly spiced stew
7. Exploited
8. Main course
9. A bottle that contains a drug
10. The most worthless part
11. Everyone needs one nowadays
12. Japanese wooden shoe
14. Antelopes
15. A way to cut
18. Brooklyn hoopsters
20. Gradually receded
24. Ripped open
26. College grads get one
28. Amino acid
30. Unruly gathering
32. Legislative body
34. Resembling pigs
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Some build hills
49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

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\$502,500, 63 Hanson Rd, Ferraro, Anthony M, and Ferraro, Renata M, to Croteau, Julianna, and Jollimore, Christopher.
\$499,000, 4 Potter Village Cross Rd, PRC Construction Co LLC, to Desjardins, Jason R, and Desjardins, Cara A.

\$460,450, 54 Jennings Rd, Prop Soln RE& Contracting, to Vargas, Jorge E, and Vargas, Tammy.
\$180,000, 124 Old Worcester Rd, Morin Dorothy L Est, and Morin, David A, to Morin, Lance R, and Morin, Sarah E.

HOLLAND

\$300,000, 13 Morse Rd, Mazzone, Isabel, and

Mazzone, Anthony M, to Mazzone, Tess.

\$49,900, 11 Old Turnpike Rd, Cormier& Sons Const& Hm, to Pease, Christopher.

\$48,349, Hisgen Rd #7, Confirmatory Deed Mac LLC, to Line, Kriswten, and Line, Richard.

\$10,000, Sturbridge Rd #3A, Wilbraham Carol L Est, and Shaw, Dawn M, to Fitzback, Michael D.

STURBRIDGE

\$590,000, 2 Tannery Rd, Orsuzulak, Kathleen, to Mohammed, Shiler, and Rasool, Ahmed.

\$570,000, 16 Tannery Rd, Wu, Zhi H, and Liu, Xiu J, to Singh, Neetu K, and Singh, Gurprit.

\$445,000, 114 New Boston Rd, Wang, Yiwon, and Mai, Wan H, to Bell, Robert, and Bell, Deborah.



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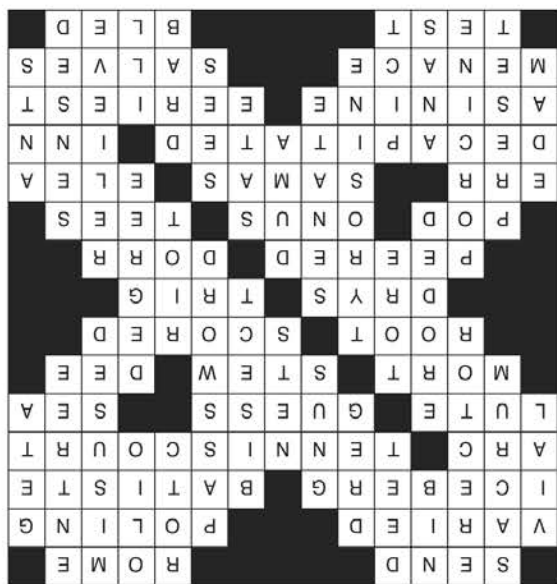
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Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com info@livingwordcharlton.com
New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 Phone 508-347-7297 Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org Services - Sunday 9:30 am Pastor Dan Purtell

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Charlton's Michelle Cox named inaugural recipient of Rollins Award

BOSTON — At the recent 2022 Dana-Farber Scientific Symposium, the establishment of a new annual award, The Barrett J. Rollins Award for Commitment to Scientific Advancement, was announced. The award was created to recognize an individual who embodies Rollins' dedication to carrying forward Dana-Farber's research and lifesaving mission. Rollins is chief scientific officer emeritus at Dana-Farber and senior advisor to Dana-Farber's President and CEO.

At the same time, the inaugural recipient of the award was announced: Michelle Cox, senior vice president for Research Operations.

Cox joined Dana-Farber in 1992 as a grants management specialist in the Department of Pediatric Oncology. In her current role as senior vice president for Research Operations, she oversees all aspects of research.

Kevin Haigis, PhD, chief scientific officer at Dana-Farber praised Cox for her "dedication and hard work her inspiring commitment to Dana-Farber and our research enterprise, for her compassionate leadership and supportive mentorship of others, and for the tremendous energy that she brings to

Dana-Farber every day. "She's effective and resourceful," added Haigis. "She's a joy to work with and is completely selfless with her time and energy. She inspires us with her dedication and work ethic and serves as a role model for how to treat and care for others."

Accepting the award, Cox said, "I can't say enough about what this organization has meant to me. It has been a privilege and honor to serve here. The faculty inspire me all the time, but there's nothing I do on my own; I work with an amazing team of people."

In announcing the establishment of the award, Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber said Barrett Rollins has been her "right arm, a wise counselor, a loyal friend of 30 years, and a cherished colleague. In addition to being the Institute's chief scientific officer from 2004 to 2020, he is an accomplished researcher who discovered the BRAF gene mutation in the rare cancer Langerhans cell histiocytosis, leading to new treatments."

Following Glimcher's remarks, Rollins spoke of his affection for the Institute as a product of the relationships he has formed here. "I've stayed



Courtesy photo

Charlton resident Michelle Cox was named the inaugural recipient of the Barrett J. Rollins Award for Commitment to Scientific Advancement at the Dana-Farber Scientific Symposium.

here my entire career because the people here are incomparable," he remarked. "They are brilliant, they are kind, they are world-class leaders and they have become my friends."

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Come support Tantasqua's Project 351 local food drive

Calling all shoppers! Hunger levels have continued to rise in Massachusetts. One in 11 children are currently facing food insecurity. A way you can help is by donating to our food drive! Tantasqua High School's Project 351 club will be holding a food drive on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This food drive will be held at Shaw's Sturbridge, in the parking lot! What do you need to donate?

The club will provide wish lists to help guide you while you shop. If you're unable to shop, monetary donations will also be gladly accepted. All donations will be going to the Wales Community food pantry, which serves the towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Make an impact! Come donate food with the Project 351 club! Thank you for your support!

HISTORY

continued from page A1

up. Ironically, the installers did it the way it should have been ... but the original Bixby owners had done a section upside down, so OSV did what they did. She showed many before-and-after photos of the changes, showing such things as vintage 1970s tablecloths being replaced by bare 1820s tables, gradually changing clothing styles and methods of doing things. The goal, she said, was to "walk through a portal into another time. ... The past is another country ... [and] you've got to be able to prove that's what they did." In many cases, OSV still does them, but some ideas were tried and discarded. For example, they still make soap using lye from wood ash and testing the lye strength by seeing if an egg floats. But the experi-

ment with a "sig barrel" lasted just one season - that was a collection of urine for use in wool preparation. For the most part, they handle animals the ways our 1820s ancestors would have. That has meant rediscovering a lot of little details. For example, staff used to walk an injured bull to the mill to have him hoisted to treat his foot, until one staffer showed them how to tie him up in a way that caused him to sit down without harming him. Animals in general are an "intentionally mongrel-looking crew" bred for subsistence not show, with two distinctly different sheep flocks (as the Towne House and Freeman Farm), "plump and marbled" pigs raised for butchering, many kinds of chickens, and heirloom vegetables they actually used despite being of lower yield than today's types.

"We really had to look to find some of those old varieties," Lowenthal said. She also recalled two OSV farmers saying their tenure there was "their second childhood because they were doing what they did in their childhood before World War II. ... People were teaching other people how to do things so the old ways weren't lost." O'Brien said there's now a shift in direction going on at OSV. He has purposely avoiding visiting much to "let the next generation see what they're going to do to shape that path." To him, although some of the changes wouldn't fit what was common in the 1820s, it can still be "the best of both worlds."

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



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Sealed bids appropriately marked "Winter Sand Bid" will be received, publicly opened and read aloud in the Board of Selectmen's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 on Wednesday, October 26th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Bid specifications must be obtained from the office of the Board of Selectmen's Office prior to the submission of the bid. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. October 14, 2022 October 21, 2022

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Brimfield Select Board seeks sealed bids for furnishing the following item will be received at the Office of the Select Board, Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 until

the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Select Board, Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or can be requested by emailing selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Bids will be opened in the Town Hall located at 21 Main Street, Brimfield, MA on the 3rd day of November 2022 at 10:15 a.m. Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a BID BOND, CASH, or CERTIFIED CHECK issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price. A 50% payment bond of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required. All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to G.L. c.30, §39M. Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by

the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive. Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Brimfield By: Martin J. Kelly, Select Board Chair October 14, 2022 October 21, 2022

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

Freddy vs. Jason

With Halloween taking place next week, we figured we'd have a bit of fun and posed the question, who's scarier, Freddy or Jason? For those not in the know, Freddy Krueger is the lead character from the 1980's movie series, 'A Nightmare on Elm Street', created by Wes Craven. Donning a black hat and a red and grey sweater, Krueger played by Robert Englund, literally gave all of us 80's kids nightmares for months. With his face shredded and his claw hand, we all slept with the light on for a while.

Enter Jason Voorhees from the famous Friday the 13th movies. Voorhees was the young son of a camp cook turned killer, Mrs. Voorhees. This film was created by Victor Miller, Ron Kurz, Sean Cunningham and Tom Savini. The plot begins with a group of teenagers on vacation at a lakeside camp. One by one they start to disappear. What could be scarier than a hockey mask, machete wielding ghost?

A poll we conducted revealed that Freddy is the scarier of the two leading men. This revelation may not offer us anything of real value, but it does give us some insight on what the majority considers 'scary'. We remember watching the Nightmare on Elm Street series as adults and laughing during parts we thought were scary as youths.

One reader replied, "Freddy, because he's in your dreams." Another brought up a good point, "You can run away from Jason, but not Freddy."

Another reader took the question quite seriously and gave us a great answer, "I'd argue that Jason was more the product of childhood trauma. A missing father, mentally ill mother who goes on a killing spree after she thinks he's drowned. Freddy's supernatural capabilities far surpass Jason. So I'd say Freddy."

"Freddy is the scarier of the two, but Michael Meyers is a true problem" remarked one person. Another said, "Freddy, because you can't resist falling asleep, and with Jason there are no facial expressions."

One person called it a draw, "Can't do it, it's like the chicken and the egg question. Props to Freddy for the nightmares but props to Jason for the daymares." We got a chuckle out of 'daymares'.

Of course, our Editor in Chief and movie buff gave his take, "Freddy, but I'm going to qualify my answer by saying Freddy from the first two Nightmare movies, before they turned him into Don Rickles in a striped sweater."

We can't write an editorial regarding scary characters without mentioning Gollum from the Hobbit. No one is scarier than Gollum, and he did it without even trying.

With that, we hope you enjoy Halloween, half off candy sales, a scary movie or two and enjoy the beautiful fall weather before the snow flies.



TOUCH DOWN!
 CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION



Photo courtesy @denimdoctors/@ziphtc

Old Levi's from mineshaft sold at auction

In my last antique news column, I noted that the art collection of Paul Allen (who founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975) was expected to bring \$1 billion at auction. A photograph from Allen's estate now has the potential to break an auction record.

The photograph is called "the Flatiron" and was taken by Edward Steichen in 1904 and printed in 1905. According to the History Channel, the Flatiron Building was "designed by Chicago architect Daniel Burnham and built in 1902." The building's unique design "allowed it to fill the wedge-shaped property located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Broadway." The photograph depicts men on carriages during a foggy night in Manhattan with the Flatiron building partially obscured by the fog. Man Ray's 1924 photo "Le Violon d'Ingres" sold for \$12.4 million in May and some art experts are predicting "the Flatiron" will surpass that figure.

Meanwhile across the pond, some 2019 home renovations literally paid off for an English couple. The couple from Ellerby, East Yorkshire found a pot the size of a soda can under concrete 18th century floorboards while they were renovating their kitchen. The pot contained more than 260 gold coins. The BBC reported that "the coins, dating from 1610-1727, belonged to the Fernley-Maisters, a Hull family involved in Baltic trading." They brought £754,000 (over \$842,000 USD) with the most valuable one selling for £62,400 (nearly \$70,000 USD). An auction house spokesperson described it as "one of the largest hoards of 18th Century English gold coins ever found in Britain."

If you're doing a closet cleanout this fall, the sale of a pair of old Levi's might have you reconsidering donating your

old jeans. UPI reports that a pair of 1880s jeans were found in an abandoned mineshaft in the Western United States. They were found by self-described "denim archeologist" Michael Harris. The jeans were sold at auction last week and purchased by Kyle Hautner and Zip Stevenson. Stevenson owns "Denim Doctors" repair shop in Los Angeles. Stevenson said Harris "has looked in at least 50 abandoned mines for five years and has not found a pair of equal quality." Stevenson added that there are only two other pairs that are the same age as the recently discovered Levis, and that those are both in museums. Stevenson also said that the pairs in museums are unwearable, but the pair he bought could be worn with minor repairs. They sold for \$87,400. Stevenson and Hautner hope to sell the jeans to a museum and put some extra cash in their pants pockets.

Our online jewelry, coins and sterling auction opens for bidding this week along with our baseball cards and sports memorabilia auction. The next session with art, historical memorabilia, antiques and collectibles will begin in a couple of weeks. We have started cataloging a large collection of local memorabilia and will have a big announcement regarding that in my next column in two weeks. I'll be appraising items for the public at the Leicester Senior Center on November 5th to benefit the Leicester Historical Society. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com for antiques and collectibles auction services.



ANTIQUES,
 COLLECTIBLES
 & ESTATES
 •••••
 WAYNE TUISKULA

Should you consolidate retirement accounts?

One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.

Consolidating them can provide you with several potential benefits, including these:

Less confusion and clutter – If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, statements, fees, disclosures and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.

Less likelihood of "lost accounts" – It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed. In fact,

at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned money.

Ability to follow a unified strategy – With multiple retirement accounts, and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.

Possible improvement in investment options – Often, 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strategies.

Greater ease in calculating RMDs – Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts, with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs — it will be much easier with all accounts under one roof.

So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the end result may save you time and hassles, while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

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 trevornielsen@edwardjones.com Edward Jones, Member SIPC

small percentage of the samples studied had observable water crystals.

What he discovered was very interesting. Some of the frozen water samples contained beautiful hexagonal crystal structures; other water samples had no crystals at all, or the crystals appeared to be malformed.

After documenting different types of water crystals formed in frozen samples, Dr. Emoto set out to study the pos-

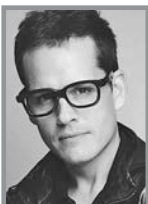
The Hidden Messages in Water

Japanese Dr. Masaru Emoto, who passed away in 2014, wrote a book that became a New York Times best-seller, 'The Hidden Messages in Water.'

Dr. Emoto spent many years researching water, and in his book, he shares his findings on studying frozen water.

Dr. Emoto wanted to study water crystals. Water crystal formations occur during the process of water turning into ice. The water crystals appear just like a snowflake when examined under a microscope.

His fascination with water crystals caused him to develop a series of experiments to determine whether humans can influence water crystal development.



POSITIVELY
 SPEAKING
 •••••
 TOBY
 MOORE

Critics of Dr. Emoto say he is a pseudoscientist and uses a poor methodology. While that could be true, his book is a New York Times best-seller, the pictures of the water crystals in the book are somewhat famous, and the topic itself is worthy of exploration in a column such as this.

Dr. Emoto, and his team, first collected water samples from many different sources to use in their study.

When it came time to study a new sample, the researchers placed several drops of water on dozens of Petri dishes and then put them in the freezer for about three hours.

Once the water was frozen, they examined the samples under a microscope. A

Great time of year for hunting, fishing

Hunting and fishing in the Valley is extremely enjoyable at this time of year, as the fall foliage is now showing its peak colors adding to the outdoor activities. Trout are providing some great fishing at some of the local ponds and lakes, but unfortunately Wallum Lake will not be stocked with trout by the state of Rhode Island this fall. I received a reply from Harty Finn, at the DEM after I contacted them asking for information on the status of their fall trout stocking at Wallum Lake. The state of Rhode Island will not be stocking Wallum this fall with trout, and they are discussing future stockings of trout this spring! No further information was available. It is unfortunate that no trout stockings will be made at this great body of water this fall, but Mass. did stock the lake last week with some rainbow trout.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

Seabass and Tautog fishing remained excellent last week and should stay hot for the next two weeks. I went fish-

ing on the Capt. Morgan boat with Captain Mike last week, as my Buddy Matt made arrangements with his other fishing buddy Mark Petit to go tuna fishing. Capt. Mike set the anchor one time while we were fishing one mile out from the lighthouse in Point Judith, RI. The bite was steady as we lowered our crab bait to the bottom. Tautog fishing was hot. All in all it was a great day of fishing, except that Capt. Mike out fished this writer.

The seabass are moving into deeper water; but are still providing some great fishing in 50 to 60 feet of water. We caught our limit of large seabass drifting high low rigs, baited with half of a crab, using No 3. circle hooks. Adding a small plastic squid onto the hook added to the excitement of catching large seabass. After catching our limit of seabass we headed for home, and as we entered the waters inside of the breaker wall Capt. Mike raised his large antenna that carried skull and crossbones on a

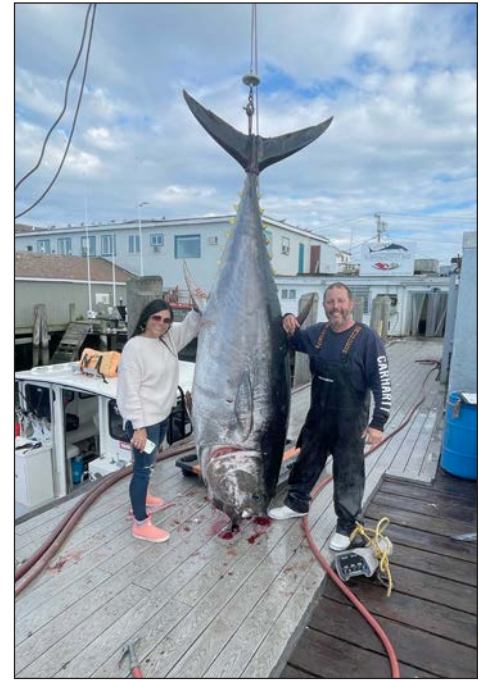
flag, blowing his horn frequently as we entered the channel. It was just some type of ceremonial thing he does after a great day of fishing!

Pheasant hunting opened this past Saturday in Mass., and the stocking of birds in local covers by MFW will continue through Thanksgiving. Pheasant hunters are required to wear an orange hat when hunting birds. Goose and duck hunting started on Oct. 10. With some fast action on ducks in the opening minutes of the morning. A good number of wood ducks were harvested along with numerous mallards and black ducks.

Some impressive deer have already been harvested with bow and arrow in Mass. and by out of state hunters. There will be no shortage of deer meat this year. Hunters are reporting some great acorn crops in some areas of the state, while others area have very few or none. Finding areas of acorns will be the place to hunt this year.

This week's picture of a large tuna was caught while fishing with a live bluefish for bait. Nice fish!!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy photo

A large 800-pound tuna was recently caught in Massachusetts.

October is National Popcorn Month



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Corn is all around us this season! Speckled Indian corn cobs adorning front doors, homemade popcorn balls twisted tight with cellophane, and lofty corn stalks tied to porch posts, all celebrate the native grain. But did you know popcorn tops the list as the nation's favorite snack food?

Whether popped in a kettle on the stove, zapped in the microwave, or pre popped in bags, Americans each consume an average of 47 quarts of popcorn each year! And it's no wonder we have a love affair with the native treat - it's economical, easy to cook, nutritious and low calorie (sans the butter).

Read on for some popcorn trivia, popping tips and even a recipe spotlighting the wholesome, economical grain. After all, October has been deemed National Popcorn Month and what better way to celebrate than to settle down with a big bowl of the buttery treat?

Perfect Popcorn: Popping up a fluffy batch of tender popcorn is a culinary skill that's easily mastered once you know a few tricks of the trade. Here's how we make positively perfect popcorn:

Heat a heavy pot on the stove, and then add oil to cover the bottom of the pan. The best temperature for popping is between 400 and 460 degrees, but oil burns at 500 degrees so be careful! Test the oil by dropping in a couple of kernels, if they pop, the temperature is right. Pour in just enough kernels to cover the bottom of the pan. Cover the pan loosely to allow a bit of steam to escape during popping. Shake the pan well and remove pan when pan fills up and popping slows considerably. Enjoy!

Troubleshooting Guide: OK, even the most veteran corn poppers sometimes get it wrong. Here are some ways to get it right!

Problem: Too Many "Old Maids"
Solution: It's important to store popcorn correctly. Kernels left uncovered on a hot day can zap the moisture and render them unpopable. Even a one percent drop in moisture will affect the quality of the kernels. For best quality, store kernels in a cool place. While

some advocate storing kernels in the refrigerator, the fridge contains little moisture and can actually dry out the kernels. For best results, use kernels within 18 months of purchase.

Problem: Small or Hully Corn
Solution: If your popped corn is small or hully, it may be low on moisture. Sometimes you can rehydrate the kernels by pouring them into a sealed jar with a tablespoon of water. Shake the jar a few times and in a day or so, the kernels should be up to par for popping.

Problem: Tough Kernels
Solution: Did you know salting kernels toughens popcorn? Never add salt to the pan before corn has popped. Always add it to the popped corn.

Problem: Salt Won't Stick
Solution: Finely ground salt sticks to the popcorn better than table salt. For a terrific taste, grind kosher salt to a fine consistency. Or pound kosher salt in a ziplock bag with a rolling pin.

Problem: Chewy Kernels
Solution: Did you know chewy popcorn is often caused by leaving the lid on tight while cooking? For tender corn, make sure the lid is slightly ajar.

Problem: Corn Burns in Pan
Solution: Be sure to add enough oil to cover bottom of pan. Also, popcorn in a pan with a clear lid so you can watch the action. It also helps you to gauge when the popcorn is done.

Popcorn Trivia
Indian Folklore: Native American legend has it that spirits lived inside each kernel of popcorn. Some tribes believed when the corn was heated, the disturbed spirits burst out of the kernel in a fit of anger. In fact, it is said Native Americans brought popped corn to the first Thanksgiving. Back then, popcorn, which was cooked over the fire, was commonly eaten right of the cob. Natives throughout the Americas were creative in their popcorn use, preparing such treats as popcorn beer and popcorn soup. Once the colonists were introduced to the mysterious, fluffy food, they included it in their daily diet, even enjoying it in a bowl with cream for breakfast!

Science of Popcorn: Do you ever wonder exactly what causes the corn kernels to burst? Each kernel contains a small drop of water stored inside a circle of soft starch. The starch is sur-

rounded by the hard outer surface of the kernel. As each kernel heats up, the water expands and pressure builds against the hard starch. Eventually it gives way, causing the popcorn to explode. In order for popcorn to erupt soft and fluffy, it should have a moisture content of about 14 percent. Any less and you will end up with half popped kernels and a pan full of "old maids."

Old Maids: Did you ever wonder why unpopped kernels are called "old maids?" According to Reference.com the origin of the practice of calling dud kernels "old maids" is unknown, although it has been around for over a century. According to The Chicago Journal, the first known reference of the term appeared in an April 27, 1886, San Francisco (CA) Bulletin newspaper, which wrote: "A popcorn man in town calls those kernels that do not pop and that cannot be popped, "old maids."

Unpopped kernels have also been called "widows", "spinsters" and "old bachelors."

Harvest Corn Balls
Here is an easy "no fail" recipe for Caramel Popcorn Balls from the folks at Jolly Time Popcorn. This sweet treat is a classic snack at harvest and Halloween celebrations.

Ingredients: Two and a half quarts popped corn; one 14 oz. package of caramels (about 48); one quarter cup of light corn syrup; two tablespoons of water; Directions: Keep popped popcorn warm in deep roasting pan in oven at about 200 degrees. Melt caramels in heavy saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. Add corn syrup and water and mix until smooth. Slowly pour over popcorn in large bowl or pan, mixing well. Shape into balls, using buttered hands. Let set until firm on foil or buttered wax paper. Wrap in plastic wrap; tie with a ribbon. Recipe makes ten medium popcorn balls.

Popcorn Fun Facts
*When explorer Felix de Azara visited Paraguay in the 18th century, he noted that the people would place kernels on a tassel and then when it was boiled in fat or oil, the grains would burst.

*Popcorn kernels can pop up to 3 feet in the air.

*There are about 1,600 popcorn kernels in 1 cup.

*Orville Redenbacher is the #1 best-selling popcorn in the world. Its inventor, Orville, began to grow popping corn in 1919, when he was just 12

years old.
*In ancient times, people would make popcorn by heating sand in a fire and then stirring kernels of popcorn in the hot sand.

*Autumn is the peak time for popcorn consumption, followed by the winter months. Popcorn sales taper off during the spring and summer. Americans eat more popcorn than any other country.

*Most of the popcorn eaten around the world is grown in the United States.

*The world's oldest known popper, a shallow vessel with a handle and hole on top was designed around A.D. 300. The first popcorn machine made its debut 1,500 years later at the 1893 World's Fair (Columbian Exposition) in Chicago.

*While other businesses failed during the Great Depression, the popcorn business thrived.

*Native Americans not only ate popcorn, but they made beer and soup out of it too.

*Native Americans would use dried herbs and spices and even chili as popcorn flavorings.

*Popcorn has been sold in theaters since 1912. It has been a big money maker not only because popcorn is overpriced, but also because people usually get thirsty and, consequently, buy sodas or water as well.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

'Halloween Magic Show' and 'The Not So Haunted Hallway' come to Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Join Joshua Hyde Public library and magician Tommy James on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the library meeting room. Tommy will be performing magic with a mysterious magic wand, a haunted Jack-O-Lantern, ghosts, goblins, and Frankenstein! He will also be going over all of the Halloween safety tips and tricks. This magic show is open to children in grades K-5.

You can also join The Joshua Hyde Library on Monday, Oct. 31 from 4:30 to 5 p.m. for our Not So Haunted Hallway where children 9 and under can collect sweets and treats as they explore the hallway. Costumes are encouraged as this event takes place on Halloween. The town common will be hosting Halloween activities right after this event ends.


All children must be accompanied by an adult for both of these events. The "Halloween Magic Show" will begin at 11 a.m. and registration is currently still open on the library's website www.sturbridgeliibrary.org or by calling the library at 508-347-2512. The "Not So Haunted Hallway" will open at 4:30 p.m. and does not require registration to attend. Both of these events are sponsored by The Friends of JHPL.



BULLETIN BOARD

Have an upcoming event or Fall Festival? Post it here!

Call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news



CHARLTON VOTING SCHEDULE

STATE ELECTION:

NOV. 8, 2022 Heritage School 7AM – 8PM

EARLY VOTING HOURS:

Town Hall – Selectmen's Meeting Room

Sat. 10/22 9 AM – 3 PM	Sat. 10/29 9 AM – 5 PM
Mon. 10/24 8 AM – 3 PM	Mon. 10/31 8 AM – 5 PM
Tues. 10/25 8 AM – 7 PM	Tues. 11/1 8 AM – 7 PM
Wed. 10/26 8 AM – 5 PM	Wed. 11/2 8 AM – 5 PM
Thurs. 10/27 8 AM – 5 PM	Thurs. 11/3 8 AM – 5 PM

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: Sat. Oct. 29
9 AM – 5 PM Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office

"WE'VE GOT BEEF"

October 22nd
5:30-7:00PM



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OBITUARIES

Elva E. Blake 93

Charlton- Elva E. (Maddix) Blake 93, passed away October 13, 2022 at the Overlook Masonic Healthcare in Charlton.

Her husband of 64 years, Edmund K. Blake died February 4, 2012.

She leaves 2 sons, Ronald Blake and his partner Yun Chao of Millbury and Steven Blake and his wife Elaine of Sterling, Grandchildren; Nathaniel and his wife Colleen, Phillip and his wife Tara, and Peter and his wife Melissa, great grandchildren; Walker, Addison, Avery, Marlo, Allison and Ayidan as well; as many nieces and nephews.

Elva was born in Princeton April 21, 1929 a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Moore) Maddix and was the youngest of 9 children who predeceased her.

She worked as a mailroom manag-

er for Sentry Insurance Co for over 20 years, graduated High School and was Valadictorian of her class, Was a Cub Scout den leader, in charge of the library at the Overlook, a devote Christian lady, and was a devote mother and grandmother.

There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to; Overlook Hospice or Overlook Employee appreciation Fund, 88 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton, MA, 01507.

Burial will be at a later date, next to her husband at the Massachusetts Veterans' Cemetery in Bourne, MA.

The ROBERT J.MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd. is assisting the family with arrangements.

MOORE

continued from page A8

sible effect humans may have on water crystal development.

First, he wanted to see what would happen to the crystal development when he exposed the water to music. To understand if music affected water crystals, Dr. Emoto tested the water before and after exposing water to music.

The study not only showed the crystal structures changed when Dr. Emoto exposed the water to music but that the type of music mattered. Water crystals exposed to Mozart were much more beautiful and geometrically complex than crystals exposed to heavy metal music, which seemed to be distorted or nonexistent.

Inspired by the results of the studies, Dr. Emoto began another experiment to discover how the water crystals changed when people spoke to the water.

The first water samples were exposed to a person gratefully telling the water, "Thank You." The results were beautiful crystals.

Other samples were exposed to somebody angrily telling the water, "You Fool!" or, "You make me sick!"

The results were distorted crystal formations that participants described as ugly and unhealthy. The experiment concluded that words have power over how water crystals form.

Dr. Emoto theorizes that music, sound, and our words have a vibration-

al frequency that can subtly influence the formation of water crystals.

The documentary states, "Beautiful words manifest as beautiful crystals; gentle words cause the formation of gentle crystals. Water is letting us know the power of our words."

In Dr. Emoto's water studies, Tokyo's public water had never produced any observable crystals.

In his final study, Dr. Emoto wanted to understand what would happen if they exposed Tokyo public water, which had never produced crystals, to the positive thoughts of a group of children and adults.

The study participants arrived, were instructed to hold hands, and collectively directed positive thoughts to the water. Once finished, they transferred the water to Petri dishes, froze the samples, and put them under a microscope to see if they could find crystals.

Astonishingly the water from Tokyo displayed beautiful crystals inside most of the samples. If the study is correct, it would appear that even our thoughts can affect water crystal formation.

You'll have to read the book or watch the documentary "The Hidden Messages in Water" to decide whether you think the study has validity or is just pseudoscience.

Considering that our bodies are composed of about 60% water, it may be worth a look.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Forcing spring flowering bulbs into bloom



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS



Photo courtesy MelindaMyers.com

A pot of tulips that were forced into bloom.

Brighten your indoor décor, patio, deck, or balcony by forcing a few spring flowering bulbs into bloom. Just plant, give them a chill and enjoy a few extra daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, crocus and grape hyacinths this winter and spring.

All you need is a suitable container, some well-drained potting mix, the bulbs and a place to give the bulbs the chill necessary to force them to bloom. Select a container with drainage holes that is deep enough to accommodate the largest bulbs. Cover the bottom few inches of the container with a well-drained potting mix. Place larger and taller bulbs like tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in the center surrounded by shorter varieties. They can be planted close together, about one half the bulb width apart with the neck of larger bulbs at or just below the soil surface. Set tulips with the flat side of the bulb facing the pot for a better display.

If you are using a deep container, plant layers of bulbs for a more robust and longer-lasting display. Set the largest bulbs on the potting mix near the bottom of the container. Cover these bulbs with soil and add the smaller bulbs like grape hyacinths and crocus on the next level. Plant these bulbs close to each other, covering the surface, for greater impact. Cover this layer with at least an inch of soil. Water thoroughly so the excess water drains out the bottom of the pot.

Move the bulb-filled container to a cool location where temperatures remain above freezing and between 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 to 15 weeks. A spare refrigerator works well for this. Just avoid storing the bulbs in a refrigerator with fruit like apples and pears that emit ethylene gas that can negatively impact flowering. If refrigerator space is limited, you can store the unplanted bulbs in a paper bag, so they take up less space in the fridge for the needed chill before planting.

Those gardening in colder climates can also store the pots in an unheated garage. Just water the containers whenever the soil is thawed and dry. Or sink the container into a vacant garden space in your landscape. Mulch the soil once the ground starts to freeze with evergreen boughs. The winter mulch makes retrieving the container easier in winter or spring.

Once the 12- to 15-week cold period is complete, you can begin moving the

pots indoors. Remove a few pots every week to extend the bloom time and your enjoyment. Place the pot in a cool bright location to encourage more compact growth. Water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Soon the leaves will begin to sprout and flowers will appear in about four weeks.

Provide ongoing care if you plan on moving the bulbs into the garden. Remove the faded flowers and place the leafy plants in a sunny window and water thoroughly whenever the top inch of soil is dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer.

When the danger of frost has passed, you can move these plants into the garden if they are suited to your growing conditions. These plants may not bloom the following spring but usually do the next year and for several beyond.

Or you can toss the forced bulbs into the compost pile so they can return to your garden as wonderful compost.

Investing time forcing a few spring flowering bulbs into bloom is sure to boost your spirits this winter. Consider planting a few extra pots of bulbs to do the same for friends and family.

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

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Tuesday, Oct. 11
Warriors' golf wins SWCL Championship — Thanks to Sam Pieczynski's 74 (2nd place), Auburn Phillips' 78 (tied 4th place), Patrick Dunn's 78 (tied 4th place) and Colm McGrath's 80 (10th place), the Warriors' golf team captured the Southern Worcester County League championship at Leicester Country Club.

"Colm, Patrick, and Aubyn all played better than they have been in recent matches, which is a good sign leading into Districts," said Tantasqua head coach Aaron Berthiaume. "Sam Pieczynski, our stellar freshman, was 2-under par going into the 13th hole, and then hit a rough patch, going double bogey, bogey, double bogey, but finished strong to finish sole 2nd. Sam has been our No. 1 player the entire season and has consistently hovered around par since our first match of the season."

Berthiaume gave his squad a number to shoot for at Leicester CC, and the Warriors responded.

"Before the round, I told the

team that they needed to shoot 315 or below as a total to contend, and they shot 310, which showed they are capable of better play later in the season," the coach said. "Winning the SWCL league tournament and finishing tied for SWCL league honors with Auburn leaves D2 Districts as the next step toward a very successful season."

Districts is slated for Oct. 18, which comes after the press deadline.

Bay Path 2, Oxford 1 — The Minutemen edged the Pirates in a boys' soccer matchup in Charlton. Bryce Hutchinson scored in the 16th minute to get Bay Path on the board, and following the equalizer by Oxford's Kofi Owusu in the 54th minute, the Minutemen won the game thanks to a Brady Suprenant strike in the 64th minute, with Jack Young assisting. Keeper Dominic Moniz made six saves for Bay Path, which improved to 6-5 and has now increased its winning streak to five games. Oxford is now 6-3-2.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Tantasqua 168, Nipmuc 185 — One day after securing the Southern Worcester County League team championship, the Warriors closed out the regular season in style. Tantasqua's Sam Pieczynski shot a 2-over par 38 at Hemlock Ridge to claim medalist honors against Nipmuc. Seniors Gabe Laprade and Halen Barry also counted for the Warriors. Tantasqua also matched cards with league rival Grafton at the SWCL league tournament, the Warriors edging the Gators 148 strokes to 151. Tantasqua finished the regular season with a record of 15-3.

Friday, Oct. 14

Hudson 42, Tantasqua 28 — A high-flying shootout didn't go the Warriors' way in varsity football. But Tantasqua (2-4) quarterback Adam Howe had himself a game, completing 23 of 37 passes for 310 yards and 4 touchdowns. Liam Hubacz was the recipient of a pair of TD passes, while Issac Colon and Brendan Denham caught the other scores.



Courtesy photo

The Tantasqua Warriors are the Southern Worcester County League golf champions after shooting a four-person combined score of 310 at Leicester Country Club on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Beavers continue winning ways as Bay Path hangs tough



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path goalie Natalie Walker runs up to kick aside a Blackstone Valley Tech scoring chance.



Grace Jones of Bay Pat whacks the ball down the field during a free hit opportunity.



Bay Path defender Miranda Linde approaches the ball to block a Blackstone Valley Tech player's shot.

BY NICK ETHIER
 SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — The Blackstone Valley Tech varsity field hockey team is rack-

ing up the victories this season, and that continued on Wednesday, Oct. 12 when the Beavers defeated Bay Path Regional, 3-1. Conversely, the Minutemen haven't

been on the winning side of many decisions, but the young squad is improving each game. For that reason, both sides were pleased following the conclusion of the contest.

"I think that our season is going really well," said first-year Valley Tech head coach Sarah Coley, whose team improved to 9-2-1. "They are very determined girls. They want the best for everyone. We have our team values, which are attitude, respect, effort and support, so we really put each other first before anything."

Bay Path head coach Joanna Gogan has seen plenty of progression from her team since the beginning of the year.

"From where we started against Monty Tech our first game of the season where we were explaining what a position was, we were explaining where to dribble a ball to today, I can only be proud of what we just saw," she said. "Our record is a little rough this year [1-8-1], but we [only] have two seniors and three sophomores, six juniors and the rest [12] is freshmen."

Gogan had to ask fellow student-athletes not already committed to playing, in her words, "the upside-down candy cane sport" to consider joining.

"Almost 50 percent of our team never touched a stick before Aug. 23 this season," she noted.

And the Minutemen — who are hosting games for the first time in 40 years — scored first versus BVT, striking just after the five-minute mark. There, Bay Path made the most of its first penalty corner opportunity. Grace Jones, one of the two seniors, received the inserted pass and — after multiple shots getting blocked — she stuck with it, eventually scoring into the back of the cage.

"We scored first, I am so proud," said Gogan. "We went into this game with two rules: We never quit and never give up, and to have fun. Those are what we did. Today was fun."

But Bay Path, which is a co-op program with David Prouty (three players reside from the Spencer school, including the other senior in Amberlynn Humphreys), saw BVT respond with the tying goal about three minutes later.

The Beavers' Savannah Brodeur sent a right-to-left crossing pass over to Katie Hearn, who one-timed a shot past Minutemen goalie Natalie Walker (10 saves).

The game remained deadlocked at 1-1 until the third quarter, when Valley Tech scored the eventual game-winner early in the period. A penalty stroke was called when Walker made a save but completely covered the ball, allowing Ava Lozeau to score on the free opportunity, her shot to the left side of the cage getting past a diving Walker.

The Beavers padded the lead to 3-1 with 9:55 remaining in the fourth quarter, Lynsey Kay tipping in Lozeau's shot following a corner.

Valley Tech won the corner total, 13-2, and produced 13 shots on goal.

"They're a good program. You've got to pump yourself up when you play those solid programs," Gogan said of going against a strong BVT team. "We came in knowing we needed to play our 'A' game to hang in there."

Coley also heaped praise on the Minutemen.

"They've been building for a couple years and they've come a long way," she said. "In the next four years they're going to be a really good competitor. They have a lot of freshmen and by the time they're seniors it's going to be a totally different program."

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SPORTS

One goal the difference as Rams narrowly lose to Hudson

DUDLEY — The Shepherd Hill Regional girls' varsity soccer team had a chance to grab its first victory of the season when hosting Hudson High at Carmignani Field on Thursday evening, Oct. 13. The Hawks handled the Rams the first time around, 2-0, on Sept. 20, so a good, close game was in store.

And that's exactly what happened in the second meeting. But Hudson's Anna Iacobucci took a feed from Riley

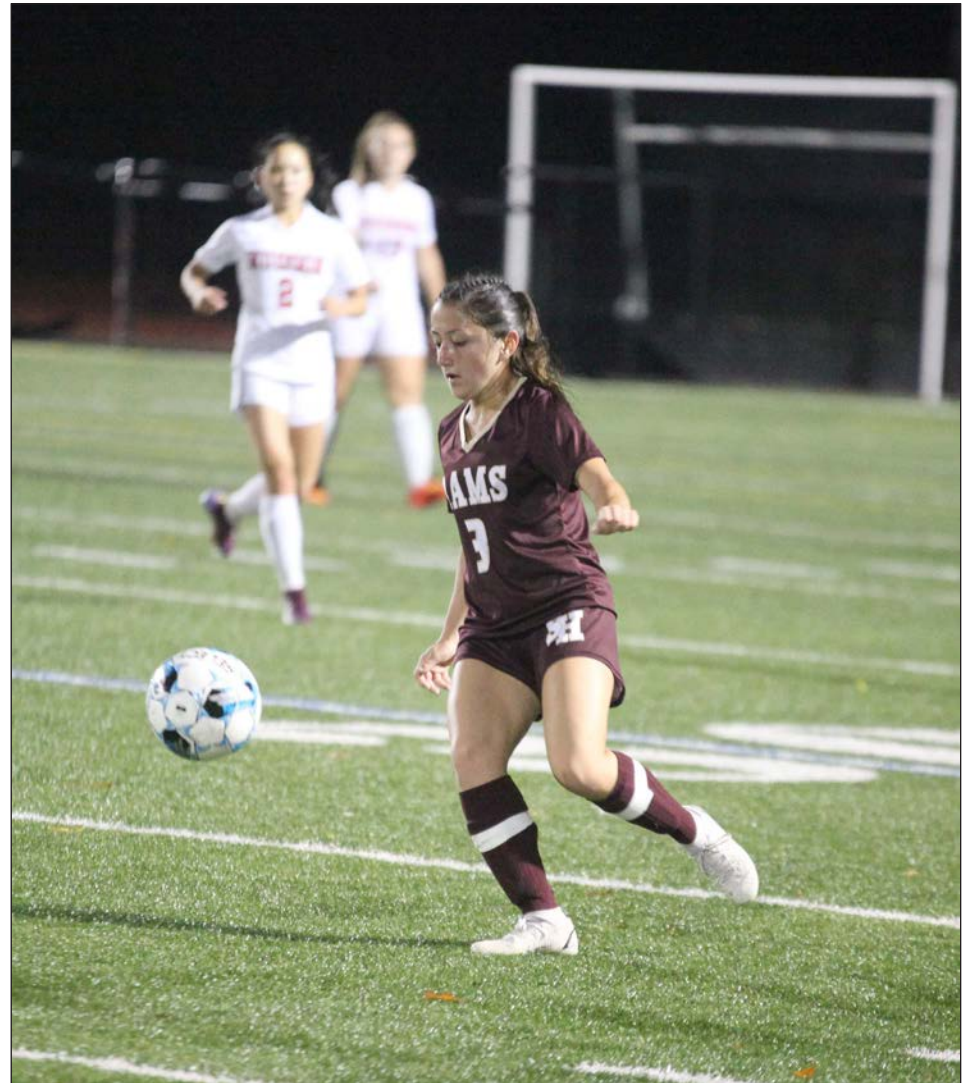
Maksymiak and scored in the game's 11th minute, the ball barely crossing the goal line as keeper Meri Wilde nearly snagged it in time.

That goal was enough for the Hawks to win, 1-0, and improve to 4-7-3 in the process. The Hill dropped to 0-12-1 as Wilde made 11 saves to keep it a one-goal game for the final 69 minutes as the Rams took 10 shots on frame but couldn't get one to find the back of the net.



Nick Ethier photos

Shepherd Hill's Lily Connole breaks away from Hudson players while pursuing the ball.



Sandra Kunkel of Shepherd Hill welcomes an incoming pass before making a play on the ball.



Shepherd Hill's Nicolina Holland shields a Hudson player and tries to also win the battle for the ball.



Shaylan Cashman of Shepherd Hill wins the footrace to take possession of the ball versus Hudson.

Webster's Ritacco to run in 2023 Boston Marathon

On April 17, 2023, Webster resident Hilary Ritacco will be running the Boston Marathon for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). She has found two reasons for the inspiration behind running the marathon.

The first reason is in honor of a dear friend who was recently diagnosed with Metastatic Melanoma cancer and is currently receiving treatment at Dana-Farber. The second reason is to show her two children that anything is possible and if you have a goal no matter how long it takes, you can always work hard to achieve it.

All funds, a full 100 percent raised by DFMC benefit the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which is widely recognized as one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind.

Running 26.2 miles is nothing compared to what Ritacco's friend is going through, and her personal goal is to raise \$8,000. Any donation/sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

Do donate to Ritacco's cause, please visit https://danafarberjimmyfund.org/site/TR?fr_id=1930&pg=personal&px=1413694&s_hasSecureSession=true



Webster's Hilary Ritacco will be running the 2023 Boston Marathon.

Softball Pitching Clinic coming to Southbridge Rec Center

For a span of 18 weeks (from Oct. 23 through March 19, 2023), the Southbridge Rec Center, located at 152 Chestnut Street, will host a Softball Pitching Clinic presented by Bill Rahall. The Sunday morning sessions last for 50 minutes with available times including 8:30, 9:20 and 10:10 a.m. Leagues, high schools, individuals aged 7 and older are all encouraged to sign up. All players must bring their own catcher, and catchers are free. Full teams earn discounted prices as well. For more information on the cost, please call or text Coach Rahall at (860) 576-3440.

Exploring Sturbridge's Old Burial Ground

On Thursday, Oct. 27, the Sturbridge Historical Society will present a program about the Town's Old Burial Ground, located just off the Common next to the Central Office Building. Local resident Bill Barnsley will share his work documenting and mapping the Old Burial Ground. He will provide a brief background on cemeteries and grave-stones, as well as sources for searching graves and ancestors. He will discuss some of the Sturbridge people and families buried here, sharing the stories he uncovered during his research.

"This isn't just rock and stone, it's people's lives" notes Bill. The Old Burial Ground served the Town's needs from approximately 1740

to the last burial in 1894. Bill Barnsley has been a Sturbridge resident since 2013 when he moved from San Diego to take care of his elderly parents. He is a certified Merry Gentleman (known as Santa Claus) and the CEO of a well-known worldwide, overnight toy delivery service. He also has a small "side hustle" as a genealogist. This led him to begin researching the Sturbridge Old Burial Ground. In time he was ably assisted by Jude McDonald, a Sturbridge librarian for 25 years (now also known as Mrs. Claus).

This program is held at the Public House at 7 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge.

Fun in the sun at Sturbridge Harvest Festival



Fiona Dubuc, 5, of Sturbridge, gets her face turned into a cat.



These visitors found you didn't have to go "over yonder" to find Sonder Mercantile's tent.



The Off the Hook Eatery staff prepares lunch. Ryan Hodge bags kettle corn.



Magician Pete Haddad ties up Mary's hands for one of his tricks.



Rachael McAfee had a busy "all-day sipping event" at the Hardwick Winery tent.



For the bookish types, there were several tables of reading material for sale in and outside the Joshua Hyde Library.

Massachusetts Legislators urge DPU action on winter energy rate increases

BOSTON — Last Tuesday, a bipartisan group of 31 Massachusetts State Senators and 76 State Representatives sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) expressing concern about the energy rate increases slated to impact residents this winter. The letter to DPU Chair Matthew Nelson, written by Senator Michael Moore and Representative Orlando Ramos, urges DPU to protect residents of the Commonwealth from these rate increases.

"Between the increased costs of groceries, housing, gas, and other everyday expenses, the last thing Massachusetts residents need is a massive energy rate hike. The expected rate increases from National Grid, Eversource, and other investor-owned utilities are simply unacceptable," said Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury) following the release of the letter. "No family should have to make the impossible choice between staying warm this winter and buying groceries or school supplies. Let me be clear: the Department of Public

Utilities must act." "The people of the Commonwealth have yet to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Representative Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield). "Eversource's proposed rate increase would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable. Meanwhile Eversource reported profits of more than \$1.2 billion for 2021. That is an increase of about \$15.3 million (1.3%) from the record profits the company reported in 2020, and an increase of \$311.4 million (34.3%) from the profits it reported in 2019."

The House Minority Whip, Representative Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn), commented, "These electric prices are far too exorbitant and will crush household budgets across Central Mass and beyond. With groceries, home heating oil, natural gas, gasoline and the average cost of goods and services all rising with no end in sight, these new electric rates for this coming winter will just add further insult to injury to the cost of living here. I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in addressing these unacceptable electric

rates with the DPU." The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources predicts that the coming winter will be colder than last year's, while the cost of heating may increase by up to 54.6% for electric customers and 28.6% for natural gas. Utility providers largely blame global factors such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, and inflation. Legislators believe the DPU can do more to tamp down these rate increases and their effects on consumers.

In their letter to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, signatories state, "...proposed rate increases of this magnitude — during the winter season — would disproportionately impact the Commonwealth's most vulnerable. Moreover, protecting our residents from the cold is not just an affordability and equity concern — it is also a public safety issue. As the oversight agency tasked with prioritizing safety, affordability, and equity with regard to energy rates, we ask that DPU do just that and protect Massachusetts residents from these drastic rate

increases this winter season." The letter was signed by Senators Michael O. Moore, John C. Velis, Diana DiZoglio, Joanne M. Comerford, Ryan Fattman, Patrick O'Connor, Jason M. Lewis, Adam Gomez, Anne M. Gobi, Edward J. Kennedy, Barry R. Finegold, Susan L. Moran, Walter F. Timilty, Sonia Chang-Diaz, James B. Eldridge, Eric P. Lesser, John F. Keenan, Lydia Edwards, Michael D. Brady, John J. Cronin, Patricia D. Jehlen, Marc R. Pacheco, Joan B. Lovely, Becca Rausch, Julian Cyr, Mark C. Montigny, Paul R. Feeney, Bruce E. Tarr, Harriette L. Chandler, Sal N. DiDomenico, and Brendan P. Crighton. It was also signed by Representatives Orlando Ramos, Andy X. Vargas, Michael J. Soter, John Barrett, Timothy R. Whelan, Brian W. Murray, Paul J. Donato, William M. Straus, Steven Ultrino, Susannah Whippis, Jamie Zahlaway Belsito, Christine P. Barber, Michelle Ciccolo, Todd M. Smola, Natalie M. Blais, Michael P. Kushmerek, Danillo A. Sena, Patrick Kearney, Paul Mark, David Allen Robertson, Mindy

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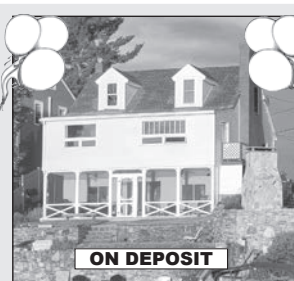


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Teddy G's teams up with Caring Partners' Coats for Kids & Families

STURBRIDGE — In tough economic times and cold New England weather, a warm coat isn't a luxury, it is a necessity. In our very own community, there are hundreds of children and adults who may otherwise not have access to warm winter coat this winter.

For the third year in a row, Teddy G's Pub & Grille, at 179 Main Street, Sturbridge, will be conducting a month-long winter coat drive beginning Tuesday, October 25 and ending Wednesday, November



30, according to owners Ted and Jenna Gidopoulos.

The local effort is being conducted in partnership with the Anton's Cleaners Coats for Kids & Families program that has collected, cleaned, and distributed 1,150,631 since the program began in 1995.

"In 2021, Teddy G's collected more than 100 coats, and this year, we're hoping to surpass that number," says Ted. "Donate one or more warm winter coats for children or

adults, and we'll say 'thank you' with a complimentary \$10 Teddy G's gift card (one gift card per customer please). Just place your donated coat(s) in a bag, and exchange the bag for a gift card from the host on arrival."

Coats collected at Teddy G's will be cleaned free of charge by Anton's Cleaners then made available to a network of over 90 distribution partners made up of local nonprofits, social service agencies, schools, and religious groups, including the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, to ensure the coats are given to those who really need them, also free of charge.

"For nearly three decades,

Caring Partners has had one mission: anyone who needs a coat, will have one," said Arthur Anton Jr., COO of Anton's Cleaners and founder of the program. "Local schools, companies, clubs, and nonprofits collaborate each year to collect, clean and distribute 50,000 winter coats - it is nothing short of a miracle. We are proud this program gives back directly to the communities we serve."

"Coats for Kids & Families accepts warm winter coats - kids, adults, and babies - that are gently used, good quality, and all sizes (especially XL and infant/pre-K sizes). The drive does not accept coats with rips, tears, broken zippers, or

permanent stains, nor can we accept sweatshirts, vests and spring coats," advises Jenna. "Please donate coats you would give a friend to wear in the winter, and please be sure to empty all pockets."

Teddy G's is a casual American Pub & Grille that is open for dining and take-out Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays). Reservations are accepted until 3 p.m. daily at (508) 347-1900 or (508) 347-9300.

Partners for the 2022-2023 Coats for Kids & Families drive include Anton's Cleaners, Enterprise Bank, Jordan's Furniture, Boston 25, KISS 108, JAM'N 94.5, 101.7 The Bull, and WBZ News Radio.

Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village pre-sale tickets available

STURBRIDGE — Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village is kicking off its season early this year with pre-sale tickets available to members. The popular holiday event will return with dates in November and December, inviting visitors to step into the past and celebrate New England holiday traditions of the 19th-century and today.

New to Christmas by Candlelight in 2022, the Asa Knight Store will feature six trees during the event repre-

senting the different decades of the 1800s sponsored by Oakwood Farms. Free ornament craft will be offered to guests as a hands-on activity. The Bixby House will be mulling cider, and Salem Towne House will be baking gingerbread, and other holiday treats will be offered across the Village. Also this year, Richardson House will be showcasing an international Christmas for the first time, with themes drawn from Puerto Rican traditions featured this year.

The event will also see the return of many favorite holiday activities, including some experiences that have been on hiatus for the past two seasons due to COVID-19. Highlights of the 2022 event will include:

- Sights & Scenes of Christmas - Old Sturbridge Village's 200-acre campus will be decorated for the holiday season. Guests can wander the Christmas Tree Trail and Christmas Wish Bridge, ride in the horse-drawn carry-all, enjoy

a nightly tree-lighting ceremony, visit the 500+ piece nativity set and view Christmas décor from the 1830s, 1850s, and 1870s.

- Holiday Traditions Recreated - Demonstrations will be taking place throughout the event, including making woolen ornaments and authentic marzipan, knitting Christmas stockings, baking cakes, punching tin lanterns, making pottery and more. Guests can

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Sturbridge Recreation Committee announces inaugural Sturbridge Spooky Nights

A Halloween Decorating Contest for Sturbridge residents and businesses dubbed Sturbridge Spooky Nights, presented by the Recreation Committee, is slated for Oct. 29-31 from 5 to 8 p.m. Registration and voting can be found at Sturbridge.gov/recreation and voting closes Nov. 1.

The 2022 categories include: Pumpkin Award - Best Kid Friendly Display. Not-so-scary, kid-friendly Halloween decor.

Harvest House Award - Best Fall Theme. Are you less horror and more harvest? Think flannel, pumpkins, leaves, scarecrows... classic and cute!

Horror House Award - Best Scary Display. What do you fear when you're alone in the dark? Blood, gore and horror? Creepy clowns, haunting ghosts, cemeteries? This is the category for all the things that send a shiver up your spine!

Spooky Nights Award - Best of Sturbridge Businesses!

Open to Residents and Businesses. A list

of address and road map will be provided to the public. Voting is done online and open to anyone who has viewed the displays in person!

Charlton locals to be featured in 'The Nutcracker' at Hanover Theatre

WORCESTER — Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker,' sponsored by Berkshire Bank, will return to The Hanover Theatre on November 25-26 at 2 PM and 7 PM, and November 27 at 1 PM. And local students Calle Merchant, Katherine Totman, Madison Rizzo, Nina Browning, Ella Hurley and Anna Mancini will be featured in the production.

The story revolves around Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift, and enters a magical world where the Nutcracker and other characters come to life.

"This magical production always satisfies," director of dance Jennifer Agbay said. "It prides itself on tradition, classical dance, beautiful scenery, live orchestral music and the belief that dreams really do come true!"

Tickets are on sale now! Prices begin at \$39, \$45 and \$52 depending on seat location. Please contact the box office at 877.571.SHOW (7469) or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information. Book a group of 10 and save!

The Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents

2nd Annual TREK STURBRIDGE HALLOWEEN 5K TRAIL RUN & FUN WALK

Sunday, October 30 8 a.m. to Noon

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9:30 a.m. Pre-Teen 1K Race
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(*\$30 Fun Walk Entry Fee)

To pre-register, use QR code, visit <https://my.racewire.com/event/7459>, or email laserklaus@gmail.com. You may also register on event day starting at 8 a.m.

OSV

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participate in candle dipping on-site for an additional fee.

- Storytelling - Readings of stories like "The Nativity Gospel of Saint Luke," "The Nativity Gospel of Saint Matthew," and classic Christmas tales such as "The Night Before Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and more.
- Live Music - Performances of live, festive music by costumed interpreters, musicians and bands in the Center Meetinghouse.
- Festive Food- A variety of foods and beverages available for purchase at various locations throughout the museum, including treats being made in the Village, baked goods, hot beverages, and specialty cocktails by the bonfire.
- Visits with Santa - Santa Claus will make an appear-

ance each night for little ones to tell him their special Christmas wish.

- Holiday Shopping - Unique and handcrafted items, many of which are being demonstrated during Christmas by Candlelight, will be available at the Miner Grant Store and The Ox & Yoke Mercantile each evening during the event.

Tickets must be purchased online, in advance for Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village. Tickets for the event are on sale now to members for a special, member-only discount of 20% off standard admission. Ticket sales will launch to the general public on Oct. 27 with early bird rates (10% off) through Nov. 17.

The full list of available dates and time blocks, as well as event and ticket information can be found at: <https://www.osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight-2022/>.

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LIBRARIES
continued from page A1

the younger generation.

"As we look at the evolution of what our libraries can be and we dream about tomorrow we do know that the collection of books can be moving more towards electronic than the paperback versions we have here, but we never want to lose that ability for a child to come in and pick up a book and read. I think there's no substitute for that at any time," said Packard. While both libraries are certainly thriving, the biggest setback they have faced according to both principals is staffing issues. Both libraries depend heavily on volunteer staff from within the school system and both principals even take time out of their week to make the checkout desk as well. While this creates opportunities for staff to meet students they may not otherwise interact with, it is a concerning situation, nonetheless.

"One of the biggest challenges we do have is finding the staff to be in here all the time based on the current contract that we have," said Principal Packard. "It's a great place for kids. It's just an opportunity for us to think a little bit differently and how we're going to use this resource."

Principal Starczewski echoed his colleague's statements. "We went from a few years ago 100% coverage to 50% coverage to intermittent coverage so we're doing the best we can with the resources we have," he said.

While staffing is a challenge, both schools have managed to put together dependable and dedicated teams to continue to provide the services students and teachers expect. While many might question the relevance of libraries in this new digital era of communication, the libraries at Dudley and Charlton Middle Schools are proving they are more relevant than ever as they continue to adapt and evolve with the times.

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