



STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, July 9-10, 2026

Troop 163's Anna Burns earns Eagle Scout rank

STURBRIDGE — Anna Burns of Sturbridge, a member of Scouting America Troop 163 of Sturbridge, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. She passed her board

of review on June 3. She is the ninth member of the troop to become an Eagle Scout.

For her Eagle project, Burns led the construc-



Courtesy Photo

Anna Burns
tion and installation of a telescope pedestal and an informational sign with a

planisphere at the Cedar Lake Recreational Area in Sturbridge. Burns is a

page at the Joshua Hyde Public Library and wanted to combine her fascination with space and astronomy with her work at the library, which has a telescope that the public can borrow. Her project, named the Joyce E. Sinnott Stargazing Site, honors a longtime library trustee who passed away in 2024. The pedestal and sign will move to a permanent location at Heins Farm at a later date.

Burns, who recently graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School, started in Cub Scouts in 2018 with Pack 161 of Sturbridge, and the following year became one of the founding members of Troop 163 for girls. As a scout, she has participated in numerous campouts, hikes, and adventures of all kinds, including a trip last year to Sea Base in Florida, one of Scouting America's High Adventure Bases. She earned thirty-four merit badges, as well as the National Outdoor Achievement Award for camping, and served as a troop guide and senior patrol leader. She was

inducted into the Order of the Arrow (OA)—Scouting America's honor society—and has served as the troop's OA representative, as well as a committee member of the OA Admonition Team, which aims to make the program more inclusive for all scouts. She will also serve as the Youth Contingent Leader for the next National Order of the Arrow Conference.

At Tantasqua, Burns was on the swim team and was captain of the tennis team. She was the vice president of SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Promise Club, and the parliamentarian of the National Honor Society. She will attend UMass Amherst in the fall and plans to study astronomy and biochemistry with the goal of becoming an astronaut.

Troop 163 is a Scouting America troop for girls ages 11–17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. To learn more about scouting or Troop 163, email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com.

Overlook launches free summer concert series in Charlton

CHARLTON — Music lovers have six opportunities to enjoy live outdoor performances this summer as The Overlook hosts its annual Summer Concert Series on Tuesday evenings throughout July and into August.

The free concerts will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on the outdoor commons at The Overlook, 88 Masonic Home Rd., offering a variety of musical styles ranging from jazz and brass to classic rock and blues. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of live entertainment with family and friends. In the event of rain, performances will move indoors to the Performing Arts Center.

On July 14, Quintessential Brass will take the stage, showcasing the rich sound of a traditional brass band.

Fans of classic rock can enjoy The Long Run: Songs of The Eagles on July 21, featuring many of the legendary band's best-known hits.

The Salty Sister Project Acoustic Trio will perform July 28, offering an evening of acoustic favorites and harmonies.

The series continues into August with The Reminisants on Aug. 4, bringing audiences back to the golden era of 1950s and 1960s rock and roll.

The final concert will be held Aug. 11, when The Lustre Kings perform a mix of blues, rhythm and blues, and rockabilly music.

The Summer Concert Series has become a popular seasonal tradition, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to gather outdoors and enjoy live music in a relaxed setting.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 508-403-4987 or visit OverlookMass.org/events.

Gateway Players celebrate music of Jimmy Buffett

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville," with book by Greg Garcia and Mike O'Malley, music and lyrics by Jimmy Buffett. Performance dates are

July 31 and Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Southbridge Middle/High School Auditorium, 132 Torrey Rd., Southbridge. Directed by Patricia Haddock. Produced by Kathi Grenier, Music Director

Chris Rubenacker, and Choreographer Harlie Packard. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets

may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/jimmy-buffett-s-escape-to-margaritaville>

The cast includes: Andrew St. George, Sarah Tonkin, Jonathan Martin, Abi Simpson, Billy Bolster, Gwen O'Brien, Peter Amaral, Chris Lam, Asher McCoy, Shawn Davis, Hillary Robertson, David Yutzler, Ray Petrelli, Cheri Cooper, Mari Cordero, Emma Holtz, Tiffany Betty, and Lydia Woznicki.

On a small island in the Caribbean, vacation goes and the laid-back staff of the Margaritaville bar flirt, unwind and sip drinks under the sun. When an ambitious tourist named Rachel arrives with her friend Tammy for a much-needed vacation, she finds an unexpected romance with Tully, the island bartender and musician. As paradise collides with real life, both are faced with deciding what they want beyond the sandy beaches of Margaritaville. This tropical romantic comedy has plenty to laugh at and a sweet love story — all underscored by Jimmy Buffett's classic tunes, including "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Margaritaville," "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," "Fins," "Volcano," and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia (My Name is Earl, Raising Hope) and Emmy nominee Mike O'Malley (Survivor's Remorse, Shameless), this hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you've been waiting for!

Local Scout creates Little Free Art Gallery at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Sturbridge has a colorful new reason to stop by the Joshua Hyde Public Library. On Wednesday, June 24, the community welcomed its first Little Free Art Gallery, a cheerful new addition where creativity can be shared, discovered, and celebrated.

The gallery was researched, planned, and created by local Girl Scout Eilee Reed to earn the notable Girl Scout Gold Award. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and challenges Scouts to identify a community need, create a sustainable solution, and make a lasting community impact. Eilee's project does just that by bringing free, accessible art to residents of all ages. The Little Free Art Gallery is located in front of the Joshua Hyde Public Library at 306 Main St. in Sturbridge.

Similar to the beloved Little Free Libraries found in many neighborhoods, the Little Free Art Gallery invites visitors to take a piece of art that inspires them, leave behind their own creation, or donate arts and crafts supplies for others to enjoy. From drawings and paintings to handmade crafts, every contribution adds something special to the community treasure.

Supported by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library,



the project offers a simple but powerful message:

art belongs to everyone. Congratulations to Reed

for creating a joyful new way for neighbors to connect, share, and celebrate creativity in Sturbridge.

connect, share, and celebrate creativity in Sturbridge.

Jameson Ardis of Sturbridge graduates from Hobart College

GENEVA, N.Y. — Maura and Jeff Ardis of Sturbridge are pleased to announce that their son Jameson Ardis, a

2022 graduate of Tantasqua Regional High School, has been awarded dual Bachelor's degrees in Education and Environmental Studies from Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y. (upstate / Finger Lakes region).

Hobart (for men) and William Smith College (for women) form the Hobart & William Smith Colleges (HWS.edu), a private liberal arts institution of 1700 undergraduates with one campus, one faculty, and one administration, with distinct NCAA D3 athletic branding. Tracing its origin to 1797, HWS offers students more than 70 areas of study on the edge of Seneca Lake. Graduates include Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to hold a medical degree in the United States and a pioneer in her field. HWS' President is Dr. Mark Gearan, who led the Peace Corps from 1995-1999 under President Clinton. HWS pursues The Best of Each for the Betterment of All, to prepare students to lead lives of consequence.

Jameson was a four-year NCAA varsity swimmer, guided campus tours and supported admissions events, and studied abroad at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He is also a professional competitor in the Japanese skill toy Kendama, sponsored by a manufacturer and traveling globally for competitions.

Following his fifth summer on the senior staff of nearby YMCA overnight summer Camp Woodstock, Jameson will become the Aquatics Director at the Hale YMCA in Putnam, Connecticut, a branch of the Hartford YMCA network.



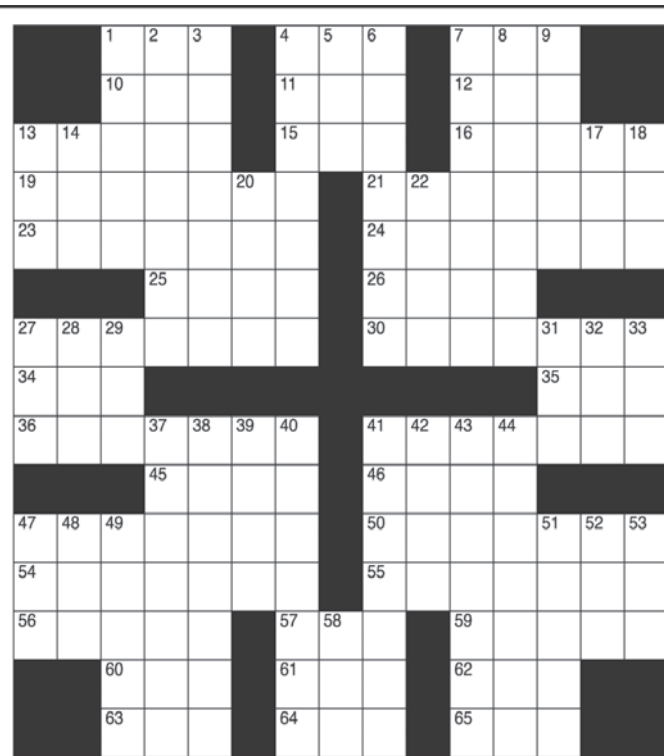
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tire pressure measurement
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007's creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 13. Cloths spread over a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. We all take them
- 21. Earl's jurisdiction
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Rummy-like card game
- 25. Affected by injury
- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Withdrew from a union
- 30. Woman's cloak
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Something you can take
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 47. Makes somber
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. A tool to inject
- 55. Support
- 56. Informal term for money
- 57. Catch doing something wrong
- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. High resolution microscope
- 64. Pitching statistic
- 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Indoor plant
- 2. Marketable
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Irish hip-hop trio
- 7. Ageless
- 8. Course requirements
- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV channel
- 14. They ___
- 17. Cooking material
- 18. Investment account
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river
- 27. Small coin (French)
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Unhappy
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Item to be addressed
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. A place for ships
- 44. One who sings holiday songs
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Scottish town
- 49. The most worthless parts
- 51. Sticky
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Precursor to the EU
- 58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)



Charlton \$630,000, 13 Stoneybrook Rd, 13 Stoneybrook Road Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Alves, Marcos Felipe-Melo, and Alves, Barbara Castro C. \$460,000, 18 Oak Ridge Dr, North, Dawn M, and North, James, to Noel, Matthew.

SOUTHBRIDGE \$380,000, 97 Plimpton St, Frederick, Brian, and Frederick, Lisa, to Gil, Miguel.

\$378,500, 85 Idlewood St, Sahn, Zogonmia, to Dupuis, Gordon, and Dupuis, Mary. \$370,000, 87 Red Fox Blvd, Premont, Kathleen


R, and Azzam, Mohommad, to Russo, Tyler, and Russo, Ashley E.

\$230,000, 115 Riverview Pl #D, Russo, Tyler, and Russo, Ashley, to Grundel, Joseph, and Levine, Rylee.

\$220,000, 34 Maria Ave #A, Champney, Lisbeth A, to Machado, Yaceira Mary H.

\$150,000, 35 Crestwood Dr, Crossen, Christopher R, and Crossen, Christopher, to West, Anthony, and Blair, Sarah.

STURBRIDGE \$393,000, 38 Bentwood Dr #38, Bessette, Dianne J, to Nippard, Peter.



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- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
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- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
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- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 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
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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
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- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
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Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church** "Where the Bible is preached." 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
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Pastor Dan Purtell
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Local students honored at annual SkillsUSA Workforce Development Event

ATLANTA, Ga. — A career and technical education student in Massachusetts was recognized with a certificate of accomplishment at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) held June 1-5 in Atlanta. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce.

As an indicator of proficiency, Skill Point Certificates were awarded to SkillsUSA Championships competitors who met a predetermined threshold score for their respective competition. Students can add this certificate, an indicator of career readiness, to their employment portfolio.

The following student(s) from your area is a Skill Point Certificate recipient:

Team W (consisting of Brett J Beltzer, Kennadie T Balcunas, Aaron M Lackovic, Sarah H O'Donnell), from Bay Path RVT High School (Charlton), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

To be invited to the SkillsUSA Championships, students first had to win their state-level competition, demonstrating their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills. The national competition featured state champions from middle school, high school and college/postsecondary divisions across the country in 115 hands-on career and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, public speaking and more.

"This showcase of career and technical educa-

tion demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. "Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels."

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres. It's supported by leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions who planned and evaluated the competitors against their industry standards. More than 2,000 industry judges and technical committee members also volunteered their time to ensure a successful event.

The next NLSC will be held June 21-25, 2027, in Atlanta. Learn more about SkillsUSA, the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, at www.skillsusa.org.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. SkillsUSA represents more than 440,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. Those members represent 130 in-demand occupational areas, from 3-D animation to welding. A vital solution to the skills gap, SkillsUSA has served over 16 million members since its founding in 1965. Learn more at skillsusa.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn.

Brayden Michaelson named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Brayden Michaelson of Charlton has been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Spring 2026 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2026 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized. Michaelson is majoring in History & Social Studies Ed at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world

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

UAlbany recognizes Eben Mazeika of Sturbridge on Spring Dean's List

ALBANY, N.Y. — The University at Albany has recognized Eben Mazeika for selection to the Spring 2026 Dean's List.

The Dean's List at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and

a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

About the University at Albany

The University at Albany is one of the most diverse public research institutions in the nation and a national leader in educational equity and social mobility. As a Carnegie-classified R1 institution, UAlbany faculty and students are advancing our understanding of the world in

fields like artificial intelligence, atmospheric and environmental sciences, business, education, public health, social sciences,

criminal justice, humanities, emergency preparedness, engineering, public administration, and social welfare. Our courses are taught

by an accomplished roster of faculty experts with student success at the center of everything we do. Through our parallel commitments to academic excellence, scientific discovery, and service to community, UAlbany molds bright, curious, and engaged leaders and launches great careers.

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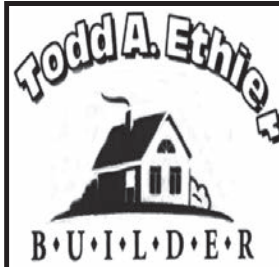
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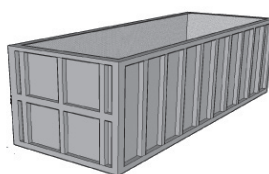


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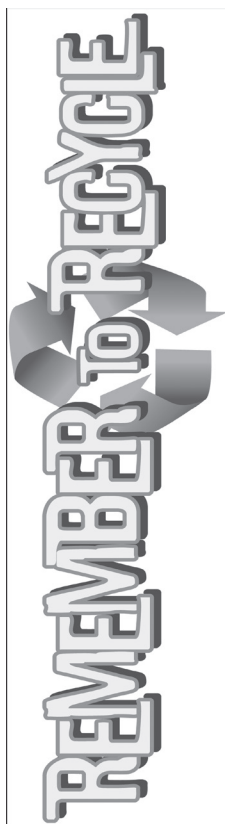


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Qualified contractors are invited to bid on a set of contract documents for the construction of The Mechanic Street and Pleasant Street Complete Streets Improvements in the Town of East Brookfield. Class of work is Highway-Construction. Invitation for Bidders (IFB) Packages with specifications and a sample contract will be available on June 23, 2026.

Request for bid documents can be emailed to Christopher Lyman at clyman@hshassoc.com. Sealed bids entitled "Bid for Mechanic Street and Pleasant Street Complete Streets Improvements" will be accepted at the East Brookfield Highway Department, located at 424 East Main Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515, until July 28, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Bids submitted after this time will not be accepted.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Looking to the stars while serving the community

The rank of Eagle Scout has always represented more than completing a checklist of merit badges or leading a community project. It reflects years of perseverance, leadership, service and a willingness to leave a place better than it was found. Those qualities deserve recognition wherever they are found, and they are on full display in the accomplishments of Sturbridge's newest Eagle Scout, Anna Burns.

Burns' Eagle Scout project is notable not simply because it created a new community resource, but because it reflects thoughtful creativity. Rather than choosing a project that would be completed and forgotten, she envisioned a place where curiosity could flourish for years to come. The Joyce E. Sinnott Stargazing Site connects residents with the night sky while honoring a woman whose dedication to the Joshua Hyde Public Library helped enrich the community. It is a fitting reminder that education and public service often go hand in hand.

There is something especially meaningful about a project centered on astronomy. In an age dominated by phones, screens and constant distractions, encouraging people to slow down, look up and appreciate the universe above them is a gift in itself. The addition of a telescope pedestal and educational signage creates an opportunity for families, students and amateur astronomers to learn together while enjoying one of nature's greatest displays.

Burns' achievement also highlights how much Scouting continues to offer young people. Leadership is not learned in a classroom alone. It develops through planning, problem-solving, teamwork and overcoming challenges. Organizing an Eagle Scout project requires coordinating volunteers, managing budgets, working with community organizations and following through until the final task is complete. Those are real-world skills that serve young adults long after the project is finished.

Her accomplishments extend well beyond the Eagle rank. Participation in Scouting America's High Adventure program, leadership within the Order of the Arrow, athletics, student organizations and academic success all point to someone who has embraced every opportunity to grow and contribute. None of those achievements happen by accident. They are built over years through discipline, encouragement from mentors and support from family, troop leaders and the broader community.

Perhaps most inspiring is Burns' ambition to study astronomy and biochemistry while pursuing her dream of becoming an astronaut. Whether or not that goal ultimately takes her into space, it reflects the value of encouraging young people to dream boldly. Communities benefit when they celebrate ambition rather than dismiss it as unrealistic. Every scientist, engineer, physician or explorer begins as a curious student who wondered, "What if?"

Her story also serves as a reminder of the importance of opportunities for young women in Scouting. Troop 163 was founded only a few years ago, and Burns is already its ninth Eagle Scout. That remarkable accomplishment demonstrates the enthusiasm and dedication of its members and leaders. The expansion of Scouting has allowed more young people to experience programs that develop confidence, leadership and a lifelong commitment to service.

Communities are strengthened not only by roads, buildings and budgets, but by the character of the people who call them home. Every time a young person volunteers, leads a project or dedicates themselves to helping others, the entire town benefits.

The stars that inspired Anna Burns are unimaginably distant. Yet through her service, leadership and example, she has already made a lasting impact much closer to home. That is something worth celebrating.

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

The Hidden Danger of Investing Too Cautiously

One of the most significant risks investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk that their savings won't grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

- Risk tolerance describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you'd want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

- Risk capacity refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn't have that same cushion.

- Required risk describes how much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes, these elements don't line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn't just add up a little. It multiplies. That's the power of compounding — returns earning their



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own returns, year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn't choose between playing it so safe your money barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you're comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time.

The age factor: You'll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio

may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio's value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you've built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn't about eliminating risk; it's about taking the right amount of it. Too little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation, and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk, and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates, and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

The bench nobody reserved

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

Every town seems to have one.

It's not famous. It doesn't appear on postcards. There's no plaque explaining its historical significance. It's simply a bench.

Maybe it's outside the library. Maybe it's on the town common, beside the post office, or tucked beneath a maple tree near the bandstand. People walk by it every day without giving it much thought. Yet that bench has probably heard more stories than anyone in town.

I found myself sitting on one recently while I waited for an appointment that was running behind. It wasn't a particularly comfortable bench. One armrest was loose, the paint had faded, and the seat tilted just enough to remind you it had been through a few New England winters. Still, people kept coming and going.

An older gentleman stopped to rest after his morning walk. A mother tied her son's sneaker before they continued toward the playground. Two friends chatted for ten minutes before heading in opposite directions. A teenager sat long enough to finish an ice cream cone before pedaling away. None of them stayed very long.

That's the beauty of a town bench. It's a place where nobody feels obligated to linger, but nobody feels rushed to leave. We don't seem to have many places like that anymore.

Coffee shops often expect you to buy something. Restaurants need your table eventually. Even parks seem busier than they once were, filled with organized games and scheduled events.

A simple bench asks nothing of you. You can sit quietly. You can wave to people you know. You can watch the clouds build over the hills or count how many dogs pass by before lunch. For a few min-

utes, you become part of the rhythm of the town instead of racing through it. I think that's something we've lost without realizing it.

We're very good at getting somewhere. We're not nearly as good at simply being somewhere.

Years ago, people naturally found themselves lingering in public spaces. They visited on front porches, gathered around

the town common, or leaned against pickup trucks outside the feed store. Conversations weren't planned. They simply unfolded because people happened to cross paths.

Today, our schedules are tighter and our attention is divided. Even while sitting on that old bench, I noticed several people scrolling through their phones instead of looking around. I understand the temptation. I do it myself.

But every now and then it's worth putting the phone away and seeing what's happening right in front of you. You might notice the child determined to jump over every sidewalk crack. The couple debating where to have lunch. The robin tugging an earthworm from the grass with surprising determination. Ordinary moments don't make headlines, but they're often the ones we remember.

Eventually, my appointment was ready, and I stood up to leave. As I walked away, someone else took my place without missing a beat. The bench didn't care who sat there. It simply waited for the next conversation, the next quiet moment, the next person who needed a place to rest for a little while.

Every town should have a bench like that. And every now and then, we ought to take the time to sit on it.

TO THE EDITOR

Sturbridge America250 Committee thanks parade supporters

To the Editor:

The Sturbridge America250 Committee thanks the various supporters and volunteers for their efforts to create and carry out a successful parade on Saturday, June 27. The Sturbridge Police Dept., especially Lt. Larry Bateman, worked hard behind the scenes to plan for the day, to work on the road closures and signage, and to provide safety during the event. Jen Neely and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) also contributed to the parade's staging and safety.

A number of local businesses supported the event. They included: Sturbridge Coffee House, providing coffee and water. Cameron and Fairbanks for the donation of the boutonniere for Grand Marshall Bob Briere and the corsage for Special Guest and Oldest Resident, Virginia Jalbert. Old Sturbridge Village allowed us the use of their Museum Education facilities and private access road for staging the parade, and to place the bleachers on the property of the Reeder Family Lodges.

Still seeking classmates for Bartlett Class of 76 reunion

To the Editor:

Families and friends of Bartlett High School, class of 1976: This is our last ditch effort to try and locate the last 14 of our "lost and missing" classmates.

We have made wonderful strides and have contacted almost all of our graduating classmates, except for these last few names.

We ask if you know where they are, new last names, addresses, phone or cell numbers or e-mails, and can share with us, to please send us an e-mail, text or a message on Facebook, or have our classmates reach out directly to one of us. We want everyone to have the chance to attend their 50th class reunion in September.

Thank you so much for any help you can provide.

Missing classmates:

Linda Barone
Brett Buksar
Robert Bennett
James Pizzetti
Marilyn Gagnon (Kozielewicz)
Alan Kozlowski
Cheryl Lowe
Donna Meagher (Lagano)

Deborah Moroz (Batterson)
Timothy Richardson
Anne Marie Szkutak
Debra Stefaniak (Leno)
Patricia Zachara
Richard Zalewski

Patty (O'Connell) Battista
pattybattista123@gmail.com
(508) 965-9265
Facebook: Patty O'Connell Battista

Donna Shutts
dshuttsre@gmail.com
Facebook: Donna Shutts

Kathleen Jewell-Kelleher
Kkelleher251@gmail.com
Facebook:
Kathleen Jewell-Kelleher

Bartlett High School Class of 1976

Joshua Hyde Public Library

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

STORY TIMES

SUMMER BABY TIME - Join us for rhymes, songs, and lap bounces.
Mondays at 10:45 a.m. – July 13, 20, 27, and Aug. 3

SUMMER TODDLER TIME - Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft.
Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. – July 14, 21, 28 and Aug. 4

Jess Ertsgard named to President's List at Miami University

OXFORD, Ohio —Jess Ertsgard from Sturbridge was named to the Miami University spring 2026 President's List.

Miami University students ranked in the top 3 percent of undergraduate students within each division for the spring 2026 semester have been named to the President's List, recognizing academic excellence.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of over 22,600 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by the U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio-with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg-Miami serves more than 22,600 undergraduates across more than 100 areas of study, and more than 2,200 graduate students through 78 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds \$2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is an NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student-athletes across 19 varsity sports. For more information, visit MiamiOH.edu.

FRONT LAWN FRIDAYS - Join us for stories and outdoor play.
Fridays at 10:45 a.m. – July 17, 24, and 31

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Registration is required. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

BATIK ART FOR KIDS: PART ONE*
Wednesday, July 15 at 2 p.m.

BATIK ART FOR KIDS: PART TWO*
Friday, July 17 at 2 p.m.
*Batik Art is for ages eight to 14. Kids must attend both parts.

OWL PELLET DISSECTION
Saturday, July 18 at 2 p.m. For ages seven to 12.

MAKE IT MONDAYS - At 3:30 p.m.
For ages seven to 12.
July 13 - Clay Dinosaur Eggs

PUPPET SERIES
Thursday, July 16 at 1:30 p.m. - No-Sew Sock Puppet for ages seven to 12

WEDNESDAY MORNING MOVIES
- At 10:30 a.m. - All movies are rated PG
July 15 - The Good Dinosaur

SCAVENGER HUNTS - In the Children's Room
Archaeology - July 8 through July 21

SUMMER COLORING CONTEST
Pick up a coloring page at the library and return it by Aug. 5. Entries will be displayed in the stairwell and one winner from each age group (three to five years; six to nine years; 10-12 years) will be chosen by the staff.

TEEN PROGRAMS
Registration is required.

TEEN CRAFTERNOONS - For ages 12 to 18.
Thursday, July 16 at 3:30 p.m. - Punched Metal Lantern

TEEN & ADULT PROGRAMS
Registration is required.

JUNK JOURNAL COLLAGE PROGRAM
Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.

SUMMER TAKE & MAKE CRAFTS
Week of July 13 - Macrame Leaf Keychain

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

To register for programs and for more information go to sturbridgelibrary.org.

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St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish & Shrine announces 139th Annual Novena to Saint Anne

FISKDALE — St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish & Shrine invites the public to the 139th Annual Novena to Saint Anne, taking place Saturday, July 18 through Sunday, July 26. The Novena offers nine days of prayer, worship, and fellowship, bringing together Catholics from many cultures and communities throughout New England.

“This year’s theme is ‘One in Christ, United in Mission,’ which reflects the diversity of the Church and the unity we share through our faith,” said Fr. Salvator Musande, pastor. “As diverse as we might be, we share in the common mission of the Church: making missionary-disciples,” he added. “Everyone is welcome to attend one day, several days, or the entire Novena.”

For more than a century, pilgrims and visitors have gathered at St. Anne Shrine to honor Saint Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus. The tradition of praying a novena dates back to the nine days of prayer between Christ’s Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Today, novenas continue to be a cherished Catholic devotion, offering an opportunity for prayer, thanksgiving, healing, and spiritual renewal.

Each evening of the Novena includes:

- 5:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation in the St. Anne Church Sacristy
- 6:30 p.m. – Rosary Procession beginning at the Generations Statue



Courtesy Photo

Rosary Procession held before the Novena Mass in the Outdoor Pavilion. Photo provided by St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish.

near the Gift Shop
• 7 p.m. – Novena Mass in the Outdoor Pavilion

Local University of Rhode Island students named to Spring Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 Dean’s List. Among them are:

- Stella Buday of Fiskdale
- Libby Dodson of Sturbridge
- Lindsey Ferreira of Sturbridge
- Elise Mazeika of Sturbridge
- Paige Fontes of Uxbridge
- Bianca Latulippe of Charlton
- Rylie Loftus of Uxbridge
- Luke May of Charlton
- Kyle Norberg of Charlton

Jeff Popsuj of Charlton

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 through 3.79 grade point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 through 3.79 grade point average.

Students named to the Dean’s List represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and

towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Fiskdale resident named to Clemson University Dean’s List

CLEMSON, S.C. — Hannah Marie Wright from Fiskdale majoring in Biological Sciences, has made the Clemson University Dean’s List for Spring 2026.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, undergraduates must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing at least 12 graded semester hours, excluding Pass/No Pass coursework.



Courtesy Photo

The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley recently awarded its annual scholarship to Samantha Norberg of Charlton. Norberg, pictured in the center of the front row below, plans to attend the University of Vermont, where she will study American History. To recognize her achievement, the Black Tavern Board of Directors invited Norberg to attend the Society’s monthly board meeting. During the meeting, she had the opportunity to meet with board members and participate in a commemorative photograph celebrating her scholarship award. The Board congratulated Samantha on her academic accomplishments and extended its best wishes for continued success in her college studies and future endeavors.

This year’s guest celebrants and participating communities include:

- Saturday, July 18 – Filipino Community, Rev. Alex Castro, A.A.
 - Sunday, July 19 – Vietnamese Community, Rev. Peter Tam Bui
 - Monday, July 20 – Hispanic Community, Rev. Hugo Cano
 - Tuesday, July 21 – Polish Community, Rev. Richard Polek
 - Wednesday, July 22 – Parish Community, Rev. Dominic Mbaze, A.A.
 - Thursday, July 23 – African Community, Rev. Enoch Kyeremateng
 - Friday, July 24 – Brazilian Community, Rev. Cleber de Paula
 - Saturday, July 25 – The Cursillo Movement, Rev. Donald Ouellette
- The Feast of Saints Anne and Joachim will be celebrated on Sunday, July 26, with:
- Noon – Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick, celebrated by Rev. Salvator Musande, A.A.
 - 7 p.m. – Closing Liturgy featuring the Parish Choir, celebrated by Rev. Chi Ai Nguyen, A.A., Provincial of the Assumptionists, North American Province

Saint Anne is known as the patron saint of mothers, grandmothers, women in labor, and those seeking to conceive. As the grandmother of Jesus, she is a beloved figure to whom many bring their prayers, hopes, and intentions. For additional information, directions, or a complete Novena schedule, visit www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com.

Carissa Allard of Charlton earns Dean’s List Honor

HAVERHILL — Congratulations to Carissa Allard of Charlton on earning a spot on the Dean’s List for the Spring ’26 semester! Your hard work is paying off, and all of us at NECC are proud of your achievement.

To be included, students must attain a grade point average of 3.3 or higher within the term, carry six or more credits within the term, and be matriculated in a degree program.

Northern Essex Community College, the first Federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC offers many bachelor’s degree transfer options, workforce development and community education classes, and is host to the NECC Police Academy, MassHire Merrimack Valley, and Gallaudet University’s Regional Center for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit Northern Essex online at www.necc.mass.edu.

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Hitchcock's Summer Concert Series rocks Brimfield Town Common on Wednesday evenings

BRIMFIELD — The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., July 1 through Aug. 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged.

The series kicks off on July 1 with Woodshed, bringing Acoustic Folk, Country & Americana. Members Jason Wood of Brimfield, along with A.J. Kiernan, Karen Gallant, and Mike St. Germain are four musical friends who found each other through a love of music and mutual admiration, and are known for their signature three-part harmony. BT's Smokehouse will be on site.

July 8 brings The Island Castaways whose love of Buffet-style escapism infuses the pride they take in creating a relaxing atmosphere where there are many smiles, laughter and dancing, and lasting good time memories that create the ultimate Trop Rock experience. The featured food truck will be Flippin' the Bird BBQ.

After a week-long hiatus for July's Brimfield Flea Market, The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra returns on July 22. Conducted by Sam Falchetti, the nation's first digital accordion orchestra features about 20 musicians from across New England. Using state-of-the-art Roland digital accordions, the group replicates the sounds of various instruments like flutes, trumpets, and a rhythm sec-



tion to showcase an impressive range of genres including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country, and Rock. BT's Smokehouse will return on this evening.

July 29 is all about polka with the return of The Eddie Forman Orchestra, also known as "E.F.O.," a western Massachusetts polka band that has been performing before audiences since 1968. Eddie Forman started the band while he was still in high school, and has been creating and recreating music ever since, garnering one of the largest polka followings in the New England area. Off The Hook will be the evening's featured food truck.

August 5th brings the Brimfield debut of The Willies - a popular, community-focused classic rock and Americana band based out of Belchertown. The band performs across the Western Mass region, playing high-energy hits from the 1950s through

the 1980s, modern country, and rock standards. Flippin' the Bird BBQ returns for this concert.

Long-time series favorite CobbleStoneRoad of Connecticut returns on August 12th with high-energy country. Well-known throughout the region for playing modern and classic country hits from the 1990s to today, their energetic style mixes classic country with rock and blues. Smashing Patties will have their concert series debut this evening.

The series closes out on August 19th with Hard Knox, a Westfield, Massachusetts-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and "forgotten classics" setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the '70s and '80s, making them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern Connecticut music scenes. BT's Smokehouse

will return to bookend this year's food truck lineup.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Country Bank, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Hitchcock Summer Concert Series At-a-Glance:

July 1 Woodshed
Acoustic Folk, Country & Americana | BT's
July 8 The Island Castaways
Tropical Rock | Flippin' the Bird BBQ

July 15 No concert

(Flea Market Parking Fundraiser)

July 22 NE Digital Accordion Orchestra
Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country & Rock | BT's

July 29 Eddie Forman Orchestra
Polka Band | Off the Hook

Aug. 5 The Willies
'50s, '60s, '70s & more! | Flippin' the Bird BBQ

Aug 12 CobbleStone Road

Country | Smashing Patties
Aug. 19 Hard Knox

Classic sounds of the '70s, '80s, & '90s | BT's

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

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OBITUARIES

Sumner D. Barr, 102



After a long life and a conspicuous lack of illness, Sumner D. Barr of Brimfield died at 102. Born in Worcester to Marjorie and George Barr, he is predeceased by wife Dorothy, brother Wayne, and son Glen.

He had a tremendous will to live; the morning he died he rose and sat at his kitchen table at his usual time. He lived in his home for over 75 years; his wish was to die there. He remained sharp witted and well-groomed to the end.

An inveterate, tireless worker, Sum held a wide variety of jobs over his lifetime. As a child he candled eggs at his aunt's chicken farm. He learned farming, cooking, basic electrical and plumbing as a teen, and worked in various mills and factories in the area. After graduating from Hitchcock Academy, he bought and learned to operate a bulldozer. In 1944 after serving in the Army, he started a construction company with his brother Wayne. Graduated from embalming school in NYC, but did not pursue that career, sold caskets, worked as a government clerk, became a licensed electrician and electrical inspector, held positions as police chief, fire chief, and on the select board and highway department. A sergeant on the Wilbraham Police

force for 6 years, he concurrently attended American International College earning his BA and MA in 1972. He became a science teacher at Tantasqua Jr. High, cherishing that work and his students. He often would say "I never called out sick, was never late, never left early. I gave detention regularly, stayed late. Was lunch monitor for all lunch periods every day for 14 years. I don't know if the kids liked me, but I liked them. I was firm but fair."

Sumner was a local historian, being a rare remaining resident of East Brimfield Village, which now lies under the reservoir.

He and brother Wayne moved, rebuilt and restored many exhibits at OSV, notably the blacksmith shop and covered bridge. They also did extensive work at the New England exhibit at the Smithsonian.

Sum enjoyed motorcycles, cars, and long drives around New England seeking ice cream and seafood. He listened to music daily. Aptly, Natalie Cole's Unforgettable was his favorite song. He was a 32nd Degree Mason of the Dayspring Lodge.

He leaves his loving daughter, granddaughter, many nieces, nephews and beloved friends. He would appreciate donations to the Shriner's Children's Hospital or Audubon.



Frisbie's Dairy Barn to celebrate National Ice Cream Day with 24 hours of scooping!

STURBRIDGE — In honor of National Ice Cream Day on Sunday, July 19, Frisbie's Dairy Barn is taking on its biggest celebration yet: keeping all six locations open for 24 consecutive hours. The walk up window at 195 Charlton Rd. will hold its first ever 24 hour celebration!

From breakfast-inspired ice cream flavors, limited-edition flavors and surprises throughout the day, guests are invited to celebrate the sweetest holiday of the year anytime—morning, noon, or midnight.

"It's a celebration of everything we love about ice cream throughout the year— you may also see some seasonal favorites reappear for one day only!" said co-owner Kendra Walker. "You'll have to stop by to check out exactly what we've

got going on!"

What began as a fun tradition at Frisbie's original New Britain location in 2021 has grown into an annual celebration that customers look forward to each year. Now in its sixth year, the tradition has expanded alongside the company's growth, with all Frisbie's locations participating in the 24-hour event for the first time. We will open at midnight into Sunday morning and stay open until 11:59 p.m.

"We're attempting something that nobody has done before—operating all six of our locations for 24 straight hours," said owner Paul Parks III, who came up with the idea 6 years ago. "It's a huge undertaking, but it's a celebration worthy of ice cream. National Ice Cream Day is our favorite holiday, and we

can't think of a better way to celebrate with our communities."

Participating locations include New Britain, Windsor, East Lyme, West Hartford, North Attleboro, and Sturbridge.

For updates and event details, follow @FrisbiesDairyBarn on Instagram.

About Frisbie's Dairy Barn

Founded in New Britain, Connecticut, Frisbie's Dairy Barn is a family-owned ice cream company known for its homemade, small-batch super premium ice cream. With six locations across Connecticut and Massachusetts, Frisbie's is dedicated to creating memorable experiences and serving handcrafted ice cream to communities throughout the region.

LEGALS

Public Hearing Town of Sturbridge Liquor License

The Select Board of the Town of Sturbridge will consider an application for a Beer & Wine Beverage License for Iron Club LLC located at 365 Main Street. The application will be considered at a meeting of the Select Board on July 20, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall 2nd Floor, Town Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA. Any person wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at that time.

July 10, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on July 15, 2026, at 7PM on the application of Renee Bowlin.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal and installation of a new septic tank and leech field within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Address: 65 Old Spencer Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 3-B-13

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

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
July 9, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Angela Broden, Alan Broden to Bank of America, N.A., dated August 23, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39630, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Bank of America N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on March 20, 2012, in Book No. 48693, at Page 132

Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on July 1, 2024, in Book No. 70707, at Page 350

Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-C, recorded on January 29, 2026, in Book No. 73135, at Page 293

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on August 3, 2026,

on the mortgaged premises located at 71 Shepard Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

the land in said Sturbridge, with the buildings thereon situated, and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, bounded and described as follows:

Being Lot No. 9 as shown on plan entitled "Revised Plan of Lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, owned by William A Swiacki, dated April 1967, Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor" said Plan not of record, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin on the easterly side of Shepard Road;

THENCE N. 14° 00' E. along the easterly side of said Street, a distance of one hundred thirty-five (135.0) feet to an iron pin in the ground;

THENCE S. 76° 00' E. a distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet;

THENCE S. 14° 00' W. a distance of one hundred thirty-five (135.0) feet;

THENCE N. 76° 00' W. a distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39629, Page 389.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST IX-C

Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27034

July 9, 2026

July 16, 2026

July 23, 2026

Town of Holland

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 07/17/2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Request for Determination (RDA) filed by Michael Thibeault for rebuilding stairs at 39 Vinton Rd Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office, Town Office Building on Mondays (12:30 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).

Conservation Commission

Town of Holland

July 9, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on July 15, 2026, at 7PM on the application of Hayley Palazola.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the realignment of an existing driveway to be adjacent to 241 Sturbridge Road, and to connect to municipal water and sewer. Address: 240 Sturbridge Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 31-C-5

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

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
July 9, 2026

Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 7:15 P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community

Room, Holland, MA 01521.

If dial in access is needed, please contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108 x101.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Variance** according to Holland Bylaw **section: 240-5.0. Relief requested:** Alleged inadequate frontage for split lot, regarding Dover Amendment protected use.

The property located at: **Mashapaug Rd. Parcel ID # 10/A /5**

Don Beal, Chairperson

Zoning Board of Appeals

Date: 6/23/2026

July 2, 2026

July 9, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate

and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO26P2039EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Grace E. Nugent

Date of Death: 02/14/2026

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Thomas A. Nugent of Charlton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/21/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: June 26, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

July 9, 2026

Drought conditions prompt water restrictions

SOUTHBRIDGE/CHARLTON — The Massachusetts Drought Task Force issues a Level -2 Significant Drought status for Worcester County. The Town of Southbridge now has to require that all Southbridge and Charlton water customers refrain from all outside water use except for handheld watering between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m. Please turn off all outside sprinkler systems.

This declaration from the State also applies to homes with private wells.

Certain water uses are not subject to restrictions such as production of food and fiber, health and safety reasons, maintenance of livestock, and core functions of a busi-

ness (for example irrigation for a nursery).

For the general public's information, Currently the Southbridge Water Departments reservoir system is at 100.1 percent of total capacity. This is within our historical average for this time of year.

The declaration is a county wide declaration, and not due to any current water storage shortfalls within the Southbridge Water Department. This declaration is part of new laws and regulations put forth by the State legislature, and enforcement went into effect in April of 2025.

To be clear, the Southbridge Water department is not experiencing any water storage

shortages currently.

The declaration of Level- 2 significant drought will remain in effect until the State

Drought Task Force deems that the conditions within Worcester County have returned to acceptable levels.

More information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/drought-management-task-force> Please feel free to

contact the Southbridge Water Department at 508-764-3207 if you have any questions or concerns.

Local University of Rhode Island students named to Spring President's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 President's List. Among them are:

- Lidia Barbalho of Sturbridge
- Erin Farrell of Sturbridge
- Lizzy Maxfield of Brimfield
- Makena Pentoney of Holland
- Vanessa Ricci of Brimfield

To be included on the

President's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.80 through 4.0 grade point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.80 through 4.0 grade point average.

Students named to the President's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's

cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the

global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

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Community Broadband Networks and Massachusetts Broadband Institute announce launch of high-speed Internet initiative in South Worcester County

SOUTHBRIDGE — Community Broadband Networks (“CBN”), funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech), is pleased to announce the launch of its project within the Residential Retrofit Program, bringing affordable, high-speed fiber internet service to residents across South Worcester County. The initiative formally commenced with a Go-Live event on June 17, 2026, at 60 Charlton Street in Southbridge, the first property to receive CBN service under this transformative program.

Supported by funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the American Rescue Plan Act’s Capital Projects Fund, the Residential Retrofit Program is designed to deliver reliable, gigabit-capable broad-

band infrastructure to underserved multi-dwelling communities. This investment represents a significant step forward in expanding digital access and ensuring that residents in historically underserved areas have the connectivity necessary to participate fully in today’s digital economy.

The June 17 Go-Live event celebrated the activation of service at the Southbridge Housing Authority property located at 60 Charlton Street. Residents had the opportunity to learn more about available service offerings, engage directly with the CBN team, and take advantage of early enrollment opportunities. The event also served as a community gathering to mark the beginning of a broader effort to modernize connectivity throughout the region.

“This launch represents a meaningful

milestone not only for Southbridge, but for the entire region,” said James Orioli, Chief Operating Officer of Community Broadband Networks. “Our mission is to ensure that reliable, high-speed internet is both accessible and affordable for all residents. Through our partnership with MBI, we are proud to deliver critical infrastructure that will support education, workforce development, healthcare access, and overall quality of life for the communities we serve.”

The 60 Charlton St. deployment represents the first phase of a broader infrastructure initiative that will extend throughout South Worcester County, including communities such as Southbridge, Charlton, Sturbridge, Oxford, Webster, and surrounding areas. Construction across the project footprint is scheduled to occur through July 2026, with phased service activations continuing thereafter as each location is completed.

As part of the Residential Retrofit Program, CBN is deploying a fiber-to-the-premises network architecture within participating properties, enabling residents to access high-capacity, low-latency broadband service. The network is designed to deliver symmetrical gigabit speeds, with scalability to support future increases in demand. In addition to infrastructure improvements, the program includes a strong emphasis on digital equity, ensuring that residents have not only access to service, but also the tools and support necessary to fully benefit from connectivity.

“Through the Residential Retrofit Program, MBI is providing affordable and reliable access to help residents gain digital skills, apply for jobs and access community resources,” said MBI Director Michael Baldino. “Our partnership with CBN across South Worcester County will uplift historically marginalized communities, narrowing the digital divide and expanding economic opportunity in the region.”

The project includes enhancements

to in-building infrastructure, expanded connectivity to individual residential units, and improvements to shared spaces to support reliable internet access throughout each property. These investments are intended to create a long-term, sustainable broadband solution that meets the needs of residents today while preparing communities for the future.

The Go-Live event at 60 Charlton Street marks the beginning of this broader regional deployment and underscores the shared commitment of CBN and MBI to closing the digital divide across Massachusetts.

Community members interested in learning more about the service or upcoming availability are encouraged to contact Community Broadband Networks for additional information.

About Community Broadband Networks (CBN)

Community Broadband Networks is dedicated to expanding access to reliable, affordable broadband services in underserved and unserved communities. Through strategic partnerships and investment in modern infrastructure, CBN delivers high-quality connectivity solutions that support economic development, education, and community growth.

About the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech

A division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is working to extend high-speed internet access and availability across the state. To achieve this, MBI uses state and federal funding to launch infrastructure expansion programs that target areas of the state that lack high-speed internet access as well as digital equity programs that tackle barriers to internet adoption and increase availability, addressing critical issues around affordability, enhanced public Wi-Fi, the need for internet-enabled devices, and digital literacy training.

Friday's Child



Angel
Age 14

Registration #8894

Angel is a bright, independent young man with a kind and compassionate heart. He is funny, witty, and enjoys connecting with others through his great sense of humor. An exceptionally talented athlete, Angel loves sports and especially enjoys playing baseball and football. Although he modestly describes his abilities as “just alright,” his confidence and skill are evident every time he steps onto the field. His dedication, teamwork, and natural athleticism make sports an important part of his life. When he's not playing sports, Angel enjoys spending time playing video games and watching

movies. Looking ahead, he dreams of becoming an athlete, though he remains open-minded and excited to explore other possibilities for his future. Angel is a thoughtful, determined young man with a bright future ahead of him. He is eager to continue pursuing his interests, exploring new opportunities, and building meaningful connections with those around him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21181421315>

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

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



Bay Path celebrates 59 CTI graduates, expands workforce training programs

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 59 students from its Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program last eve-

ning, marking a significant milestone in the program's continued growth and impact. The CTI program, launched in 2024, provides adult learners with access to high-quality, hands-on technical training designed to meet regional workforce demands. Last night's graduates represent a diverse group of individuals who demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to building new career pathways. Many balanced work, family, and personal responsibilities while completing rigorous 200-hour training programs that prepare them for immediate employment in high-demand industries.

“This graduating class represents the heart of what the CTI program is all about—opportunity, access, and workforce readiness,” said Marci Komssi, Program Coordinator. “We are incredibly proud of these 59 graduates and the determination they demonstrated throughout the program.”

The success of the CTI program is made possible through continued state investment and workforce development partnerships. As part of the Commonwealth's commitment to economic recovery and growth, \$24.2 million was awarded to 23 organizations throughout Massachusetts to train 2,490 individuals. These strategic investments, led by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet, are designed to expand access to career pathway programs and better position residents to fill critical workforce needs across the state.

- Building Maintenance
- HVAC
- Culinary
- Manufacturing
- Auto Collision
- Auto Technology
- Diesel Mechanic
- Welding
- Electrical

Since its inception, the CTI program has continued to expand in both enrollment and program diversity, attracting students from local communities as well as across the region. The program remains a critical component of Bay Path's efforts to support workforce development and provide meaningful career pathways for adult learners.

For more information about the CTI program or to apply for upcoming opportunities, please contact Marci Komssi at mkomssi@baypath.net. Building on this momentum, Bay Path is expanding its program offerings to reach even more adult learners. For the first time, the school will offer a 200-hour Building Maintenance program in a five-week hybrid summer format, running from June 29 through July 31. This program is offered in partnership with MassHire, with applications opening this week.

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MLS #73512426 List Price: \$ 615,000

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MLS#73542689 \$1,650,000.

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 12-2
Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces/FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom MLS # 73500183 \$479,900

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage
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Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa

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Webster Lake Waterfront!!
On Indian Point # 10



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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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Paul Revere & Friends brings Revolutionary fun to Oak Haven Campground

WALEs — Laughter, music, and plenty of audience participation filled Oak Haven Campground on July 3 as families gathered to celebrate America's 250th birthday with a



Courtesy Photo

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is pleased to highlight the July artist, Laurie Boniface. Her opening reception is Saturday, July 11, 3 to 7 p.m. The galleries will be open Saturday and Sundays throughout the month, noon to 4 p.m. The Ruth Wells Center is located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge. Founded as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities, the organization fosters art, music and culture in the community with monthly exhibits, Open Studio, Photoworks 2.0, as well as workshops for youth and adults. Laurie Boniface is well known as the founder of Sadie Greens retail establishment in Sturbridge. Her exhibit will feature photos, paintings and jewelry. The opening reception welcomes everyone. For more information, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or call 508-909-6155.



performance by Boston's National Award-Winning Musical Ventriloquist Kevin Driscoll, appearing as Paul Revere & Friends™.

Camper's of all ages quickly became part of the show, transforming the morning into an interactive celebration of American history, comedy, and music.

Among the morning's biggest crowd-pleasers were adult campers

by the idea that British General Gage was a bully to the Boston colonists.

Driscoll had the audience laughing when he assured everyone that David and Paula did not sing at the same time, joking, "We're not that good."

The celebration took a heartfelt turn when one of Driscoll's puppet characters performed a brief rendition of "Happy, Happy Birthday." The audience then joined together to sing the traditional "Happy Birthday" to young camper T.J., creating one of the morning's most memorable moments.

Children eagerly volunteered throughout the performance, taking turns on stage with tambourines, maracas, and drumsticks while helping provide the musical accompaniment. Many also discovered what it takes to become a ventriloquist by selecting a puppet from Driscoll's well-known big drum case. Each young volunteer stepped up to the microphone, learned to move

the puppet's mouth, and proudly counted, "One, Two, Three," using a brand-new puppet voice. Their enthusiasm earned loud applause from family members and fellow campers alike.

Adding to the Revolutionary spirit, Driscoll reminded the audience that while there is no historical evidence that Paul Revere ever owned a talking dog, "if he did, it probably would have looked and sounded like Doug the Talking Dog."

Driscoll also thanked Oak Haven Campground staff members Becky, Dave, and Sue for their hospitality and for helping create a welcoming atmosphere for the holiday celebration.

As communities across the country commemorate the nation's Semiquincentennial, the July 3 performance at Oak Haven Campground offered a lighthearted reminder that history can be educational, interactive, and fun—especially when the audience becomes part of the show.

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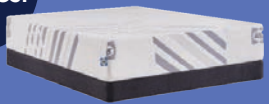
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