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Friday, April 11, 2025

Join the movement and make a difference on the trails!

REGION — Are you ready to give back to the trails you love? The Bay State Trail Riders Association invites you to join us for a series of exciting and impactful trail workdays this spring! Together, we'll enhance and preserve our beautiful outdoor spaces, ensuring they remain safe and accessible for horseback riders, hikers, and nature enthusiasts alike.

Here's your chance to roll up your sleeves, connect with fellow trail lovers, and leave a lasting mark on your favorite state forests:

April 26: Park Serve Day at Douglas State Forest

- Check-in: 8:30 a.m. | Work Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Location: Headquarters Building, 107 Wallum Lake Rd., Douglas
- What We'll Do: Cutting and brushing back trails, trimming to the correct height for horseback riders, and clearing winter debris.

April 27: Park Serve Day at Upton State Forest

- Check-in: 8:30 a.m. | Work Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Location: 205 Westboro Rd., Upton
- What We'll Do: Cutting and brushing back trails.

May 10: Trail Workday at Hodges Village Dam, Oxford

- Check-in: 8:30 a.m. | Work Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Location: Greenbriar Recreation Area, Route 12, Oxford (entrance next to 581 Main St.)
- What We'll Do: Cutting and brushing back trails, trimming up, and cleaning winter debris.

No special skills are required, just enthusiasm and a love for the great outdoors! Please come prepared with:



- Hand saws
 - Loppers
 - Pole saws
 - Long pants and sturdy work boots.
 - Heavy-duty gloves.
 - Tick spray (ticks are active this time of year).
- Water will be available, and a delicious lunch will be provided to fuel your efforts.

Let us know you're coming! Register via our Web site at www.bstra.org or email us directly:
- Douglas and Hodges Village Workdays: becky.bstra@protonmail.ch
 - Upton Workday: hc07645@gmail.com

Every hand helps, every hour counts, and every contribution leaves a positive mark on our trails. Come join our community of volunteers and be a part of something meaningful. Let's create trails that inspire adventures for years to come!

Schools brace for loss of federal funds

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — State officials announced last week that schools across the Commonwealth will be impacted by the Trump Administration's decision to terminate education grant funding.

Gov. Maura Healey joined officials statewide in condemning the Trump Administration's decision to terminate \$106 million in grant funding meant to support K-12 education in Massachusetts.

"At a time when students are still struggling to recover from the pandemic, we need to be doing everything we can to address learning loss and the youth mental health crisis. Instead, President Trump suddenly ripped away more than \$100 million in funding that is supposed to go right to Massachusetts students and schools," Healey said. "This action is jeopardizing mental health care and math tutoring for our students, as well as projects that are already underway to enhance school security and ensure that the air in our school buildings is clean."

In the years since pandemic shutdowns and hybrid learning severely disrupted education systems from 2020-'21, school officials nationwide have seen a rise in behavioral and mental health struggles for students at all levels.

Looking ahead, state officials warn that the loss of federal funding could have lasting negative effects on students.

"Massachusetts has been making important progress helping students recover from the pandemic, but President Trump is trying to take us backwards," Healey said.

Although the state is scrambling to find stopgaps, officials said the loss of federal funds will prevent students from accessing several planned programs and mental health supports.

"The federal government and states should be working together to invest in capital projects that improve the learning environments for our students and support their education and wellbeing," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "Massachusetts does not have the resources to replace all of the funding that President Trump is terminating. These are more devastating terminations that impact our students and schools today and well into the future."

Federal funding was intended to support a host of statewide efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic on learning, with a focus on literacy, math, and science.

"We are not back yet from the pandemic. We know that many students in Massachusetts and across the country are still experiencing pandemic-related learning loss and mental health challenges," said Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, who visited several local schools this past fall, including East Brookfield Elementary School. "The federal government had repeatedly reaffirmed these extensions in acknowledgement of continued supply chain issues, labor shortages, and to ensure continuity in learning acceleration efforts. Projects funded by these grants are underway. The Trump Administration's outrageous and cruel decision, in which we received notice of a new arbitrary deadline, will have real harm to our students and their learning and wellbeing."

Officials said the funding was slated to address critical gaps by supporting mental health services; math tutoring; and the purchases of instructional

Wings of Song prepares for upcoming concerts

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Capping a three-year exploration of the theme "Home," local community chorus Wings of Song is preparing for a pair of concerts next month.

The programs are set for Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18.

"Home, for many of us, is our only real sanctuary, our safe harbor, the place where we can be most fully ourselves, the place where all our beloved stuff is, the place where we're with the ones we love," read a statement

Turn To **WINGS** page **A8**

Master Masons hold myCHIP community outreach event

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

MILLBURY — On Saturday April, 5, Masons from the 24th Masonic District gathered at the Millbury Senior Center to a large crowd of waiting children to get there identification kits completed.

This Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program called (myChip) was sponsored by The Olive Branch Masonic Lodge from Douglas.

Committee Chairmen Brother Dean Moss of the Olive Branch Lodge asked me if I knew that more than a million children are reported missing in the United States every year. While most are found, many are not. I was surprised and shocked to hear this. This Masonic myChip Program is the most comprehensive service of its kind anywhere. It is free of charge to the public, and all the identifying items generated during this myChip community event are given to the child's family.

At these myChip events, the Freemasons set up the equipment and enlist the aid of other Masons from through the 24th Masonic District and volunteers, as necessary, to generate and complete these child identification kits. Each child progresses through several stations taking about 10-15 minutes to get all the required information for the entire process of that station. Some of the required information are voice recognition, fingerprints, video clip and photo identification, to name a few to be used as required in this identification process. MYCHIP



Courtesy

Center in front of the height scale is a very happy young man 8-year-old Joesph Posterro of North Grosvenordale after completing his stations and holding his I.D. paperwork and USB drive wallet card. Behind him are volunteer Masons from the 24th Masonic District.

provides Law Enforcement with important tools to assist in the speedy and safe recovery of a missing child. Through the benevolence of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and its membership, we are pleased to present this service free of charge. Massachusetts Freemasons are committed to offering this program to the families of Massachusetts on an ongoing basis. The information recorded is presented to the child's parent or guardian on a USB drive wallet card to take home for safe-keeping.

All information is confidential.

Turn To **MASONS** page **A8**

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Plummer Place

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(508) 234-2002 Northbridge Senior Center's 50th Anniversary Gala, Thursday, June 19th from 4:00-8:00pm at Pleasant Valley Country Club. This amazing event, a fundraiser and a benefit to celebrate the Northbridge Senior Center's 50th year, includes a three-course meal, dancing to "Flamingo" a 15 piece all women big band, raffles and a silent auction. Also included is valet parking. Tickets

are \$50 per person, and you may purchase your tickets at the Center starting Monday, March 3rd. Tickets are limited, don't miss this exciting event!

Grief Support Group meets Monday, April 14th at 2:00pm. Sign up in the main office or call Michelle at Plummer Place for more information.

Read Between the Lines, Plummer Place Book Club, will meet Wednesday,

April 16th at 10:30am.

Hearing & Communication Strategies, Wednesday, April 16th from 1:30-2:30pm. This discussion will be focused on hearing loss and the importance of hearing well for social and mental well-being. Learn ways to improve your communication across different environments for those with and without hearing loss.

SINGO,

Wednesday, April 30th from 1-2:00pm. What is SINGO? It's a new and exciting musical spin on the traditional game of BINGO. Instead of listening for a number, players are listening to their favorite music. Space is limited; \$5 cash/person payable at the day of the event. Sign up in the main office.

Plummer Place Singers meets on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. Raianne Richards will lead you as a group, to develop your skills, to enjoy the camaraderie, and to perhaps sing for others. If you would like to

join this group, please call the Center to sign up. The cost is \$5 per class.

"Writing Your Way" will meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:30pm. All writers are welcome to share their writing with others, get motivated to write their story, and get feedback from fellow writers! Lori Gannon is the instructor for this class, call the Center for more information. \$5/class.

Meditation group meets every Thursday at 9:30am. Set your intentions to start your day

in a calm, relaxing manner. There is no commitment, join us when you can. Beginners to meditation are always welcome.

We are accepting donations for our Plummer Place Café. Heavy duty plasticware utensils, heavy duty plates large and small, bowls, napkins, plastic cups, crystal lite packs, bottled water either large or small, creamers, decaf coffee and regular coffee, Shaw's gift cards. We appreciate all donations to help our café run successfully!

TRIBUNE ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

BLACKSTONE

\$625,000, 39 Elm St, Hazlett, Patrick J, to Peripoli, Dave P, and Peripoli, Suzanne Y.

\$585,000, 62 Summer St, Desouza, Ivarmar A, and Dasilva, Daniela, to Lelakes, Lauren E, and Lelakes, Scott M.

\$490,000, 195 Lincoln St, Mansfield, Cheryl A, to Hollander, Eric A, and Hollander, Delaney T.

\$430,000, 6-8 Saint Paul St, Hennigan, Mark F, to Casalima Properties LLC.

DOUGLAS

\$1,100,000, 116 Davis St, K9 Realty LLC, to 116 Davis Street Rt.

\$70,000, W St (off), Paine, Andrew F, and Paine, Jonathan R, to Burch, Josiah P, and Burch, Jane E.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$500,000, 143 Prescott Rd, Tancrell Eugene R Est, and Tancrell, James A, to Tartakoff, Joseph A, and Tartakoff, Courtney J.

UXBRIDGE

\$609,790, 189 Crownshield Ave #A, Woodlands Uxbridge Rlty L, to Baker, Peter A, and Baker, Alexis E.

\$541,000, 38 Brown Ter, Richardson, Aaron, and Richardson, Robert O, to Balasco, Nicholas P, and Dina, Ariana.

\$435,000, 114 Carrington Ln #114, Holzgraf, Julie, to Tolivaisa, Kurt.

\$609,790, 189 Crownshield Ave #A, Woodlands Uxbridge Rlty L, to Baker, Peter A, and Baker, Alexis E.

\$541,000, 38 Brown Ter, Richardson, Aaron, and Richardson, Robert O, to Balasco, Nicholas P, and Dina, Ariana.

\$435,000, 114 Carrington Ln #114, Holzgraf, Julie, to Tolivaisa, Kurt.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

ROCHDALE

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE

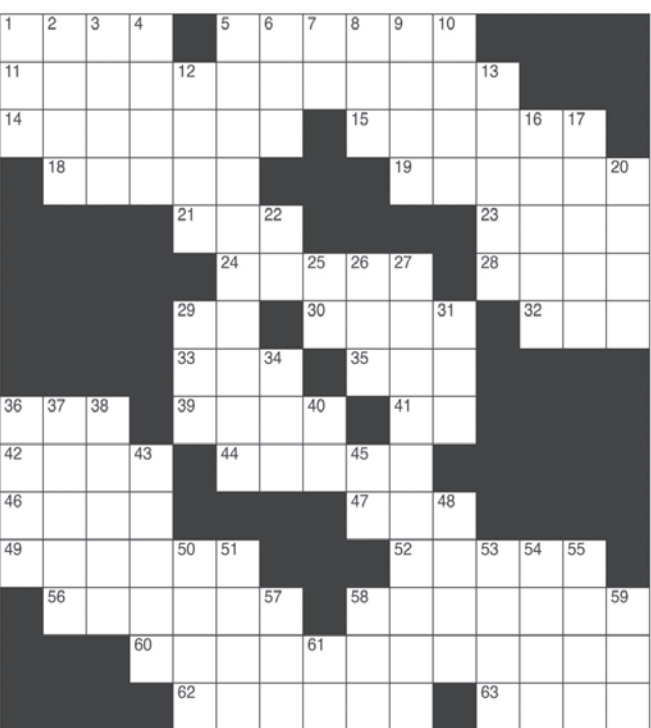
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER

Webster-Dudley Food Share
4 Church St #2
Webster, MA 0570
Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 - 11:00 am. Open to Webster and Dudley residents.
Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool

5. A way to preserve

11. Gratitude

14. Domestic sheep

15. Simpler

18. Cavities containing liquid

19. Large fish-eating bird

21. Ocular protection index

23. Phil __, former CIA

24. Icelandic poems

28. Pop

29. Device

30. Actor Rudd

32. A pituitary hormone

33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

36. Young women's association

39. Not shallow

41. Doctor

42. Furniture

44. Hindu male religious teacher

46. Highly spiced stew

47. A way to communicate

49. Almost last

52. Astronomer Carl

56. Small horses

58. A slender tower with balconies

60. A disrespectful quality

62. Fully shaded inner regions

63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option

2. Oil cartel

3. Agile

4. Greek goddess of discord

5. Genetically distinct variety

6. Indicates badly

7. Popular Mr. T character

8. Consumed

9. Chinese dynasty

10. NFL great Randy

12. Within

13. Palm trees

16. Fungal disease

17. Tall, slender-leaved plants

20. Affirmative! (slang)

22. A passport is one

25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)

26. Swiss river

27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives

31. Portable computer screen material

34. A crying noise of a bird

36. Sticky, amorphous substance

37. Starchy dish of dried tubers

38. Type of acid

40. Partner to "Ma"

43. 16 ounces

45. The Bay State

48. A well-defined track or path

50. Substitution

51. Defined period

53. Group of toughs

54. Region

55. Famed Scottish Loch

57. Blood relation

58. Not around

59. Recipe measurement

61. Father to Junior



PET of the WEEK



Ms. Piggy

Meet Ms. Piggy! She has been soaking up all the love in her foster home, and showing her silly, loving side. Piggy loves doing zoomies and playing with squeaky toys, and with her favorite people she's the ultimate snuggle bug. Always ready to lounge on the couch for TV binging and belly rubs. Piggy is crate trained, sleeps soundly through the night, and house trained. She's done well when left alone during the workday and will happily greet you with a wagging tail when you come home.

Piggy can be a little nervous of new experiences at first, but has been working on her confidence. She's food motivated and such a smart girl. She already knows, "sit," "down," "stay," "wait," "place," "paw," "front," and "touch." With her love for treats, she's always eager to learn, and is looking for a family who wants to continue working with her.

Piggy enjoys walks in quieter areas or trails in the woods to explore. Her favorite is playing and smelling all the scents in her foster homes fenced yard. Busier areas can be a little overwhelming for her, so city life or apartment living, is probably not the best fit for this girl.

With the new year here, she is ready to find her family, one that will shower her with love, patience, and plenty of snacks! Apply today!

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Whitin Intermediate School announces honor roll

U X B R I D G E — Whitin Intermediate School has released its honor roll for Term 2 of the 2024-2025 school year.	Lynch, Owen M c S w e e n e y, Olivia Racki, Drew Rollins, Parker Rollins, B r i a n n a Troland, Robert T u r c o t t e, C h a r l o t t e Vanderzicht	Lynch, Tyley Martin, Khloe Martins, Jacob Mastroianni, Julie Mikhaeil, Avery Mitchell, Julia Nakazano, J a y d e n Nazareno, Keira Nicoll, Julia Olson, Madeline Pidgion, Carlo Roffo, Nicholas Rota, Ella Ryan, Kyrie Sannicandro, Owen Shay, Curtis Sockwell, Olivia Spiecker, Emelia Tibbo, Ayla Troland, Colton Trottier, L e k s h a r a Velmurugan, Tristyn Woodall	Aldrich, Benaiah Arsenault, Eliza Barbutto, Melody Barron, Jaxton Bates, Adam Bianco, Willow Brayman, Liam Brodeur, Tatum Burke, Jordan Charron, Cassius Clinker, Virginia Clinton, Cole Devine, Nathan Fark, Maverick F i t z g e r a l d, Aiden Forss, Dylan Fortier, Isla Fortin, Joseph Guertin, Mya Jackman, Matthew Kibe, Tuiafetoa Kruse, Logan Kustan, George Lalakidis, Jacob Lane, Vincent Larson, Samuel Lavergne, B r a y d e n McGrath, Nathan Moore, Bayla	Morris, Miller Neshe, Katelyn Oliveira, Mila P a c h o m s k i, Vidhya Patel, Jordan Poirier, Julie Resende, Riya Shastri, Isaac Tartakoff, Devyn Thomas, Ella Twomey, Sophia Walton, Peyton Whitlock, Austin Whitney, Rowan Woodall	Edith Doe, Daniel Donahue, Isaiah Frometa, Zoe Grimala, Kellyn Hankey, Dominic Harlow- Freeman, Isabela Hernandez, Ryan Ivanoski, Landyn J a s t r e m s k i, A b b i g a i l	Tycen Jones, Phoebe Keniston, H u d s o n Kirschenbaum, Lily Labrecque- Brodeur, Ella L a f o n t a i n e, Henry LeBlanc, Emma Malloy, A b b i g a i l	M a n d i l e, Clara O'Neill, Kwenneith Paul, Gavin Pezzullo, Emma Ramos, Xavier Rego, Lucas Spratt, Brayden Vaidya, Cayden Welch, Nola White
High Honors Grade 6: Riley Barnicle, Zachary Black, Mia Blanchard, B e n j a m i n Brauningner, J a c k s o n Buckley, Sadie Cahill, Carsyn C a m m u s o, Cameron Cote, Oliver Coutu, Annalee DeBalsi, Nathalie Gomes, Lauren Gover, M a d e l i n e Jansen, Kaitlyn J o h n s o n, B e n j a m i n	Grade 7: Blaze Baldwin, Olivia Balicki, Owen Black, Dylan Carter, Jasmine Carvalho, David Chappel, Reece Clinton, Enzo Colonna, Bailey DeMarco, Quinn Gilmore, Sierra Gomes, Evan Goryl, Erin Guertin, Emily G u i l h e r m e, Ethan Hamilton, A u r o r a Hawkins, Ruth Keane, Jaelyn Loja, Avery	Honors Grade 6: B r a y d e n Affonce, Brayden	Grade 7: Sophia Aldrich, Kaylee Almy, Myah Anderson, Landon Balanca, Charley Beland, Lila Berard, Emma Bruyere, Ezra Burbank, Sara Castillo Estrada, Hunter Chappel, Talia Chinappi, Eleni Demetroules, Jacob Derouen,				



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DiPrete Engineering opens Milford office

MILFORD — DiPrete Engineering is excited to announce the opening of their new office in Milford. This expansion strengthens the firm's presence in the region and enhances its ability to serve clients across Massachusetts and beyond. DiPrete Engineering is a leading civil engineering, planning and surveying firm with over 35 years of experience in environmental permitting, civil/site design, stormwater management, environmental engineering, landscape architecture, and land surveying. DiPrete's primary area of expertise is in regulatory permitting for both the public and private sectors, with extensive experience in permitting large and medium-sized projects throughout New England. The firm has offices in Cranston, R.I., Newport, R.I., Dedham and Milford.

Michael Mattox elected to membership in Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

B A T O N ROUGE, La. — Michael Mattox of Northbridge was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Framingham State University. Mattox is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." About Phi Kappa Phi Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Identity politics is exhausting, and misses the point

Somewhere along the way, we were convinced that being politically aware means picking a side and sticking to it no matter what. Red team, blue team. Us vs. them. You're either all in or you're out. Here's the thing no one wants to admit unless you're an elected official, no one actually cares what "side" you're on.

Your neighbor doesn't care if you vote left or right — they care if you help them dig out after a snowstorm. Your community doesn't benefit from your party loyalty, it benefits when you show up, vote on the issues that matter, and take action that improves real lives.

This performative, party-first mindset we've fallen into is exhausting. Frankly, it's childish. Political parties were never supposed to be tribal identities, they were supposed to be tools. Temporary alliances to move policies forward. Instead, we've turned them into something resembling sports teams, where people root for their side no matter how bad the playbook gets.

What if we stripped away the party labels altogether? What if we voted on the issues themselves instead of accepting whatever bundle of policies a party wraps in its packaging? Most people don't fit neatly into one ideological box and pretending we do has only divided us more.

We should be holding elected officials accountable, not treating them like mascots. We should be debating ideas, not defending party lines like we're in some playground argument. And we should stop letting political branding override personal thinking.

Want to be a true patriot? Read up, show up and stop picking sides as though we're all choosing a dodgeball team. Vote like it's about the issues. Because it is. And like your own future, and that of the generations that will follow you, depends on it. Because it does.

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.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remember the reason for the Easter season

To the Editor:

What I believe. Time to be an ordinary God-fearing conservative Christian.

The Reason for the Easter Season? Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we approach Easter, which falls on Sunday, April 20, take a moment to consider the phenomenon of the Bible.

It is the best-selling book of all time: five billion copies sold. It remains the most published book in the most languages (3,384 languages at last count). Wait, what? The Bible? Yes, the Bible!

The Old Testament was written starting in the 8th Century B.C. (Before Christ), continuing up to the New Testament, written in the First Century A.D. (Anno Domini, the Year of our Lord).

Don't let the Lefties who hate western civilization fool you when they change B.C. to BCE (Before the Common Era). My Learned Friend says BCE means Before the Christian Era. They have also changed A.D. to CE, the Common Era. My Learned Friend says that CE stands for the Christian Era.

All of our calendars are based on the time Before Christ and the Time of Christ. Every date and every calendar you have is based on the Life of Christ. How profound is that? His life's mission work lasted only three years. Three.

Did you know that the Word of God continues to change people? The fast-

est growing Christian communities in the world are in non-Christian countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, China, Indonesia and Africa.

The Iranian Revolution in 1979 brought the severe Islamic government to power, ruled by men (women are banned from all normal society). Since then, Christians in Iran have been persecuted. Missionaries were deported, Bibles banned.

Many feared Christianity would perish in Iran, but the opposite happened. In the years since this severe repression, more Iranians have become Christians than in the previous 13 centuries!

Did you know that our most essential values come from the Bible? Do not murder. Do not covet your neighbor's goods (do not steal). Do not bear false witness against your neighbor (do not lie under oath). Do not commit adultery.

Did you know that many common phrases we use in every day conversation come from the Bible?

"Fight the good fight." 1 Timothy 6:12.

"A wolf in sheep's clothing." Matthew 7:15

"Rise and shine." Isaiah 60:1

"The Powers that be." Romans 13:1

"Go the extra mile." Matthew 5:41

"The blind leading the blind." Matthew 15:14.

"If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into a ditch." Makes me think of social media and TikTok.

...coming home to roost!

the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, to alleviate the effects of the Great Depression, passed the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act, which raised tariffs to collect more revenue for the Federal government. It served to sink the country even deeper into depression. But who cares about history, right Neville Chamberlain? (While she's at it, can we get an example of students being "indoctrinated into Broke Woke World?")

Re "...coming home to roost" – a wise person once said "elections have consequences." Never has that been more damningly evident than what is transpiring within the department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Trump said that he was going to turn Bobby (RFK, Jr. – ex-heroin addict, and brain worm conspiracy advocate) loose on health care. Now we know what 'loose' means. The following are excerpts from a new Vanity Fair magazine article:

"If you've ever used eye drops that didn't blind you, or been injected with a sterile drug that helped heal you instead of killing you, thank Dr. Timothy J. Pohlhaus. Yesterday, he, along with six of his eight member team, were fired. They were the ones responsible for the intense review of some of the worst manufacturing lapses, including those involving sterility failure. Pohlhaus and his team were among the thousands of employees at the FDA and other federal health agencies who were abruptly informed on April 1, that their services were no longer needed. The slashing was so wide and deep that it can be hard to get a handle on just how much public health expertise was lost yesterday. The chief veterinary officer within the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Tristan Colonius, was fired. He had been working to help contain a bird flu outbreak currently burning through the nation's dairy cows and threatening to spark a pandemic among humans. Also axed: critical expert analysts at the Detroit Medical Products Laboratory, which tests dietary supplements in response to consumer complaints and allegations of fraud. (They were the ones who called Dr. Oz in front of Congress to bring a halt to his bogus dietary supplement business. Republicans have now rewarded Dr. Oz's corruption by confirming him to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, overseeing the nation's largest health insurance programs. Now we'll learn what "not going to touch Medicare or Social Security" really means.)

The affected offices at the FDA may not be household names, but they per-

Opinion and commentary
from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

Why do too many people exclaim the name of Jesus Christ if something goes wrong? Because His Name has the most power to save or condemn. No other name has that power. Once, it was too much for me, and I cautioned a person who did this in my presence: "Are you calling on God, or are you cursing God? Maybe you really do not want to be cursing God?"

When I shared this story with a Christian friend, she said: "If someone had sworn Jesus Christ in my presence, I would have said: where? Where?!"

Our Lord can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine and we need his help because Satan, the prince of lies, is skulking around, roaring like a lion, looking for someone to devour. He is feasting on those who cannot tell you what a woman is, those who destroy Tesla dealerships, and those judges who demand terrorists be returned to America from a prison in El Salvador. Criminal illegals.

Let us also consider this verse: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." Genesis 50:20. Let us pray that God will use this evil and turn it around for the good of America.

Time to pray, eat, work, repeat. Pick up that Bible and read it!

Bev Gudanowski
Uxbridge

form critical work that protects every American and helps shape the regulatory decisions of manufacturers and foreign health agencies around the world, which rely on the FDA's expertise. Relying on algorithms rather than real-world understanding of how the FDA operates, DOGE lopped off key arteries of the public health system, decimating divisions for everything from the approval of new drugs to the regulation of tobacco products. We all know that we can trust big business to 'do no harm'...except maybe for Purdue Pharma, the Sacklers and OxyContin.

A White House spokesperson referred reporters to a Health and Human Services press release from March 27 that stated that the reduction of 10,000 employees across health agencies would consolidate HHS's 28 divisions into 15 that would prioritize "ending America's epidemic of chronic illness by focusing on safe, wholesome food, clean water, and the elimination of environmental toxins." How does this square with Republicans just repealing all EPA air and water contamination regulations, to appease their rich corporate donors? Someone explain this to me... please?

In his neverending battle against vaccines, 'Bobby' has initiated another study of the relationship between vaccines and autism. It's his personal Moby Dick – his white whale. To lead the study, which of course is not 'waste and fraud,' even though any relationship has already been debunked by previous studies, Bobby has tapped David Geier, a longtime vaccine critic. According to the WSJ, "Mr. Geier has spent decades spreading the discredited theory, embraced by Mr. Kennedy, that thimerosal in vaccines causes autism and neurological damage in children." He also claims that better nutrition and hygiene—not vaccines—are responsible for the disappearance of deadly infectious diseases. (So the new measles outbreak is because people stopped washing their hands, not because they were unvaccinated?) I wonder how that study will turn out? The WSJ also expressed concern that Kennedy's actions would result in a brain drain at HHS, citing the abrupt departure on Friday of Peter Marks, who led the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. We're going back to leeches and blood letting.

This is the beginning-of-the end for we-the-people. You voted for this. What does that say about you?

Rick Bevilacqua
Whitinsville

Save it

newspaper, you must provide your name, address and phone for the purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. To purchase alcohol, to cash a check at a bank, to get direct deposit or a savings account, to enter a federal building, to get a learner's permit and obtain a driver's license, to go to a college or university, to be an audience member at the democratic national debate you need identification! You need an ID for just about everything in this country, and the mere notion that people have to climb a mountain of obstacles to get that proof is utterly ridiculous.

We already have foreign countries such as Russia, China and Iran trying to influence our elections, and we don't want people who broke our laws to get into this country voting in American politics, and that includes state and federal elections. George Soros is another problem who throws his money to elect soft district attorneys, and why does he do this? It's no secret George Soros hates America, but he is another

To the Editor:

For a total of four weeks now, I have been in the op-ed section of Blackstone Valley Tribune, and much appreciation to the Editor. One of the articles from April 4 called "Oppose the Save Act and Protect Americans' rights to vote" has me puzzled as to the motive of the person who wrote it.

We live in a Constitutional republic, not a democracy, and have done so for over two centuries. No one is trying to stop any American from voting in the election unless you aren't a citizen of the U.S. If you were born in the United States, you will have proof of citizenship via a birth certificate, and everyone has access to those documents, and it's not rocket science. When you sign your child up for school, the parent or guardian needs the following: proof of residence, birth certificate, legal guardianship, shot records, health exam records, and previous school records. To get anything in this country, you need an ID of some sort, and to write in this

topic for another day. What concerns me the most is why aren't the people in Whitinsville and Douglas speaking out against George Soros? The people opposing the SAVE act are the same people who said nothing as millions of illegal citizens invited by the Biden administration poured into the country. These illegals were even flown, bussed, and given cell phones from our government and once again we the people will pay for it via some tax. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE) is long overdue and there will be voter fraud committed every time we have an election at the State or Federal level if it's opposed. We the people want only American citizens born and raised here voting in our elections period and to think that a birth certificate, or identification in this day is way too difficult to get is crazy talk.

Thanks again for reading.

Mike Downing
Whitinsville

Coloring Easter Eggs Naturally

Easter is right around the corner, and for many, the annual ritual of coloring eggs is an anticipated yearly tradition. But there's no need to run out and buy a fancy egg coloring kit, as you likely have the ingredients to make up a rainbow of colorful eggs right in your kitchen cupboard!

The following ideas are fun and easy to do family egg coloring projects.

Note: Eggs that are to be eaten should always be refrigerated after coloring.

Quick and Easy Classic Food Coloring Dye

This homemade mixture rivals the basic egg coloring kits. Use empty egg cartons to dry the eggs.

Mix three quarters of a cup warm water with one tablespoon white vinegar. Add one quarter teaspoon of (no artificial dye) food coloring. Note: gel food coloring works best.

Make individual batches of color in wide mouth mugs or small bowls. Dip and soak hard boiled eggs in mixture to color.

Natural Egg Dyes

Note: Patience is the key to bright colors as it could take a while to achieve.

Red: Save the skins from onions and boil for one half to one hour. The more skins you use and longer you soak, the darker color will be. A small amount of skins will produce a light lavender color.

Pink: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of cranberry juice or pickled beet juice with 1/2 tsp of vinegar until desired hue is reached.

Lavender: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and 1/2 tsp of vinegar until color is to your liking.

Blue: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and 1/2 tsp of vinegar. Soak overnight in the refrigerator if you want a dark, rich color.

Yellow: To a cup of hot water, add one and a half teaspoons of turmeric and one half teaspoon vinegar.

Golden Tan: Save skins from yellow onions. Add to water when hard boiling eggs.

Brown: Add one tablespoon of instant coffee and one half tsp. vinegar to a cup of water. Drop in hard boiled egg and allow to sit until desired color is reached.

Pastel Hues: Rub blueberries and cranberries directly on the shells for soft blues and pinks.

Waxed eggs
Here is a super idea for creating waxed eggs that are truly impressive!

Ingredients: Wax crayons; paper towels; egg dyes in different colors; cooking oil.
Instructions: Draw a heavy crayon pattern on hard boiled egg. Dip egg in egg dye, preferably a dark color. Leave in dye until desired color is reached. Remove with slotted spoon and place in 200 degree F oven for a few minutes until wax is melted. Wipe with paper towel and dip again in lighter dye to fill in pattern where wax was. Polish finished eggs with cooking oil and soft cloth.

Reader Hint: This hint from reader Donna Lewandowski was received after last week's reader hint column was submitted- but it is timely for making Easter dishes with eggs:

To remove eggshell fragments from your bowl, use a piece of eggshell. The sharp edge of an eggshell helps to remove the fragment.

Reminders to extend the life of Easter lilies long beyond this season:

Prolong Potted Plant: Easter lilies are gorgeous plants, and with a few tricks you can prolong their life as a potted plant way past the Easter holiday.

If you are purchasing the plant yourself, choose a healthy looking plant with a few flowers in full bloom but with most unopened. Keep potted soil moist and place in a cool 60 to 65 degree room where it can get some indirect sunlight. Avoid direct heat and direct sunlight. Be sure the pot is on a saucer, and if it is wrapped in foil be sure the foil doesn't trap any water in the bottom of the pot. Help your lily last even longer by snipping off the pollen laden anthers from the center of the blooms.

Longer Lilies: When your Easter lily has seen better days, don't toss



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

it out! Your potted lilies can last for years to come if you plant them outside. To do: When leaves and stems turn yellow and or brown, trim them back and plant the bulb directly into the garden after the threat of frost has passed. For best results, plant the bulb in about three inches of good soil in a sunny or partial shade area. Top with another three inches of mulch, peat moss, compost, etc. (bulb is six inches underground). Water as needed.

Keep in mind transplanted lilies won't bloom until next summer. Keep well mulched during the winter and next spring remove extra mulch to help lilies sprout up.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House
Your tips can win you a great din-

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

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

A time-machine and a litany of disasters

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP
LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

In light of current market volatility and uncertainty around tariffs, many investors are naturally worried about their portfolio and questioning the outlook for stocks. We are, after all, emotional creatures, and this is especially true when it comes to investing.

Imagine, for a moment, we build a time machine and decide to go back in time to study investor behavior throughout a litany of disasters.

First, we travel back to May 9, 1940. Sadly, we see that Germany just defeated France and WWII is ramping up. Global tension and fear is rampant. The stock market drops over 18 percent in less than a month. It won't be long before the Attack on Pearl Harbor takes place, effectively pulling the United States into WWII. The stock market drops another 7 percent over a five-day period. It justifiably feels like the world is ending.

We decide it's time to move on, so we hop back in our time machine and enter June 23, 1950. It's the outbreak of Korean War. Within a month, the first U.S. ground troops arrive in South Korea. The stock market is down over 11 percent. With war fresh in their minds, American's are naturally scared. Investing money is the last thing anyone wants to do.

Enough with the wars. Let's check out Oct. 16, 1987. We now witness the historic "Black Monday Crash," when the stock market plunges over 22 percent in just one day. We watch panicked investors pull their money from the market and run for the proverbial safety of cash. Given the circumstances, we understand their reaction.

Intrigued by the crash of '87, we decide to revisit an even worse financial crash... the Financial Crisis of 2008. We watch as the subprime dominos begin to fall. Lehman Brothers collapses, AIG is nearing bankruptcy, Wall Street firms and even some banks are begging to be rescued. The housing market is crashing. The stock market? Down a massive 38 percent for the year. We ask a few folks how they're feeling. One gentleman responds, "I'll never go back into the stock market... ever." We try to tell him, "Wait! Don't panic! The

market will actually recover and go on to make new highs!". He tells us we're wrong and walks away.

We have just one more stop to complete our study, and so we travel to Feb. 19 of 2020. It's the start of Covid-19, and the entire global economy is being shut down. The fear, uncertainty, and panic are palatable. The stock market drops a whopping -33% in roughly one month. People are fighting over toilet paper and question if the economy and markets will ever be the same again. We've seen enough.

Now that we're done with our research let's analyze a few numbers. Let's look at how the stock market performed DURING AND AFTER these events.

Event	Event reaction dates	Percent of gain/loss during event	1 month later	1 year later	5 years later	10 years later
Fall of France	5/9/40-6/23/40	-38.2%	5.1%	5.2%	15.9%	15.2%
Attack on Pearl Harbor	12/7/41-12/29/41	-6.9	4.5	36.0	38.1	37.1
Outbreak of Korean War	6/23/50-12/31/50	-11.1	6.5	42.0	27.6	38.4
U.S. declares Communist	4/29/50-12/29/50	-10.6	6.4	49.0	9.9	9.3
Korean Armistice	6/26/53-12/24/53	-1.4	-6.8	38.5	24.6	24.0
1987 stock market crash	10/19/87-10/27/87	-30.5	7.1	27.0	17.0	36.5
September 11 terrorist attacks	9/10/01-9/21/01	-11.6	11.3	11.1	8.3	3.9
Collapse of Lehman Brothers	9/12/08-10/23/08	-29.6	18.3	48.4	23.5	33.8
U.S. withdraws troops from Afghanistan	8/31/11-10/11/11	-8.1	28.9	76.0	17.0	17.1
U.S. declares referendum	11/23/16-11/27/16	-3.2	6.5	23.9	34.7	...
Covid-19 pandemic	2/19/20-12/19/20	-33.8	25.3	77.6
Mean gain/loss		-36.7	9.3	31.3	26.8	34.3
Median gain/loss		-18.4	8.5	30.6	27.0	33.8

The average 1YR return? +31 percent. The average 5YR return? +16 percent. Our conclusion: history has proven the United States and corporate America are incredibly resilient and persevere. Markets do indeed bounce back and go on to make new highs. Staying invested can help investors benefit from market rebounds. People who gave up investing (or tried to "time" the market) missed out on significant long-term wealth creation. Our study is complete.

The next time you're watching talking heads on CNBC try to predict the near-term future, remember no one has a crystal ball. And that is precisely why being a "day trader" is so difficult. But if you're an investor, it becomes easier to deal with short term volatility because you're focused on the long-term results. Remember: history may not always repeat itself, but it often rhymes.

Yes, today's markets hate the uncertainty over tariff implications, and so we should expect continued price volatility. But don't panic. Volatility is normal. It's like a "toll" investors must pay on the road to attractive long-term returns. On average, the stock market corrects once per year (a drop of 10-19 percent) and has still achieved a 13

percent annualized return including dividends since 1980.

If you indeed have lingering concerns about your portfolio, its best to check in with a qualified Financial Advisor to discuss how your portfolio is positioned.

About The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046

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The event reaction periods begin with the stock market close prior to the events. Historical references do not assume that any prior market behavior will be duplicated. Past performance does not indicate future results. There are risks associated with mutual fund investing including the possibility that share prices will decline. Since investment return and principal value will fluctuate, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. You cannot invest directly in an index. Indexes are unmanaged and used as a broad measure of market performance. Data sources for this article include Putnam Investments and LPL Financial.



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Too much or not enough water, and never when your garden needs it. This is a common complaint of gardeners no matter where they live. Make a few changes in your plant selection and garden care to help manage water use while growing healthy plants.

All plants need sufficient moisture after planting and for several months to a year or two to develop a robust root system. Those labeled as drought tolerant are better able to tolerate periods of drought once established. Always water the area surrounding new plantings thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Gradually reduce the frequency, and once the plants are established, you'll need to water less often.

Moisture-loving plants are good choices for areas receiving sufficient and consistent moisture throughout the growing season to meet their needs. In locations where this is not the case, consider grouping moisture-loving plants together so you use less water and can concentrate watering efforts to just one or two locations in your landscape.

Fluctuating periods of excessive and insufficient rainfall add to the challenge. Many native plants, once established, tolerate



Melinda Myers

Leaf mulch conserves moisture, reduces the risk of erosion and compaction, suppresses

periods of wet and dry soil and can be found on lists of rain garden plants suited to your area.

Keep water in the garden, out of the storm sewers, and reduce the

risk of flooding while improving your garden. Adding several inches of compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil increases the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. It also

improves drainage in heavy soils.

Top dress existing gardens by spreading an inch of compost over the soil surface. Soil organisms will help move it into the

soil to improve plant growth. Lend nature a hand by using an auger bit on a drill to aerate compacted soil. This pushes some compost into the top four to six inches of soil.

Mulching the soil with leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter also helps. This task has many benefits, including conserving moisture, reducing the risk of erosion and compaction, suppressing weeds, and as the mulch decomposes, improving the soil. A one-to-three-inch layer over the soil surface is all you need. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch that is needed.

Collect rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns when it is plentiful and store it until needed. Use this to water ornamental containers and plantings. Always check with your municipality first, since some restrict this practice while others offer rebates or rain barrels at a discounted price.

You won't need to worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel if you place an organic mosquito control product like Mosquito Dunks® (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control, are natural and organic, and won't harm pets, fish, wildlife, or children.

Periods of heavy rainfall create another challenge. Covering the soil with plants and mulch helps protect your soil from compac-

tion and erosion that often happens during these events. Planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will slow the flow of rainwater, increase the amount of water that stays in your landscape for plants to use, and help filter dust and pollutants out of rainwater before it enters groundwater.

Rain gardens are another strategy for managing water in your yard. These are designed to capture excessive rainfall, drain within 24 to 36 hours, tolerate dry and wet periods, and filter pollutants from the rainwater before it enters the groundwater.

Start by incorporating one or more of these strategies to help manage rainwater in your landscape. Continue to monitor success, adapt as needed, and include more options to help you successfully garden even during periods of excessive or limited rainfall.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *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 was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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The secret of Socrates

Picture this: a man in a suit, contracts in hand, marching down a hallway like he's heading into battle.

He swings open the office door, eyes locked on his business partner. He's angry. He's certain. He's ready to set the record straight.

"This is outrageous," he says, slamming the folder on the desk. "You agreed to these terms. You're backing out now?"

The partner, calm but resolute, folds his hands. "No, I didn't agree to that."

"Yes, you did," the man in the suit snapped.

"No, I didn't," his partner replied, calm as ever.

The conversation spirals. The angrier the businessman gets, the firmer his partner digs in. No progress. No compromise. A Stalemate; nowhere to go. And that was it—just one word, over and over: No.

When the man walks out, nothing changes except his blood pressure.

Now pause here. Let's talk about what just happened.

The problem wasn't the disagreement. The problem was the approach. He came in swinging—accusation first, challenge second. He backed the other person into a corner. And people don't make deals when they feel cornered. They defend themselves. They harden.

The second someone says "no," it's like concrete drying. Fast. Solid. Tough to crack.

Dale Carnegie called this The Secret of Socrates in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

He wrote: "In talking with people, don't begin by discussing the things on which you differ. Begin by emphasizing—and keep on emphasizing—the things on which you agree... Get the other person saying 'yes, yes' at the outset. Keep your opponent, if possible, from saying 'no.'"

Socrates mastered this. He didn't argue. He asked questions. Obvious ones. Undeniable ones. Questions that showed both sides were aligned. Only differing in the method. One yes, then another. And slowly, the tension faded. The resistance dropped. The conversation shifted. They weren't on opposite sides anymore. They were on the same page.

Let's come back to our world.

Instead of walking into a room with fire and a point to prove, try starting with this: "You want what's best for the team, right?" "You care

POSITIVELY
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about this project like I do, right?" "You want this to work."

Get agreement on the big picture before diving into the details. Because once someone's in "yes mode," they're far more likely to stay there.

The truth is, "no" is more than a word—it's a wall. And once it's up good luck getting through. But "yes" is a bridge. It connects people. It opens doors.

Now, picture a good salesman talking to a potential customer—not the pushy kind, but the thoughtful, sharp kind.

He doesn't start with, "So, are you ready to buy?" He starts with questions so obvious they're effortless to answer: "You're looking for something reliable, right?" "Yes." "You want to make sure you're getting the best value for your money?" "Yes." "And I'm guessing you don't want to waste time shopping around forever." "Exactly."

Three yeses, right out of the gate!

What just happened? The customer started nodding—not just physically, but mentally. They felt understood. They felt like the salesperson was on their side. And now, the next sentence—"Let me show you what I think is a great fit"—doesn't feel like a pitch. It feels like teamwork.

The beauty of this isn't that it tricks people. It's that it meets them where they are. We don't move forward when we feel forced. We move forward when we feel seen.

And this isn't just for sales or business.

A parent asks a teenager, "You want your room to feel peaceful, right?" A coach saying to their team, "You want to win just as badly as I do." A teacher calming a classroom: "You want to enjoy this time together, don't you?"

Shared goals, voiced early, dissolve resistance before it ever shows up. They create alignment, and alignment creates momentum.

So next time you need to persuade someone—whether in a boardroom, a negotiation, a relationship, or just a conversation—remember the Secret of Socrates.

Lead with agreement. Start with what's obvious. Find common ground. Get the nods early.

Because anyone who leads, teaches, builds, or negotiates will tell you—once they're nodding, you're already halfway home.

Tips for the gardening beginner

Gardening is a popular hobby all over the world. Ruby Home Luxury Real Estate estimates there are 71.5 million gardening households in the United States alone. That translates to around 185.9 million people engaged in some form of gardening, which places the U.S. among other countries where gardening is wildly popular, including Australia and China.

A greater number of people are showing interest in gardening, which is a rewarding hobby that's good for the mind and the body. Those who are new to gardening may need a crash course to get started. These pointers can help anyone foster a newfound passion for gardening.

Choose the best location

Spend time in the yard and decide where to house a garden. A far-off corner may get the most sun, but will you forget about the garden if it is too far away? Ideally, the garden should be located where it will get at least six to eight hours of sun each day. There also should be a water source nearby. The spot also should be convenient so that it is easy to go and pick vegetables or prune flowers.

Start small

If you're new to gardening, begin with a small garden footprint so that you can get your feet wet. A raised garden bed can be a good starting point because it is contained and easy to maintain. As your experience (and garden)

grows, you can add to the garden size the next time around.

Amend the soil

It's possible but unlikely that the soil in the backyard is the perfect mix to grow healthy plants. It's more likely that the garden will need some soil modification. You can test the soil makeup with do-it-yourself kits or work with a garden center. A garden typically requires a mix of compost to add nutrients to the dirt; peat moss or coconut coir to help with water retention and to make the soil lighter; and vermiculite that helps to retain water. A compost bin set up at the same time as the garden allows gardeners to continually produce nutrient-rich food to add to the garden.

Plant starter guide

It's best to keep a few things in mind when planning the garden. Think about what will grow well in your climate. Consider how big the garden will be and the size of mature plants. A small garden will not be able to accommodate corn, for example. Also, how would you like the space to look and what will be its function? Is this a purely aesthetic garden or one that will be

food-bearing?

Start seeds inside

If you'll be starting a garden from seeds, it's best to start indoors before your region's frost-free date. This way the delicate plants will get the needed care and can establish before they go outdoors in the ground. Keep them humid by covering the seedlings in plastic wrap. You can start the seeds in different containers, even empty egg cartons. Transplant to larger con-

tainers after the seedlings grow a second set of leaves. Once you're free from overnight frost, you can place the established, strong seedlings in the ground.

An automatic watering system, such as a timer hooked up to the sprinkler, can keep the garden well watered, which increases the chances of success. Then it will only be a matter of weeks before the garden can be enjoyed throughout the season.



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Unique graduation gifts

Graduation season is on the horizon. This time of year is often a frenetic time for students and their families, with the promise of celebrations to come. Graduation is preceded by prom for high schoolers, and for those bidding farewell to the hallowed halls of higher education, it may mean last-minute interviews and pre-commencement résumé-building. This whirlwind of activity culminates in a degree or diploma to wrap up years spent in the classroom.

Graduates have many things to look forward to this time of year, not the least of which are gifts from close friends and family. Those tasked with coming up with graduation gifts can take inspiration from these ideas that break the mold.

- Retirement account funds: Helping a new graduate get started is a popular sentiment among gift givers, but it's also possible to give grads a leg up on the future. Helping them to fund an individual retirement account can be a thoughtful gift. Keep in mind that parameters for IRAs differ between a traditional and a Roth IRA, and it is best to speak with a financial advisor to determine the best fit. Starting a retirement account early on can provide solid footing for financial security later in life.
- Quality luggage: A good set of luggage can often last a person a lifetime if properly cared for. Whether the grad is taking a much-needed trip after graduation or will be traveling for his or her career, the luggage will serve well.
- Student loan interest payment: Many students must rely on federal or private loans to offset the costs of attending college or even trade schools. Although a loved one may not be able to pay off the loans in their entirety, a good gift can be to make payments toward the interest on the loans so that the bill is reduced come graduation.
- Roadside assistance service: The road may take graduates near and far. A membership to a roadside assistance service can be a practical gift that ensures grads get from point A to point B with fewer hiccups. These services offer towing, tire changing, gas delivery, and more. Plus, they often come with additional perks, such as discounts on travel services and lodging.
- Professional course or tickets to a conference: Help support a graduate's career growth and professional development with a subscription to a course, a book about their industry or tickets to a relevant conference or trade show.
- Travel: Grads can be treated to the gift of travel. An overseas adventure or an epic road trip across the country may be the perfect way to unwind after years of schooling.

Graduates are entering an exciting time in their lives when anything is possible. Gift givers can think outside the box when shopping for their favorite cap-and-gown-donning loved ones.



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LEGALS

**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. W025C0137CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Joshua Tyler Hubsch-Farmer
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by
**Joshua Tyler Hubsch-Farmer of
Whitinsville MA** requesting that the
court enter a Decree changing their
name to:
Joshua Tyler Wass
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes
of objecting to the petition by filing an
appearance at: Worcester Probate and
Family Court before 04/22/2025 at 10
a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but
a deadline by which you must file a
written appearance if you object to this
proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: March 13, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

**THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY
DIVISION
NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC
HEARING**
**Rehabilitation of Route 16 (Douglas
Street), from Taft Hill Road to 200-
Feet West of Main Street
Project File No. 610931**
A Design Public Hearing will be held
to present the design for the proposed
project in Uxbridge, MA.
WHERE: Uxbridge Town Hall
21 South Main Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569
WHEN: Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at
6:30PM
PURPOSE: The purpose of this
hearing is to provide the public with the
opportunity to become fully acquainted
with the proposed project. All views
and comments submitted in response
to the hearing will be reviewed and
considered to the maximum extent
possible.
PROPOSAL: The proposed project
consists of the rehabilitation of Douglas
Street (Route 16), from Taft Hill Road
to 200-feet west of Main Street. The
project will include a shared-use path
adjacent to the north side of Douglas
Street, the replacement and extension
of sidewalks to Hunter Road on the
southside of Douglas Street, drainage
improvements, addition of crosswalks,
ADA complaint ramps and roadway
alignment adjustments.
A secure right-of-way is necessary for
this project. Acquisitions in fee and
permanent or temporary easements
may be required. The Town is respon-
sible for acquiring all needed rights in
private or public lands. MassDOT's
policy concerning land acquisitions will
be presented in the hearing.
Project inquiries, written state-
ments and other exhibits regard-
ing the proposed undertaking may
be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee,
P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to
MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.
state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite
7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA
02116, Attention: Project Management,
Project File No. **610931**. Statements
and exhibits intended for inclusion in
the public hearing transcript must be
emailed or postmarked no later than
ten (10) business days (14 calendar

days) after the hearing is hosted on the
MassDOT website listed below.
This hearing is accessible to peo-
ple with disabilities. MassDOT pro-
vides reasonable accommodations
and/or language assistance free of
charge upon request (e.g interpreters in
American Sign Language and languag-
es other than English, live captioning,
videos, assistive listening devices and
alternate material formats), as avail-
able. For accommodation or language
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Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer
by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at
(857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602
or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@
dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be
made as soon as possible and prior
to the hearing, and for more difficult
to arrange services including sign-lan-
guage, CART or language transla-
tion or interpretation, requests should
be made at least ten business days
before the hearing.
In case of inclement weather, a can-
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on the internet at https://www.mass.
gov/orgs/highway-division/events.
JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

**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. W025P1177EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Joanne E. Vickers
Date of Death: 01/11/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will
with Appointment of Personal Rep-
resentative** has been filed by
Todd Golden of Somersworth NH re-
questing that the Court enter a formal
Decree and Order and for such other
relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Todd Golden of Somersworth NH be
appointed as Personal Representa-
tive(s) of said estate to serve **Without
Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised
administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of
the Petition from the Petitioner or at the
Court. You have a right to object to
this proceeding. To do so, you or your
attorney must file a written appear-
ance and objection at this Court be-
fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of
05/20/2025**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-
line by which you must file a written ap-
pearance and objection if you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file a time-
ly written appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of objections
within thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without further no-
tice 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 ad-
ministration directly from the Personal
Representative and may petition the
Court in any matter relating to the es-
tate, including the distribution of assets
and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy,

First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 02, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

**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. W025C0181CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Nicholas Shaun Logan
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by
**Nicholas Shaun Logan of Black-
stone MA** requesting that the court en-
ter a Decree changing their name to:
Nicholas Shaun Lund
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes
of objecting to the petition by filing an
appearance at: Worcester Probate and
Family Court before 04/22/2025 at 10
a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but
a deadline by which you must file a
written appearance if you object to this
proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: April 01, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

**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. W025C0180CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Jaylin Kourtney Logan
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by
**Jaylin Kourtney Logan of Black-
stone MA** requesting that the court en-
ter a Decree changing their name to:
Jaylin Kourtney Logan Lund
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes
of objecting to the petition by filing an
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Family Court before 04/22/2025 at 10
a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but
a deadline by which you must file a
written appearance if you object to this
proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: April 01, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket 25 SM 000861
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Brenda A. Lavoie
and to all persons entitled to the ben-
efit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief
Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
U.S Bank National Association, as
Indenture Trustee, on behalf of the
holders of the Terwin Mortgage Trust
2007-9SL, Asset-Backed Securities,
Series 2007-9SL,
claiming to have an interest in a
Mortgage covering real property in
Northbridge, numbered 42 Thomas

Street, given by Brenda A. Lavoie, a
married woman to Mortgage Electronic
Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee
for Plaza Home Mortgage, Inc., its suc-
cessors and assigns, dated February
27, 2007, and recorded in Worcester
County (Worcester District) Registry of
Deeds in Book 40771, Page 247, and
now held by plaintiff by assignment,
has/have filed with this court a com-
plaint for determination of Defendant's/
Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been,
in the active military service of the
United States of America, then you
may be entitled to the benefits of the
Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If
you object to a foreclosure of the
above-mentioned property on that
basis, then you or your attorney must
file a written appearance and answer in
this court at Three Pemberton Square,
Boston, MA 02108 on or before May 5,
2025, or you may lose the opportunity
to challenge the foreclosure on the
ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief
Justice of this Court on March 24,
2025.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
24-015065
April 11, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W025P0511GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor**
In the interests of
**Quiana W. Ocholiah
of Whitinsville, MA
Minor**
**NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a
Petition for Appointment of Guardian
of a Minor by filed on 2/12/2025 by
Kathleen M. Bergeron of Whitinsville,
MA will be held **04/18/2025 08:30 AM**
Review Hearing
Located **Worcester Probate &
FamiResponse to Petition:** You may
respond by filing a written response to
the Petition or by appearing in person
at the hearing. If you choose to file a
written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties
at least five (5) business days before
the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor
(or an adult on behalf of the minor) has
the right to request that counsel be ap-
pointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a
parent of the minor child who is the
subject of this proceeding you have a
right to be represented by an attorney.
If you want an attorney and cannot af-
ford to pay for one and if you give proof
that you are indigent, an attorney will
be assigned to you. Your request for an
attorney should be made immediately
by filling out the Application of Appoint-
ment of Counsel form. Submit the ap-
plication form in person or by mail at
the court location where your case is
going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:
A minor over age 14 has the right to
be present at any hearing, unless the
Court finds that it is not in the minor's
best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An import-
ant court proceeding that may affect
your rights has been scheduled. If you
do not understand this notice or other
court papers, please contact an attor-
ney for legal advice.
Date: February 12, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

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* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

WEBSTER - 25 SLATER ST

ON DEPOSIT



Location! Location! This oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sf Total! Apt 1 >1st Floor Unit >has 1,052 sf, 3 BRs & 1 Bath! Apt 2 >2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels >1,420 sf, 5 BRs, 2 Baths. Corner lot w/.30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16'Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property. **\$559,900**

OXFORD - 25 SUTTON AVENUE

ON DEPOSIT



Location ~ Location! Move-in ready Commercial Office &/or Retail Space ! Ideal for >>> Small Businesses, Companies looking to expand, Banks, Medical facilities etc...2 Level Free Standing Building on a Corner Lot - Located in an Active area of Restaurants & Retail 1 Minute to Rt 395 & Rt 20...Zoned GB 10 units - .71 Acre - 26 Parking Spots **\$1,150,000**

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Snug Harbor Villa!



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WEBSTER - 22 COOPER RD.

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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Featured Listing!!

ON DEPOSIT



Webster Lake Waterfront
88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **\$660,000**

Featured New Listing!

Webster Lake Waterfront Lots
Bates Point Rd

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*
Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore Line 5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000 ON DEPOSIT**
Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line 7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000 ON DEPOSIT**

Webster Lake Waterfront
44 West Point Rd
1st Time Offered!! On Killdeer Island! Beautiful Waterfront Property. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, custom kitchen, Indoor/Outdoor Fireplace! Entertainers Dream! Beautiful Sunsets! Large Garage **SORRY, SOLD \$1,270,000**





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AVAILABLE

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* 6 Rooms
* Updated Kitchen, Windows, Heating
*Level Lot * 2 Car Garage
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HOPEDALE-Condo Alternative



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The spring market is here

S.C.E. Real Estate explains why pricing your home right matters more than ever

DOUGLAS —
As the spring real estate market kicks into high gear, homeowners are starting to ask the big question: Is now the right time to sell?
Spring is one of the busiest times of year for real estate, with buyers actively looking for their next home. It's an exciting time, but it's also competitive-which is why pricing your home correctly from the start is more important than ever.
The market sets the pace
In a market like ours, where demand can be strong, but buyers remain price-conscious, overpricing can be one of the biggest mistakes a seller makes. Many homeowners think they should "test the market" with a higher price, assuming they can always lower it later. But the truth is, overpriced homes tend to sit longer, get fewer showings, and often end up selling for less than if they had been priced correctly from the start.
Buyers today have access to so much data-they know what homes are worth, and they recognize when something is overpriced. If your home is priced too high, you risk losing the initial wave of interest that comes when a listing is fresh. And once a home sits on the market for too long, buyers start to wonder, "What's


wrong with it?"
Strategic pricing brings stronger offers
On the flip side, a well-priced home creates excitement, draws in serious buyers, and can even lead to multiple offers. The goal isn't to sell, it's to maximize your home's value. The right price generates interest, encourages competition, and helps you get the best possible terms.
How S.C.E. Real Estate helps you price it right
At S.C.E. Real Estate, we take a data-driven approach to pricing, considering market trends, recent sales, and

the unique features of your home. We don't just look at what homes have been listed for; we focus on what they've actually sold for. By pricing your home competitively, we ensure you attract the right buyers and get the best return on your investment.
Thinking about selling? Let's talk.
If you're considering selling this spring, now is the time to have a conversation about strategy. Pricing, staging, marketing-every detail matters, and we're here to guide you through the process with experience, insight, and a deep commitment to your success.
S.C.E. Real Estate would love to help you make the most of this spring market! Contact us at (508) 476-5485.


government officials to contact students and allows students to voice their positions on critical current issues through prepared debates. This year, Northbridge High School selected two students to attend the event: Juniors Leticia Silva and Caleb Smith, pictured here with Rep. David Muradian. They participated in discussions with peers from across the state on various statewide issues.

Courtesy
Massachusetts Student Government Day was held on Friday, April 4 at the State House. This is an informative program about state government, which includes students participating in the role of elected or appointed officials to "observe the processes of government." The program provides educators and students from Massachusetts's public and private high schools with many opportunities to learn firsthand about state government. It enables

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