

## New-look Hannaford in Uxbridge is a step into the future

BY ROD LEE

Given Hannaford Supermarkets' spectacular growth since its founding by Arthur Hannaford in Portland, Maine in 1883, it is not surprising that the company's Uxbridge store has fared so well over the years.

Recently, a massive months-long remodeling of the Uxbridge Hannaford was completed, the first that many loyal customers, like Tim McKenna, who lives in town, can remember.

The "new Hannaford" sparkles like a jewel from the moment a patron enters the produce section on through, right past the deli, right past the meat and fish counters and into the various aisles—all of which have been rearranged and freshened. The old floor was removed and replaced. The front of the store with a nifty self-checkout area is looking better than ever, and there are smiles on the cashiers and baggers as they ring up purchases.

It is appropriate that fruits



New flooring is just one of the changes made in Hannaford Supermarkets' complete revamp of its Uxbridge store on North Main Street.

and vegetables are the first items people see. Hannaford began as a produce store along the Portland waterfront and by 1920 was a leading wholesaler of produce in New England.

The company's aggressive expansion philosophy paid off; in 1939, Hannaford expanded into the wholesale grocery business

and in 1944 it opened its first retail outlet.

By 1960, it had constructed a 200,000-square-foot distribution center in South Portland.

On and on the growth went, through the 1970s and 1980s

### HANNAFORD

continued on page 2



Tom Hansen and Ted Goulet are the "TNT guys" with Cruise Planners; they discussed their franchise at Panera Bread in Webster on June 12th.

## 'TNT guys' having a blast as a Cruise Planners franchise

BY ROD LEE

Michelle Fee is living proof that such a thing as the urge to travel—the so-called "travel bug"—exists.

Ted Goulet and Tom Hansen are too.

Ms. Fee was a mother of young children when she launched Cruise Planners in 1994, joined in that initiative by industry veterans Lynn Korn and Marvin Davis, both of whom have since retired. Michelle Fee remains CEO of the organization, which is based in Coral Springs, Florida.

Talking about their own experience during a conversation that took place at Panera Bread in Webster on June 12th, Mr. Goulet said he was in a shop in Key West when an American Express sign caught his eye. "That's what drew me in," he said. Of what happened next, Mr. Goulet says "we took eleven months to look into it and said 'maybe this is something we can do.'"

Both had jobs in the corporate world, prior to obtaining a Cruise Planners franchise, approximately ten years ago.

Cruise Planners is different than other such operations for a few reasons. For one thing, it is home-based. "We are the No. 1 home-based travel agency for twenty-seven years running, and one of the Top 10 to buy (as a franchise) according to Forbes," Mr. Goulet said.

He noted that "the vast majority of travel agents are not storefronts anymore."

Also, Cruise Planners is dedicated to providing its clientele with

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### CRUISE PLANNERS

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## CRUISE PLANNERS

*continued from page 1*

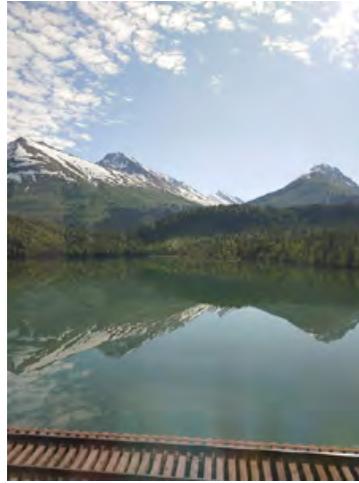
“unforgettable, stress-free and affordable vacations that exceed their every expectation,” the company says on its website.

With that, Cruise Planners is devoted to offering franchise owners like Mr. Goulet and Mr. Hansen the chance to be their own

boss and have “a rewarding and fulfilling business that is built on enriching people’s lives” and making customers’ dreams “a reality.”

Cruise Planners has even coined a word for the state of mind it tries to create. It’s called “Cruisitude.”

A married couple with two daughters and three grandsons, Mr. Goulet and Mr. Hansen call themselves the “TNT guys” and they love their work, especially



when it comes to establishing a rapport with their clientele.

“We’re old-fashioned, we like to meet our customers,” Mr. Hansen says.

As one of numerous Cruise Planners franchisees, they say “we are not well-traveled but we have travelled.” Indeed, they have been around the world, so to speak, and are ardent advocates for the cruising life.

## CRUISE PLANNERS

*continued on page 6*



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## HANNAFORD

*continued from page 1*

and into the 1990s when the company set down roots in the Southeast. In 2004, it bought nineteen Victory supermarkets in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including Uxbridge, and converted them to Han-

with a cart full of groceries on a Wednesday morning. She did not want her name used, and neither did another customer. “I wish the prices were better,” he said, as he placed his groceries in his hatchback.

Tim McKenna was more positive but as a loyal regular shopper at the Uxbridge Hannaford he also was honest about what



naford stores.

In 2016, Hannaford partnered with Delhaize and Ahold (owner of New England-based Stop & Shop) to create a new company, Ahold Delhaize.

The Hannaford story has been one of consistent dedication to customer service and repeated efforts to broaden its footprint.

Despite the overhaul of the Uxbridge store, which is located in a plaza on North Main St., customers are offering mixed reviews.

“In the end we are paying for it,” one woman said, as she left

has been done—and what could have been done differently.

“The Hannaford-to-Go should be on the other end of the building,” he said, pointing. “That’s where I thought they were going to put it.”

Mr. McKenna agreed that the parking lot is too small for the amount of traffic that comes in and out, but the lot is shared with other businesses.

“No one likes change,” he said. “We have to get used to it. Some people like it, some don’t.”

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## Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

# A beginning for The Pewter Pot; an ending for an editor

Application of the old adage “the neighborhood isn’t what it used to be” is of course not limited to the place of residence my wife and I have known for more than thirty years.



BY ROD LEE

Change inevitably alters the look and feel of locales that were thought to be familiar and so not subject to any particular upheaval or transformation.

Time proves otherwise, as it has in my hometown of Endicott, New York, as it has in Grafton Hill where home was Cohasset Street in the mid-1980s (upon first arriving in Massachusetts), and as it has in the little corner of the town of Northbridge known as Linwood.

The standing joke around these parts is that Linwood doesn’t even really exist. This, because often when reference is made to the zip code 01525, be it at the Registry,

upon ordering computer equipment online (for instance), or in offering an address to a visitor who is depending on GPS to find you, the message comes back “not recognized.” In such cases, the solution is to use 01534 or 01588.

This has been a longstanding problem, which explains why many occupants of Linwood switched from post office boxes in 01525 to street delivery of their mail using 01588—given the chance.

The headache of being associated with a neighborhood that was virtually an indistinguishable sliver of “the whole” was eliminated, for these citizens.

The Linwood of 2023 bears some of the hallmark features by which it was known in 1988; notably, the railroad tracks that run behind the building on Providence Road (Rt. 122), a one-story structure that used to house Friendly Discount Liquors and then a Salvation Army store. Now it is a Dollar General, with space to one side still available for lease.

The Linwood Laundromat remains where it has been but Brenda McAuliffe’s popular convenience store, the Cellar Sooper,

is gone.

Brian Snay’s restaurant is now Grille 122.

Paul Menard’s service station, operated after his death by his brother Dennis, is now a maintenance garage for Don Menard’s Foxy Travel business.

A hair salon next to Foxy has been turned into a pet-care operation.

The China Pacific on Linwood Avenue has held onto its spot but has suffered for customers, post-Covid 19.

Hank Nydam is still doing business at Nydam Oil; and Peterson Oil, next door, is doing the same.

The Linwood Mill, which once housed the Lavoie family’s furniture business, is now residential.

And the outbuilding in front of the Linwood Mill, which has hosted several businesses over the years, is now home to The Pewter Pot.

Recently, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for The Pewter Pot, which the owners describe as “a good old-fashioned Primitive

Country Store” with an accent on “Amish furniture obtained from Pennsylvania Dutch country, crafts, handmade personal items

The Pewter Pot, because of its impressive array of merchandise, tastefully arranged on two floors, will last, and that is the hope.

“I love the store,” Jeannie Hebert, president and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, told me. “I have purchased several items for my home and for gifts. It is a great addition to the Valley that offers unique, high-quality, well-made products, many from Amish companies. I highly recommend The Pewter Pot. I dare anyone to leave without a purchase!”

As I end my writing and editing career with the Xpress newspapers—this is my farewell column—there will be ample opportunity to keep an eye on goings-on in Linwood.

And at The Pewter Pot, the official address for which is 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville—not Linwood.

In case you are looking to visit the store.

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.



Where there’s a ribbon cutting, there is Jeannie Hebert, here shown officiating at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of The Pewter Pot on Linwood Ave.

(candles, soaps, home décor, natural dog treats), antiques and collectibles.”

There is every indication that



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# Retirees: Talk finances with your grown children



Mark Freeman

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When you're retired, you'll likely have some financial concerns — just like all retirees. However, if you've invested regularly and followed a long-term financial strategy, you should be able to address most issues that come your way. But there's one important action that's sometimes overlooked by retirees: sharing their financial situation with their grown children. And this knowledge can benefit everyone in your family.

You might be surprised by the concern your children have for your financial well-being. Consider these findings from a 2023 study by Age Wave and Edward Jones:

- 66% of millennials (generally defined as ranging from 27 to 42) worry that their parents or in-laws may not have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.
- 83% of millennials would rather know their parents are financially secure in their retirement, even if it means their parents pass on less money to them.

If you have children in this age range or older, or who soon will be, how can you address their concerns and potentially improve your financial outlook? Communication is the key. By openly communicating with your family about your financial status, you can reduce anxieties and misperceptions. If you're in good

financial shape, your adult children may be reassured that you won't be needing their assistance. And if you are feeling some financial pressures, you can inform your children of the steps you are taking to improve your situation.

One such step may be to reduce your cost of living — the less you spend day to day, the better your ability to preserve your investment and retirement accounts. You may be able to reduce costs in many small ways, such as ending streaming services you no longer use, but you could make an even bigger impact by downsizing your living arrangements. In fact, 72% of today's retirees have downsized or are willing to downsize to reduce their housing costs, according to the Age Wave/Edward Jones survey. Downsizing isn't for everyone, but if it's a possibility for you, it may be worth considering because the savings could be significant.

You may also be able to re-

duce or consolidate your debts. Start by understanding how much and what kinds of debt you have. Then, consider ways to lower your payments, such as refinancing. For example, if you're carrying a balance on multiple credit cards, you might be able to transfer the amounts you owe onto a single card with a more favorable interest rate.

Here's another move to consider: Adjust your investment mix to possibly provide you with more income in retirement. During your working years, you may have invested primarily for growth — after all, you could be retired for two or more decades, so you'll need to draw on as many financial assets as possible. But once you're retired, your investment focus may need to shift somewhat toward income-producing opportunities. Keep in mind, though, that you'll still need some growth potential to help keep ahead of inflation.

**One final suggestion:** Let your children know if you already have a strategy in place to meet the potentially high costs of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. This burden is certainly something you won't want your children to take on.

By informing your children about your financial picture, and how you're trying to improve it, you can ease everyone's minds — so keep the lines of communication open.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact:

Mark Freeman  
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“Cruising is a great value, you get all the destinations,” they say. “We are connected with every cruise line. We do more business on land than on water. We specialize in custom itineraries. Italy, France, Ireland, those are huge.”

As an example of the lengths they go to in taking care of their customers, when “the world shut down” because of Covid-19, they stayed busy with “re-bookings,” they said. “One of our clients got stuck in Australia. We worked to get her the hell out of there. You won’t get that kind of service online. When our clients travel we are available 24/7.”

Popular destinations with customers of the TNT guys are “Europe—it’s hot. Alaska, Tom’s favorite (‘it was life-changing for me’), the Grand Canyon, D.C., Mexico, the Dominican Republic and always the Caribbean. We are hosting a river cruise in the fall for twenty-one, twenty-two people,” Mr. Goulet said.

Mr. Goulet and Mr. Hansen gain great satisfaction in sharing many of the trips they offer with their customers.

“Not yet,” they say, of taking an African safari. Morocco, “I’ve only seen it as we cruise past,” Mr. Goulet says. Australia and New Zealand are on the wish list.

They tell people “try the Azores.” Hawaii and Iceland are “very popular.”



Clockwise from left: biking to a castle in Bernkastel, Germany, the Hubbard glacier and a view of houses from the canal in Amsterdam are all richly rewarding images left from trips Mr. Hansen and Mr. Goulet have been able to take as owners of a Cruise Planners business.

A benefit of purchasing cruising packages from them, they say, is “we don’t charge fees. We are paid by the vendors.”

They love that they have “100% operational control” of their business. It keeps them busy, planning for and participating in bridal shows, travel shows and putting together cruise packages; but, they note “it has come back tenfold” in the gratification they feel in putting smiles on customers’ faces.

“Customer service, it’s always there,” Mr. Hansen says. “We stay

up to date with changes, we’ve given it our due diligence, which is why we have repeat customers.”

Hand-written thank you cards” are a staple of their approach to their vocation.

For more about the “completely personalized vacations” Mr. Goulet and Mr. Hansen offer as travel advisors and franchise owners with Cruise Planners, visit [tntguystravel.com](http://tntguystravel.com).

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But figuring out who to call can be a pain. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

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Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

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## Business spotlight

ing. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Re-



moval, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market

restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can

handle everything!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at [www.takeawayjunk.com](http://www.takeawayjunk.com).

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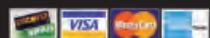
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## INTERIOR SECRETARY VISITS THE REGION

On June 16, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland completed a multi-day trip to Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Federal, state and local leaders, including Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman Seth Magaziner, RI Gov. Daniel McKee and Pawtucket Mayor Donald Grebien were present at Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark to greet the Secretary. Secretary Haaland met with National Historic Park and Corridor staff and discussed how they both help to

strengthen the local economy, increase access to outdoor recreation and honor the rich history of the region. She also met with leaders from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Narragansett Indian Tribe. The meeting included representatives of the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, and the discussion included restoring fish passage in the Blackstone, not only as an ecological issue but a cultural and economic one.

- The Kelly and Ashton Mill Junior Ranger Booklet is a self-guided adventure around the Blackstone River State Park. Aspiring Junior Rangers of all ages are encouraged to acquire a booklet to explore the history and natural beauty of the area. Email [Allison\\_horrocks@nps.gov](mailto:Allison_horrocks@nps.gov) for a mailed copy.

- Ranger walkabouts are taking place Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. through August 31st. Visit <https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/ranger-walkabout-series-2023/> for more specifics.

- Join a National Park Ranger for



a ride along the Blackstone River Bikeway on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. through September 27th. Go to <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/bike-theblackstone.htm>.

- Thanks, Abigail Epplert, Patty McAlpine and Kathy Parlante for helping staff at the First Strike

Festival at Old Slater Mill, and Joe Johnson for leading the Riparian Invasive Ramble for Jane Week and those who assisted on the Family Fun Fishing Day event.

- Guided Hikes are being offered on the following dates: September 9, High Rock Farm-Cumberland; September 24, Turner Reservoir-

East Providence; October 14, Mo-shassuck River-Lincoln; November 24, Wolf Hill-Smithfield. Go to [blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](http://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org) for more info.

- Guided Paddles are occurring Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., through August 29th. Check out the Corridor website for more information.

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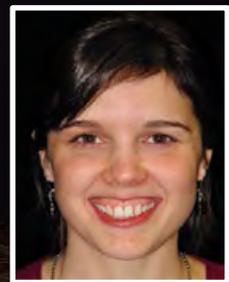
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# New Grafton Public Library Long Range Plan in the works

The Grafton Public Library's Long Range Plan (LRP) expired in December, 2029, "and we have had an extension due to the pandemic, but it's time to update, review priorities and see where we are going, next!" GPL Director Beth Schreiber says in her

Planning Committee members. The successful candidate has a strong working knowledge of the Grafton community, and may or may not be a current library user. The meetings will be facilitated by an outside library consultant.

"Meetings will include: defining a vision for the community served by the library; brainstorming; and conducting a strengths, weaknesses, growth opportunities and aspirations analysis, first looking at the community, then internally at the library. The feedback gathered will be used to develop the LRP for 2024-2028. This written document provides goals, measurable objectives and specific activities for library staff to execute.

"An LRP spanning five years is required by the MBLC for any library that wishes to apply for—or keep—grant funding. We currently have a MPLCP grant of \$7.4 million for our new library building, and need a LRP to remain compliant. The plan is due October 1, 2023.

"The LRP is reviewed annually by the Grafton Public Library Board of Trustees, and the library director must submit an approved, updated plan of action to the MBLC by December 1 annually.

"If you are interested in participating in the strategic planning process and joining the LRP committee, contact me at sreiberb@

graftonlibrary.org or call 508-839-4649," Ms. Schreiber says.

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the Town Common.

Lawn" at the Asa Waters Mansion on Monday, June 26th from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The MPL is also offering an Adult Ventriloquist Music Show on Thursday, June 29th at 6:00 p.m.

## AN ART FESTIVAL IN SUTTON

The Friends of the Sutton Public Library's Art Festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 26th, from

## GIANT LEGOS IN MILLBURY

The Millbury Public Library will kick off its summer reading program with "Giant Legos on the



"Cindy" prepares to welcome people to her table for the K-2 Literacy Night for the North Grafton Elementary School at the Grafton Public Library on May 31st.

newsletter.

"Strategic planning isn't new for Grafton—it is a routine part of running a successful library, and considered to be a standard of best practices in library management.

"We are seeking a community of key stakeholders—Grafton residents, property owners, business owners, and community leaders—to volunteer to serve on a Planning Committee that will assist in setting library service priorities for the next five years (2024-2028).

"The time commitment is about six hours total," Ms. Scheiber said. "Participants MUST attend two evening focus group meetings, one in July, one in August. Meeting attendance is MANDATORY for



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## Scholarships and Awards at BVT: A springboard for success!

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is proud to announce its Class of 2023 Scholarship and Award Recipients.

As BVT's newest graduates prepare to advance their career training, awards totaling nearly 7 million in renewable value are a springboard for success allowing its recipients the financial freedom to implement their career plans across various pathways.

"Some students purchase new tools, clothing, and equipment to launch their careers while others use financial aid to cover tuition at colleges or universities," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "The assistance of these scholarships and awards set our graduates in motion toward a bright future to contribute as well-trained, educated, and skilled members of the workforce."

The following is a list of the scholarships and awards earned by members of the Class of 2023, including immediate plans for career training. Students are categorized by town and listed alphabetically by last name. Scholarship amounts reflect the first-year total. For more details, visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/scholarshiprecipients2023](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/scholarshiprecipients2023).

### NORTHBRIDGE

Mackenzie Champagne – Massachusetts Maritime Academy (Marine Transportation); Admiral's Scholarship: \$5,000.00  
Polyfoam Corporation Scholarship: \$500.00  
Paige Chausse – Suffolk University (History); Deans Scholarship: \$22,000.00, Gleason Archer Scholarship: \$10,000.00, Trustee Scholarship: \$2,700.00, UniBank Scholarship: \$2,000.00  
Jackson Doan – University of Massachusetts Lowell (Mechanical Engineering); Dean Bank Scholarship: \$500.00  
Jenna Dolber – Massachusetts College of Art and Design (Film/Video & Photographic Arts); John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$1,030.00, Ken Baker Memorial Scholarship: \$500.00, MassArt Grant: \$3,700.00, MassArt Presidents Scholarship: \$1,000.00

### BVT SCHOLARSHIPS

continued on page 11

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5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Vinyasa Yoga
- **Wednesdays**  
9 am - 10 am Barre Sculpt  
5 pm - 6 pm Barre Strength Cardio  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Hatha Restorative Yoga
- **Thursdays**  
9 am - 10 am Barre Strength Cardio  
6 pm - 7 pm Slow Flow Yoga
- **Fridays**  
9:15 am - 10 am Curls & Crunches
- **Saturdays**  
8:30 am - 9:30 pm Weekly Rotate Between Barre and Yoga

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**BVT SCHOLARSHIPS**

*continued from page 10*

**Riley Driver – Electrician Apprentice;** UniBank Scholarship - Corporal John Dawson: \$2,000.00  
**Alex Foley – Shop Welder;** Stanley Award for Tools: \$200.00  
**Nathan Germain – Nichols College (Business);** Provost Scholarship: \$20,000.00  
**Sam Grilli – University of Massachusetts Amherst (Mechanical Engineering);** John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$1,714.00, UMass Amherst Grant: \$7,642.00  
**Joseph Hutchinson – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Architecture);** Early Action Scholarship: \$1,000.00, Wentworth Grant: \$1,200.00, Wentworth President's Award: \$17,000.00  
**Carleigh Koopman – University of New Hampshire (Environmental Science);** Presidential Scholarship: \$8,000.00  
**Natalie Morris – Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Dental Hygiene);** Merit for Academics: \$20,000.00  
**Tade Riordan – New Jersey Institute of Technology (Business Finance);** New Jersey Institute of Technology- Annual Scholarship: \$10,000.00, New Jersey Institute of Technology-Athletic Scholarship-D1 Baseball: \$22,000.00  
**Gradie Sanford – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Architecture);** Wentworth Presidential scholarship: \$16,000.00  
**Luke Scholl – Electrician Apprentice;** James Brochu Memorial Scholarship: \$400.00  
**Nicholas Vaughan – University of Massachusetts Amherst (Electrical Engineering);** John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$1,714.00  
**Emily Wildfeuer – Roger Williams University (Architecture);** Valley Tech School Committee Academic Award: \$200.00

**DOUGLAS**

**Griffin Beaulieu – University of Maine (Engineering);** Gene Haas Foundation Machining Technology Scholarship: \$2,500.00  
**Jason K. Ball Memorial Scholarship:** \$500.00  
**Hunter Clafin – HVAC Technician;** Andrew Cocaine Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000.00  
**James Franklin Memorial Award:** \$300.00  
**SkillsUSA:** \$2,000.00, Student Council Scholarship: \$500.00  
**Brady Courtemanche – University of Rhode Island (Mechanical Engineering);** Presidential Scholarship \$11,000.00  
**Matthew Mooney – Bridgewater State University (Physical Education);**

Bridgewater State BEAR Merit Scholarship: \$6,000.00, BSU Access and Housing Grant: \$4,000.00, Homefield Credit Union Scholarship: \$500.00, U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award: \$300.00  
**Murphy Potter – Massachusetts College of Art and Design (Painting);** Class of 2022 Scholarship: \$500.00, President's Scholarship from Massachusetts College of Art & Design: \$1,000.00; Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild of Mendon: \$1,000.00

**Jordan Provost – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Aeronautical Science);** Bellingham Police Department Scholarship: \$500.00, Leonard H. White Scholarship: \$1,000.00, Woman in Excellence Award: \$5,000.00  
**Paige Rainville – Framingham State University (Art Education);** Campus Housing Grant: \$3,700.00, Dean Bank Scholarship: \$500.00, Estimated State Mass Grant: \$1,500.00, Federal Pell Grant:

\$3,945.00, Framingham State University Grant: \$1,200.00, FSU Honors Scholarship: \$3,000.00, MA State Need Based Tuition Waiver: \$970.00  
**Megan Roe – Florida Southern College (Theatre Arts);** Valley Tech Ed Foundation \$300.00  
**Brett Staples – University of Massachusetts Lowell (Computer Science);** Gene Haas Foundation Machining Technology Scholarship: \$2,250.00, John & Abigail

Adams Scholarship: \$1,400.00  
**Julia White – Spa Tech Institute (Aesthetics);** Town Fair Tire Foundation - Toolship Scholarship: \$500.00

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**Mia Bellacqua – National Medical**

**BVT SCHOLARSHIPS!**

*continued on page 12*

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**BVT SCHOLARSHIPS**

*continued from page 11*

Education & Training Center (EMT); Rita D. Skinner Memorial Scholarship: \$500.00  
**Isabel Cahill – University of New Hampshire (Environmental Engineering)** Class of 2022 Scholarship: \$500.00, Trustee's Scholarship: \$12,000.00  
**Katelin Carlson – Worcester State University (Nursing);** John & Abigail Adams

Scholarship: \$970.00, Worcester State Scholarship: \$1,500.00  
**Carson DaCosta – University of New England (Dental Hygiene);** BVT Teachers Association Scholarship: \$250.00, UNE Merit: \$20,000.00, Uxbridge Dollars for Scholars: \$3,500.00  
**Isabella Gannon – University of Massachusetts Boston (Nursing);** John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$1,714.00, UMass Boston Chancellor Merit Scholar-

ship: \$20,000.00  
**Riley Goyette – New England Institute of Technology (Business Management);** NEIT Presidential Scholarship: \$2,000.00  
**Emma Guadagnoli – Arkansas State University (Medical Diagnostic Sonography)**  
 Chancellor's Scholarship \$10,000.00  
**Mia Guadagnoli – Springfield College (Physician Assistant);** BVT Teachers Association Scholarship: \$300.00

**Maxwell Guyton – Northeastern University (Engineering);** Andrew Cocaine Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000.00, MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence: \$300.00, NHS/NTHS Scholarship: \$500.00  
**Isaac Heim – Bridgewater State University (Aviation);** Andrew Cocaine Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000.00  
**Autumn Herrick – Louisiana State University (Chemical Engineering);**

James Sochia Memorial Scholarship - Good Citizenship \$1,000.00, LSU - Merit Non Resident \$13,000.00  
**Jayda Paxton – University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (Interior Architecture & Design);** Uxbridge Dollars for Scholars: \$3,500.00  
**Sadie Robertson – Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Premedical Health Studies);** MCPHS University Presidential Scholarship: \$108,000.00, MCPHS Special Recognition Scholarship: \$12,000.00, MCPHS Award: \$2,000.00, CPHS University Housing Grant: \$14,000.00  
**Kioni Sankofa – Curry College (Psychology);** Curry College Scholarship: \$27,500.00, Curry Grant: \$1,000.00  
**Sarah Snyder – Framingham State University (Undecided);** John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: \$970.00

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 Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

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performances. You may find inspiration for your next craft project!

"Redcoats & Rebels" will be the featured attraction August 5-6, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. See the



recreated skirmishes and battles, and hear fife and drum music.

"Textile Weekend" is set for August 12 and 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Have you ever wondered how we now what was made and worn by individuals in the 1830s? During Textile Weekend, "Behind the Scenes and Seams," we are highlighting original clothing and textile-related objects from the museum's permanent collection while creating new copies for side-by-side comparisons and a closer look at how we know what we know about the past.



farm animals, marvel at the skills of the artisans, stroll through the gardens, listen to historical music, or any combination of these, no two visits are alike.

Fresh off a celebration of the Fourth of July that included fife and drum music, cannon demonstrations, games, a parade and a special Citizen Naturalization Ceremony, OSV will host "Taste of New England Summer" July 21-23 from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m.

All six New England states will be showcased as the Village transforms into an evening festival filled with food samples, local brews and other beverages, and live music from more than fifteen bands. Come learn about the roots of some of the summertime traditions we know today.

"Music and Art Weekend" will occur at the Village July 29-30, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate our skilled artisans and musicians through special demonstrations and per-

largest military re-enactment in New England with hundreds of costumed Revolutionary War reenactors. Visitors cannot explore our exhibits and galleries, and talk to our costumed historians about everyday life in New England, they can also witness

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# Hello Summer! Eight weeks to tackle proposed projects at BVT

It was a beautiful day to be outside. On June 16, teachers, administrators, and support staff at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School gathered under a bright blue sky to mark the official start of summer vacation by waving goodbye to students. There was a

sense of excitement, smiles, and best wishes for a safe and happy summer before embarking on their sabbatical.

The last-day wave, held on the last day of the school year, is an annual tradition at BVT. It signifies that another school year has successfully come to an

end. While students and teachers enjoy their well-deserved downtime, administrators, support staff, and the Facilities team are prepared to tackle many projects during the eight-week summer vacation.

"It's a lengthy and ambitious to-do-list," said BVT Facilities



The last-day wave, a tradition at Blackstone Valley Tech as the school year comes to a close.

Manager Robert Dolegiewicz. "Some of the proposed summer projects include: painting the old gym and the Construction Technology shop; a tank removal project; building new storage and workstations for the Technology department; replacing grease traps in the Culinary Arts and the Cafe area; replacing a dishwasher in the Cafe; plan-

ning for a Welding shop update; Central and Business Office floor replacement; baseball infield replacement; circuit breaker testing; replacement of the center of the football field; and tech server room wall cut in addition to other annual summer projects, routine maintenance, and inspections."

Blackstone Valley Tech will welcome the Class of 2027 freshmen and parents at the Freshmen Cookout on Wednesday, August 16. Freshmen Orientation Days are August 17 and 18. The first day of school for all of BVT is August 21. Until then, have a fun, sun-soaked summer!

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

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**SPORTS**

# Chase Falcon will continue with baseball on the next level

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Baseball has given Sutton's Chase Falcon a chance to continue playing after his high school days are over. Following the Division 5 State Baseball Tournament Falcon's baseball playing days will not come to an end; the senior will be taking his talent to Division

that was put on hold because of Covid. By the time spring rolled around again, during his sophomore year, baseball was back in full swing. Falcon made the varsity team as the starting left fielder playing along side all the older kids he grew up playing with.

However, being on the younger side, Falcon noted that he needed to work on becoming a better hitter

(12 singles, 13 doubles, 1 triple and 1 homerun) while adding 17 RBI, 17 stolen bases and 16 runs scored. As a pitcher for the Sammies, the senior recorded 15 innings pitched, where he strikeout 25 batters and allowed 25 earned runs.

"Chase has solid footwork and a strong arm that has led him to be a very dependable part of our outfield. Offensively he has gone

with my focus being on becoming a better hitter," the senior said. "As a pitcher this year, I'm finding myself more in a reliever / closer role instead of starting. If I'm needed to pitch, I'd much prefer it as I get to come into the game and do my thing."

In addition to being a hard-working student in the classroom, Falcon carries that work ethic onto

the field where he does a great job working with the younger players.

"As a senior captain, Chase enjoys working with the younger players within the program and helping them through their struggles," the Sutton Coach said.

**BASEBALL**

*continued on page 16*



Sutton's Chase Falcon will continue his baseball career at Catholic University.

3 Catholic University in Washington D.C., where he was offered a roster spot with the Cardinals.

"I've been playing baseball pretty much since the day I was born. My dad has always been a coach, so I grew up with baseball at a very young age," Falcon said. "The activity of the sport, being an active kid, it gave me something to do. It was also a way to bond with my dad."

Playing baseball in Sutton at a young age, there were not a lot of kids involved with the sport, so he found himself playing every position on the diamond at one time or another. Around the age of 13 he decided to transfer to the outfield on a regular basis.

"Having a younger birthday I could play with the kids my age, but I also had to play with the older kids," he said. "It was playing with the older kids when I discovered the outfield. They needed an outfielder, I gave it a try and after making a few diving catches while having fun playing the position, I rolled with it."

In addition to playing the outfield, Falcon occasionally found himself on the mound and while it was never a goal of his to be a pitcher he didn't mind eating up some innings for his team whenever they needed it.

As an eighth grader he was able to play baseball with the high school, but by the time he actually entered the high school baseball happened to be one of the sports

at the plate if he wanted to contend with the older players.

"I was on the smaller size but was very quick. I'd get a single and steal my way around the bases," he said. "Over the past few years, I've been able to put it out of the yard, but I do not consider myself a power hitter. My main philosophy is to see ball, hit the ball into a gap and take second base, then let my teammates bring me home."

At the time of this writing, Falcon was batting .509 with 27 hits

from a contact hitter to someone who now drives the ball, which is illustrated in his extra base hits this season." Sutton coach Casey Cummins said. "He is always willing to help the team out in any way that he can, which is illustrated by his ability to play multiple positions for us."

While he doesn't mind taking the ball every so often to help his team out, Falcon would rather play in the field.

"I prefer playing the outfield,

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## BASEBALL

*continued from page 15*

"His game and leadership skills have grown through the years tremendously."

Although the senior enjoys working with the younger players, his greatest accomplishment is his defensive game. According to Cummins, his arm strength has improved through the years enough to lead the team in defensive assists this year.

"I take a lot of pride in my defense; it really means a lot to me. My mission is to be the best defensive player that I can," he said. "Being on the smaller size I was not thought of as a hitter, so I had to do something that would allow me to stay in the lineup. My older brother (Ryan, 4 years older) always had a good arm, so that was something that I wanted to copy, so I worked with him on getting stronger to make those kinds of throws."

Last spring Sutton, as a 13 seed in the Division 5 State Baseball Tournament, thrashed the number four seed Tahanto, 10-2 before falling to Pioneer Valley in a heart-break in the round of eight. It was one win away from Sutton history.

"The team came together to make it as far as we could last year," Falcon said. "This year we want to do that again, only going further. If

we can get that extra win it would be the furthest that any baseball team at Sutton has ever gone. We are working hard to get that accomplished."

Sutton will play in the Division 5 State Tournament once again this year as the 22 seed and will open up against Smith Vocational Tech.

Whenever the Sammies season does come to an end, Falcon will then begin to focus on the future of his baseball career.

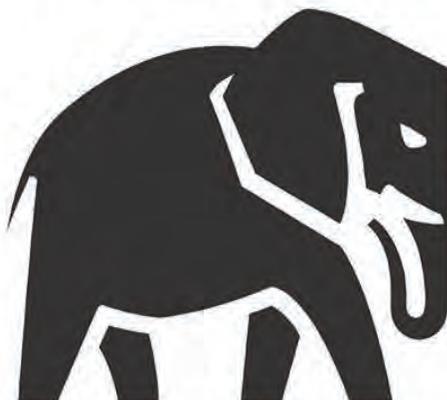
"Playing professional baseball is every kid's dream and although I will be attending a Division 3 college, that doesn't see a lot of scouts I have not totally given up on that dream," Falcon said. "I'm just going to go out and play the best that I possibly can. Catholic University has a great baseball program, but I am going for my studies. It has a different atmosphere to it, and I wanted to do something different, and everything just fell into place."

If Falcon goes out and has himself a great four years of playing college baseball, his childhood dreams may be able to come true, but if things don't work out in his favor, it seems that he will have accepted it and move on. At least he had the opportunity.

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# NES graduation features an Olympics theme

The Northbridge Elementary School graduation for the Class of 2030 took place on June 1st with a variety of events, featuring an Olympics theme.

The Committee preparing the celebration began organizing activities in January. These included engaging and gaining support from local businesses and residents of the community through fund-raising events.

The Committee was led by Kelly Hird L'Hommedieu and Erin LaMonda.

The Olympics theme was being utilized for the first time. Country flags representative of the fifth-grade population were utilized in the event.



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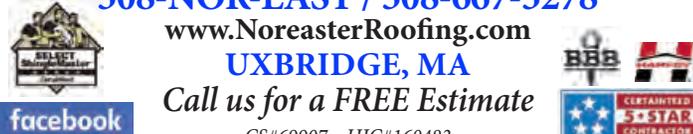
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# July 2023 Events at Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

All programs are free and open to the public. Bring water, wear sunscreen/bug spray, and dress for the outdoors. Sturdy footwear is strongly recommended for hiking events. An adult must accompany all children. Hiking programs are canceled in inclement weather. For more information call 508-234-9610 or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/locations/purgatory-chasm-state-reservation>

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation is located at 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton MA 01590.

Please note that public programming may be affected by construction projects taking place within the park.

**CHASM HIKE**  
**FRIDAYS 11 AM – 12 PM, SATURDAYS 2 PM – 3 PM, SUNDAYS 3 PM – 4 PM**  
Scramble around boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm! Find out about the park's history and cultural influence, the chasm's rock formations, or the wildlife that call the chasm home. Meet at the pavilion at the mouth of the chasm. Appropriate for ages 8 and above. About 1/2 mile over moderate terrain.

**CHASM PRIMER**  
**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 11:30 AM**

Find out the chasm's history in just 15 minutes. This is the perfect primer before your hike through the chasm. Meet at the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 8 and up.

**GLACIAL GEOLOGY HIKE**  
**MONDAYS 2 PM – 3:30 PM**  
Discover our glacial past on this 1-mile hike to Little Purgatory. Explore evidence of the ice that blanketed this park over 10,000 years ago! Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. About 1 mile over moderate terrain.

**KIDLEIDOSCOPE**  
**MONDAYS 11 AM TO 12 PM**  
Join us each week for Kidleidoscope! We will read a short book, followed by an outdoor activity. Afterwards, enjoy a craft that relates to the story. Each week has a new theme, stop by often! Meet at the Visitor Center. Designed for ages 3 to 6. Siblings are welcome. During inclement weather this will be held in the Visitor Center.

**OFF THE BEATEN PATH**  
**FRIDAYS 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**  
Hiking trails are the heart of our park system and getting outdoors is a great way to exercise! Join us on this recreational hike with other like-minded people. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for ages 8 and above. About 1 mile over easy terrain.

**ROCK DETECTIVES**  
**SATURDAYS 10 AM – 11 AM**  
Have you ever wondered where rocks come from? See a bunch of different rocks and find out more about where they have been and where they are going. Stay for five minutes or an hour. Meet in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. The program will be held in the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

**SECRETS OF THE SKULL**  
**SUNDAYS 10 AM – 11 AM**  
We can learn many things about how an animal lives by looking at its skull. Join us to look for clues about how different animals survive by examining their skulls. Stay for five minutes or an hour. Meet in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. The program will be held in the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

**TIME TRAVELER TOUR**  
**SATURDAYS 4 PM – 5 PM**  
Take a step back in time! Get an introduction to this unique park as we walk among the historic structures and geological features, jumping around the park's history all the while. Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. Approximately 1 mile over easy terrain.

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# \$200,000 matching grant a boost to AHM's Hanoi Hilton exhibit

The American Heritage Museum in Hudson has been awarded a \$200,000 matching grant as part of the Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) administered by MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The American Heritage Museum is one of ninety-four cultural organizations in the Commonwealth that will be receiving portions of the \$7,661,000 total funds distributed. This important funding will enable the AHM to complete the "Hanoi Hilton" Vietnam POW

the addition of the Vietnam POW exhibit represents a significant milestone in this mission. The exhibit will provide visitors with an immersive experience, shedding light on the harrowing ordeal of American prisoners of war during the Southeast Asia era.

"We are deeply grateful to MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council for their recognition and support," Rob Collings, president of the AHM, said. "This matching grant enables us to bring to life an important chapter in our nation's history and pay tribute to the incredible valor displayed by the POWs of the Vietnam War. It is our honor to provide a platform where their stories can be heard, understood and appreciated by present and future generations."

The Hanoi Hilton Vietnam War POW exhibit features the reconstruction of an actual cell of the infamous Hoa Lo prison in Hanoi where American POWs were held from 1965 to

1973. From their shoot-down and capture into months of interrogation and torture, isolation and inhumane captivity, the fortitude and determination that was shown by these POWs will be on full display for visitors to the AHM. Through the use of cutting-edge technology, multimedia installations and authentic historical artifacts, the AHM aims to foster a deep understanding of the sacrifices made by these POWs up to their release in



Exhibit expansion that has taken place within the Vietnam War Gallery of the museum, honoring the bravery and sacrifice of those who endured years of captivity, isolation and torture during the Vietnam War.

The AHM is renowned for its commitment to preserving and showcasing the rich heritage of the armed forces of the United States from the Revolutionary War through modern conflicts, and

AHM on Saturday, July 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This is a chance for visitors to see some of the American Heritage Museum's tanks including the M24 Chaffee and other privately owned military vehicles operating on the grounds behind the museum.

As a special added attraction, the museum will be operating the M26A1 Pershing and M18 Hellcat. Captivating historical narration will bring these amazing machines to life. World War II veterans will be participation in the exhibition.



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# Gregory's in Douglas known for pizza, and much more

BY ROD LEE

A fixture in downtown Douglas since its founding in 2000, Gregory's Restaurant & Pizzeria is a busy operation. Gregory's is open for lunch and dinner with a

varied menu that includes not only pizza but salads, sandwiches, beer, wine, chicken wings, buffalo wings, chicken tenders, fried calamari, steak grinders, wraps, calzones and a number of parmesan dishes. Gregory's also serves breakfast

on Saturday and Sunday.

Gregory's, which is owned by Gregory Pantos, is part of an industry with sales exceeding \$45 billion in the U.S. in 2021. More than 800,000 people work in pizza shops across the country.

One of the things patrons of Gregory's like best is the attention paid to children. Crayons and paper are available, as are booster seats.

Right, Mark Morgan begins his day in the kitchen at Gregory's Restaurant & Pizzeria in Douglas.



Below, Point Breeze Restaurant, on Webster Lake.

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Check out Gregory's full menu at [www.gregorys-restaurant.com](http://www.gregorys-restaurant.com).

### ENTERTAINMENT IS A FIXTURE AT POINT BREEZE

Summer is an especially eventful time of year at Point Breeze Restaurant on Webster Lake. In addition to the seafood-oriented menu, which can be enjoyed in the dining room or at the edge of the water, there is the entertainment, which has been a staple at Point Breeze almost from its founding as a private men's sailing club in the late 1800s. Tuesdays are Open Mic Night, Wednesdays are karaoke and there is live music on Thursdays and Fridays. At the turn of the century in the early 1900s, Point Breeze became a destination for weekend exhibitions and entertainment and in the Roaring 20s a favorite location for summertime weddings. Point Breeze is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Go to [www.pointbreezonwebsterlake.com](http://www.pointbreezonwebsterlake.com) for more details.

### TO-GO COCKTAILS' FUTURE HANGS IN BALANCE

Lawmakers have extended a COVID-era bill that allows to-go cocktails through March of 2024, but the Massachusetts Restaurant Association (MRA) is pushing for the feature to be made permanent.

One thing legislators are watching as they weigh voting yes or no is how sales of to-go cocktails do in coming months, and what kind of regulatory practices restaurants are willing to put in place to assure a manageable situation.

Jessica Muradian, who is director of government affairs for the organization, said the MRA will continue to advocate for making to-go cocktails a lasting ingredient for restaurant patrons.

Takeout has become that, and to-go cocktails should too, she says.

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.

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# Happenings!

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

The Sutton Historical Society is hosting a bottle/can redemption drive. Drop off is 24 hours at the M.M. Sherman Blackstone Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue, Sutton. Place your returnable bottles and cans in the trailer, which will be parked alongside the building. This annual event is a significant fundraiser for the Society, a 501(c)3 organization which is working hard to keep history alive in Sutton. For more information about the Society, or to join, visit [suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org](http://suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org). Questions about the drive can be emailed to [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com).

NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the Happenings! section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to [news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com).



The popular group Chuck & Mud will perform on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza in Whitinsville on Thursday, July 20th as part of ValleyCAST's Summer Concert Series.

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

A nonprofit concert will be held on the grounds of St. Peter's Parish in Northbridge at 5:30 p.m. Authentic ragtime music by Scott Joplin and more will be featured. Organizers for the event are Kevin Burokas and Caleb Smith. Admission is \$10.

## THROUGH JULY 31

Summer at the Beach, paintings and drawings by Laura Burnett, will be on display.

## HAPPENINGS!

continued on page 22



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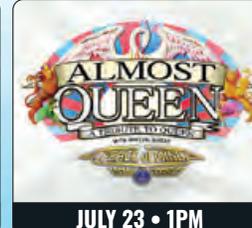
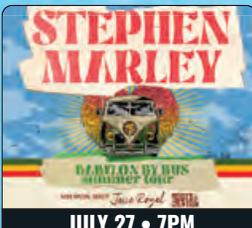
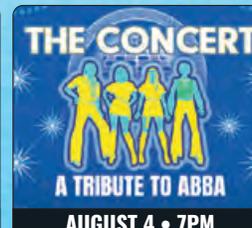
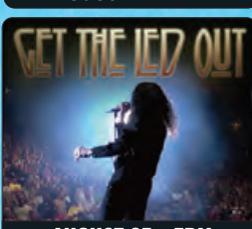
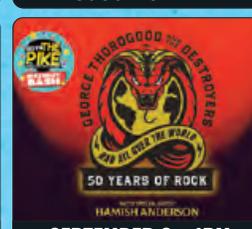
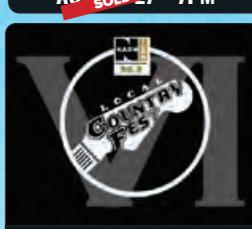




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 AUGUST 4 • 7PM	 AUGUST 6 • 1PM	 AUGUST 12 • 1PM
 AUGUST 13 • 1PM	 AUGUST 18 • 7PM	 AUGUST 19 • 12PM
 AUGUST 25 • 7PM	 AUGUST 27 • 7PM	 SEPTEMBER 2 • 1PM
 SEPTEMBER 4 • 1PM	 SEPTEMBER 9 • 12PM	 SEPTEMBER 24 • 12PM
 SEPTEMBER 30 • 1PM	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">SAMUEL SLATER'S RESTAURANT</h3> <p>OPEN DAILY AT NOON WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY FOR LUNCH AND DINNER</p>  <h2 style="color: blue; margin: 10px 0;">UPCOMING EVENTS</h2> <p><b>JULY 20</b> COMEDY NIGHT WITH KERRI LOUISE, DAN CROHN, &amp; DAN MILLER DOORS 6:30PM / SHOW 7:30PM</p> <p><b>AUGUST 24</b> COMEDY NIGHT WITH PAUL NARDIZZI, WILL NOONAN, &amp; ANDREW DELLA VOLPE DOORS 6:30PM / SHOW 7:30PM</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER 1</b> SHADES OF HUNKS DOORS 7PM / SHOW 8PM</p> <p>TICKETS, MENUS &amp; RESERVATIONS AT <a href="http://WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM">WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM</a> OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA</p> </div>	
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LAKE TOUR / JULY 22 / 10AM  
LAKE TOUR / JULY 23 / 10AM  
SUNSET LAKE TOUR / JULY 28 / 7:15PM  
LAKE TOUR / JULY 29 / 10AM  
LAKE TOUR / JULY 30 / 10AM  
MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE / AUGUST 3 / 6:30PM  
LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 4 / 4PM  
LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 6 / 10AM  
SUNSET LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 11 / 7:15PM  
LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 12 / 10AM  
LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 13 / 10AM  
LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 18 / 10AM  
100 FM THE PIKE 80'S CRUISE  
HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS / AUGUST 19 / 6:30PM  
100 FM THE PIKE 90'S CRUISE  
HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS / SEPTEMBER 9 / 6:30PM  
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## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 21*

play and for sale in the café gallery at Book-lovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. The show consists of things that you can do, or that you may see while at the beach. A meet-the-artist reception will take place on Saturday, July 22nd from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Ms. Burnett lives with her family in Woodstock, Connecticut. She is a self-taught painter and crafter who has been drawing from a young age. "I love what I do, when I make a piece for anyone I love to see the joy that it brings to them," she says. "My inspiration comes from people and places I have been to and from drawings and doodles I have done."

### THROUGH OCTOBER 1

• Daniels Farmstead in Blackstone is open for its 13th season of Farmers' Markets, every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Email [info@danielsfarmstead.org](mailto:info@danielsfarmstead.org) for further details or visit the Daniels Farmstead Foundation website at [www.danielsfarmstead.org](http://www.danielsfarmstead.org).

### THURSDAY, JULY 20

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Turtlehead at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.  
• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a performance by Chuck & Mud and the Hole in the Dam Band. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.  
• The town of Auburn's Farmers and Cultural Market runs from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the Summer Concert Series continues at 6:00 p.m. The Market and the concerts will occur every Thursday this summer.

### SUNDAY, JULY 23

• The Boston Mycological Club will conduct a hunt for fungi in the woods of the Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, beginning at 10:30 a.m. This event includes collecting specimens for one and a half hours and then returning to tables at the Daniels Barnyard for display, identification and information.  
• The Community Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Road, Webster, will host its 2nd Annual Kitten Shower from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Raffles, appetizers, baked goods and games. <https://communitycatconnection.org>.  
• The New England Country Music Club will host DJ Bob Rumrill at the Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. with live music and dancing from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. [www.newenglandcountrymusicclub.com](http://www.newenglandcountrymusicclub.com)

## HAPPENINGS!

*continued on page 23*

# POWER OF THE RED

## TRACTOR SHOW

**AUG 12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
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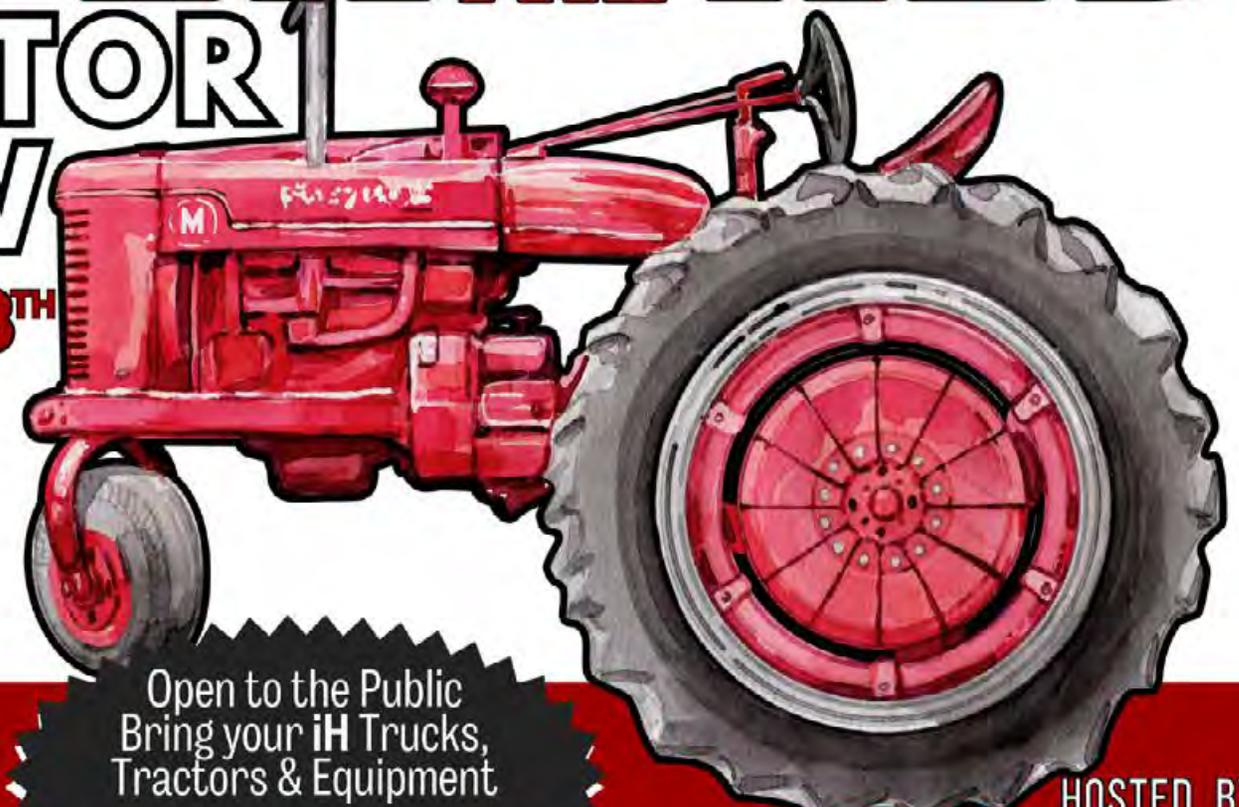
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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 22*

facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub for further info.



"A horse painting" by Laura Burnett, whose "Summer at the Beach" paintings and drawings are being exhibited at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster all this month.

**THURSDAY, JULY 27**

- The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Far from Eden at the Asa Waters Mansion. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.
- Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a performance by Le'Mixx Band. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh

Performance Center.

**FRIDAY, JULY 28**

- Blackstone Valley Day at Polar Park will feature a game between the Worcester Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings. Game time is 6:45 p.m. with Friday Night Fireworks to follow. Admission is \$27 for members of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and \$37 for future members. Register by July 21st at [www.blackstonevalley.org/events](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/events).

**SATURDAY, JULY 29**

- Northbridge Author Rod Lee will talk about and sign copies of his new novel "Gil Christopher," a reflection on aging, at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 3**

- The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by 4EverFab at the Millbury Senior Center. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.
- Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a performance by Country Wild Heart Band. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

- The New England Country Music Club will host the Rhode Island Rednecks at the

Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. with live music and dancing from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. [www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub](http://www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub) for further info.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10**

- "Of Farms and Factories:" Tour a history farm and homestead in beautiful Sutton at Waters Farm, 53 Waters Road, at 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, this walkabout will show the important role local farmers have played in the evolution of industry in New England. The program is being presented in collaboration with Waters Farm Preservation Inc.

The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by DJ and the Preachers at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

- Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by the Blackstone Valley Bluegrass Band on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

- Commemorate the Blackstone Valley's involvement in World War II by attending

**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued on page 24*



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568 Main Street, Hudson, MA [www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org](http://www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org) (978) 562-9182

## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 23*

an informative and interactive afternoon of history presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Valley-CAST from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 30-70 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. The program is being offered in partnership with Open Sky Community Services. The event is free and open to all.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual Steamers at Sunset event will be held at The Barn at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To register or for more information about this signature event, email Liz O'Neil at loneil@blackstonevalley.org or Kristen Kearnan at kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

• "Adaptive Reuse in Manchaug:" This program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Manchaug Mills, 9 Main St., Sutton, and it will show how the creative adaptation of an old industrial complex can take shape. Attendees will meet local historian Christine Watkins who will discuss the opportunities and challenges of working in a restored mill space. The program is being presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in partnership with Deb Dunleavy of Manchaug Mills Inc.



The Beatles tribute band 4EverFab performs at the Millbury Senior Center on August 3rd.

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Dan Gable & the Abletones at the Asa Waters Mansion. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Clafin Hill Summer Winds on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

• The Whittin Community Center will host "Cars in the Park," 60 Main St., Whitinsville.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

• The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center is planning a trip to The Theatre by the Sea to see the show "Jersey Boys." There will be a sit-down lunch at Bravo by the Sea with meal choices of haddock, chicken or pasta. Bus pickups will be at the Millbury Park and Ride in Millbury and at the Dollar General in Whitinsville. The cost including driver gratuity is \$150. Call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more details about this trip and a

five-day trip in September to Penn Dutch to see the brand new show "Daniel" at Sight and Sound Theatre.

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Belit at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Dynamite Rhythm on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

• The 2nd Annual Parking Lot Craft Fair sponsored by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be held at 41 South St., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Vendors are welcome. Contact Helen at auburnmuseum@verizon.net to reserve a space for \$15.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with The Eagles Experience on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Andrew Noone, author of "Bathsheba

Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton, at 7:00 p.m. Go to [www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org) for further info.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

• Bethel Lutheran Church/Grace Ministries will host a Community Yard Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 90 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn. Rent a table for just \$25. Contact Jackie Walsh at 508-769-0879 for jackmae@charter.net to register for this event. This organization is under the umbrella of the Auburn Historical Society and has just completed a year-long fundraising project to restore the Green Dome, which sat atop the 1935 original Auburn High School building. When the seventy-two year-old building was demolished, the Green Dome was able to be removed and saved. It had fallen into disrepair as it passed from several town departments, the Historical Commission and the Town Manager's office. It now sits on Auburn HS property where it has been restored and renovated, thanks to a dedicated "Save the Dome" Committee.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

• The Greenway Challenge takes place in the Blackstone Valley and around the region.

### OCTOBER 9-23

## HAPPENINGS!

*continued on page 25*

# Blackstone Valley Boat Rentals



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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 24*

• The Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public Library in Douglas's fourth annual online auction begins. Donations for the event will be accepted through September 14th at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit the library's capital campaign to renovate the building and make it handicapped accessible. The

tycenter.com for full details.

• The Whitin Community Center will host "Nightmare on Main St., 60 Main St., Whitinsville. Visit [www.whitincommunity-center.com](http://www.whitincommunity-center.com) for more info.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

• The UMass Cancer Walk and Run, celebrating twenty-five years to the community's commitment to cancer research, will take



Fresh sweet corn is one of many fruits and vegetables available for purchase at Daniels Farmstead in Blackstone. Daniels Farmstead recently kicked off its new season.

Friends are also accepting sponsorships from community members or businesses.

place at Polar Park in Worcester. Go to [umasscancerwalk.org](http://umasscancerwalk.org) for further details, or email [cancerwalk@umassmed.edu](mailto:cancerwalk@umassmed.edu).

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**

• The Whitin Community Center will host a Halloween Haunted Swim & Costume Roller Skating Party. Go to [www.whitincommuni-](http://www.whitincommuni-)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Mark Savoio of the Thompson Historical

Society for the presentation "The Mass 15th of the Civil War and Wilder Holbrook, Sutton," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, at 7:00 p.m. Go to [www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org) for further info.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's 45th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony will be held at Pleasant Valley

Country Club on Armsby Road in Sutton from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. To nominate an individual or company for honors, contact Liz O'Neil at [loneil@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:loneil@blackstonevalley.org).

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**SPORTS**

# Uxbridge baseball team's winning ways sure to continue in 2024

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Last spring the Uxbridge baseball team finished the regular season with a 14-4 record and unfortunately found itself on the wrong end of the Central Mass Athletic Directors Tournament Championship game. The Spartans then made a run through the Division 4 State Tournament, where they saw their season end in the Round of Eight to Seekonk.

Despite having lost three key positions, the number one and three

pitchers and their centerfielder, the Spartans knew that they might not be as good as they were a year ago, but still had the talent to make another run.

"Coming into the season we knew that we had some quality young athletes," Uxbridge Coach Peter Rice said. "Our starters include two seniors and seven underclassmen. Of our six losses this year, three were in the seventh inning by one run."

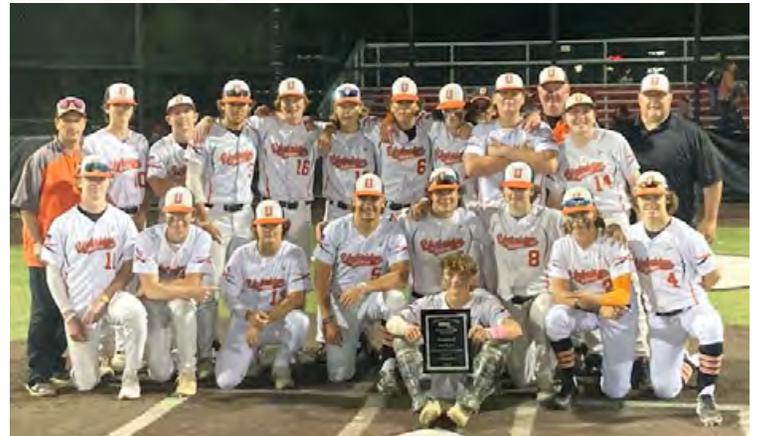
Following their regular season finish of 12-6, in which they captured the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) Championship, the

Spartans were able to run the table this spring in the Central Mass AD Tournament taking home the title they were denied last year. Uxbridge will now be heading to the Division 4 State Tournament hoping to surpass last year's visit to the Round of Eight.

On the mound Uxbridge was led by sophomore tri-captain Charlie Criscola, who played shortstop when not throwing for the Spartans. Criscola was the team's number two hurler last season but was elevated to the top pitcher this year.

"Charlie definitely improved from last year," Rice said. "He got stronger and whenever he was slated to pitch I was originally worried that by taking him out of the shortstop position would hurt us, but Grady (Walsh) stepped up."

Walsh was supposed to be just a back filler when Criscola was pitching, but the freshman stepped into play phenomenal baseball so that the Uxbridge skipper couldn't keep him out of the lineup. Walsh found himself playing a variety of positions, third base, outfield and even saw



The Uxbridge High School baseball team. Winning ways under Coach Peter Rice have become a staple.

some action pitching (where he went 5-0). The freshman was the team's fourth best hitter batting .308 at the plate.

Pitching in between Criscola and Walsh was Jack Nummela, who actually began the season pitching in relief for the Spartans. Nummela would come out of the bullpen for four games before Rice transitioned him to the starting rotation.

"Jack's a hard thrower, but was inconsistent at first," said the coach. "I wanted to build his confidence up and just let him throw strikes, so we started him in relief, eventually he got things settled down and moved into the starting rotation."

When Nummela didn't find himself pitching he was stationed at the hot corner for the Spartans. Tri-captain Aidan Blood played second base, the only other senior Dylan Donahue held down first and Talen Rosborough was situated behind the plate. The outfield was comprised of left fielder Branden Cammuso, center fielder Liam Kaferein and in right field was tri-captain Tanner Gauthier.

Not only was he the Spartans number one hurler, but Criscola also led the team at the plate hitting third

**SPORTS**

continued on page 29

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# Southwick's Zoo to Host Boston 25 News Zip Trip

Southwick's Zoo is thrilled to announce its partnership with Boston 25 News to host a Zip Trip on July 14, 2023. The Zip Trip will take place at the event pavilion located across from the Southwick's Zoo main entrance,

allowing them to connect with nature, enjoy interactive exhibits and rides, learn about wildlife conservation and create lasting memories.

Boston 25 News Zip Trips have been a beloved summer tradi-

tion for two decades, bringing communities together and showcasing the unique businesses and local attractions of different towns and cities throughout the region. Southwick's Zoo, a treasured

local heroes. Residents of all ages are encouraged to come out and be part of the audience and share what makes their hometown a

great place to live.



tion for two decades, bringing communities together and showcasing the unique businesses and local attractions of different towns and cities throughout the region. Southwick's Zoo, a treasured

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destination known for its commitment to conservation and education, is honored to be chosen as one of the venues for Boston 25 News 20th Anniversary of Zip Trips. The event will stream live on television beginning at 6:00 a.m. and will include interviews with Mendon newsmakers, special guests, hometown teams, and

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Meet the Beatles

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**July 20**  
Chuck & Mud and the Hole in the Dam Band

**July 27**  
Le'Mixx Band

**August 3**  
Country Wild Heart Band

**August 10**  
Blackstone Valley Bluegrass Band

**August 17**  
Clafin Hill Summer Winds

**August 24**  
Dynamite Rhythm

**August 31**  
The Eagles Experience

Food & snacks will be available for purchase!

In inclement weather, the concert moves indoors to the Singh Performance Center at the same location.

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# 'Elvis' in the house at Plummer Place, to a warm reception

Seniors and older adults enjoyed a live musical performance by award-winning Elvis tribute artist Dan Fontaine, accompanied by Brian Martin and Henry James of the Memphis Sun Mafia Band at Plummer Place in Whitinsville on June 29th.

The band took those in attendance on a melodious journey through the catalog of Elvis Presley, treating a packed dining room at the Northbridge Senior Center with a nod to the King's musical legacy.

Seniors sang and danced to Elvis's No. 1 hit "Heartbreak Hotel" and such favorites as "Blue Suede Shoes," "Don't Be Cruel," "Hound Dog," "Love Me Tender" and "All Shook Up."

A Memphis-themed barbecue



Elvis Tribute Artist Dan Fontaine rocks the house at Plummer Place.

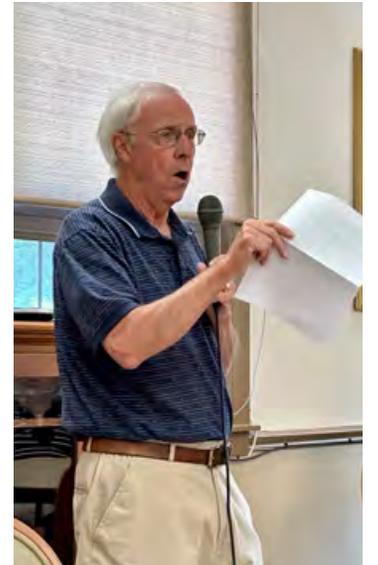
"Dan's performances never disappoint the crowd and we all enjoy the music and songs he and his band play."

"The Elvis tribute is probably my most favorite event of the year to host at Plummer Place!" Amy Cowen, program and volunteer coordinator at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center, said. "The day the tickets went on sale we sold out in an hour and forty minutes. I have a great volunteer team and I couldn't do what I do for the event and our seniors without all of them. They really are a special group of folks. The seniors who came to the event were so happy and we had many folks in their late 80s and early 90s on the dance floor. It was incredible! As one concertgoer shared with me, 'you could feel the magic in the air' and I couldn't have agreed more with him."

The concert was sponsored by the Friends of Northbridge Elders Inc. (FINE). For more information about Plummer Place or FINE, call 508-234-2002.

#### BILL BALLOU TALKS ABOUT THE WHITIN FAMILY

Who were the Whitins? What were their stories? Seniors at Plummer Place enjoyed a unique chance



Bill Ballou charts the history of the Whitin family at Plummer Place.

to learn about one of American's Industrial Revolution families right here in the Blackstone River Valley from Bill Ballou.

Mr. Ballou was born in Whitinsville and is a correspondent for the Telegram & Gazette.

"I really enjoyed the program

#### SENIOR CENTER

*continued on page 29*

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lunch catered by Creedon and Co. Inc. was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Struggles and Snuggles, a local nonprofit, which has partnered with Plummer Place to bring handmade knitted items to children in foster care, was represented, as was Atria Draper Place and Cornerstone of Milford which donated several Elvis-themed gift baskets.

"It was great to see so many friends and new faces at Plummer Place," Director Kelly Bol said.



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## SENIOR CENTER

*continued from page 28*

today. I learned so much and everyone loved it," Carol Snow, a member of FINE's Board, said. "Bill was so interesting, funny and had a great delivery!"



Joan and Deb finish their magic mushroom, part of a PopUp Craft event at the Uxbridge Senior Center.

### NEW UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER SHUTTLE DEBUTS

The Uxbridge Senior Center's Transportation Program recently

began offering a new service, a community shuttle to take seniors and individuals with disabilities to destinations such as the post office, pet-care appointments, the hair salon or barber shop, the bank, the pharmacy and shopping in the Northbridge-Uxbridge area.

The shuttle runs every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a 48-hour notice.

It will replace the bank and pharmacy rides on the first and third Wednesdays and the Shaw's/Ocean State Job Lot rides on the second and fourth Thursdays.

Call the Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for further details.

### DOUGLAS LAUNCHES NEW-VAN NAMING CONTEST

The Adult Social Center in Douglas announced recently that a new van has been acquired, with delivery soon, for shopping, medical appointments, etc. A contest is being conducted on what to name the van; contribute your suggestion!

On another note, approximately \$30 billion in benefits go unclaimed every year because people are unaware they are eligible to receive them. Go to [www.BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org) to learn more.

## SPORTS

*continued from page 26*

in the lineup where he batted .441 with 26 hits and 26 RBI. Following Criscola was Rosborough, the team's number two hitter, who batted .409 with 27 hits, 12 RBI and 16 runs scored; Kaferein, the Spartans lead off hitter, batted .364 with 24 hits and 20 runs scored and batting clean-up was Walsh, who hit .308 with 16 hits, 12 RBI and 11 runs scored.

Uxbridge's top four hitters this spring include three sophomores and a freshman, which bides very well for the future of Spartan baseball. Having already captured the SWCL and

the Central Mass Titles the Spartans are looking to make it a trifecta as they enter the Division 4 State Tournament, where anything can happen on any given day.

"We have already shown that we can win in a lot of different ways. We've had wins this year using our big bats, pitching, and having one big inning," said the coach. "Our defense is solid, and we have proven that we have some talented athletes with experience and playing with confidence."

Having won the Central Mass Tournament and giving them some big wins under their belts, Rice is confident that his team has what it takes to be the last team standing.

"There are a lot of tough teams in

Division 4," the Spartan skipper said. "If we go out and play the way that we are capable of playing, getting those timely hits we'll definitely be able to compete for the championship."

Having only two seniors who will be graduating after the current campaign, Uxbridge will be once again primed to make a strong run through the SWCL, the Central Mass Tournament and the Division 4 State Tournament next spring.

"We will have a strong team coming back next year, six players will be returning for their third season," Rice said. "We will only be saying goodbye to two seniors, both who have done the small things for this team that usually go unnoticed."

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# SSE program tackles subject of child labor

BY ROD LEE

During the brief time it has been in existence, the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster has quickly gained stature as a museum that puts the cultural and historical life of the region in perspective.

Another example of the contribution the SSE is making in this regard occurred on June 10th with a presentation by Linda Hixon on “Women and Children on the Time Clock”—a captivating look at how boys and girls as young as ten, and adult females, were employed in mills in Lowell, Hoped-

dale and elsewhere around the Commonwealth in the 1800s and the first part of the 20th Century.

Ms. Hixon’s program follows ones recently offered on “Ice Harvesting” and “Early Transportation.” Coming up at the SSE is an introductory course on “Rigid Heddle Weaving.” A three-day workshop scheduled for July 15, 22 and 29, the course will show participants how to use their own rigid heddle loom. Call 508-461-2955 to register.

Ms. Hixon’s talk on child labor was a featured element of “Samuel Slater’s Birthday Weekend” at the museum, June 9-11. It was in every sense of the word an eye opener on the liberties manufacturers took in utilizing kids in the production of wool and cotton and other goods; “for every reason and for no reason at all,” as Ms. Hixon put it.

The Draper Company in Hopedale, where Ms. Hixon grew up, “was part of all of this, but later on,” she said. “We wouldn’t even contemplate that now.”

The initial portion of Ms. Hixon’s remarks, accompanied by



A Lewis Hine photo, calling attention to child labor in the nation’s mills in the 1800s.



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**SSE**

continued on page 31



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**SSE**  
continued from page 30

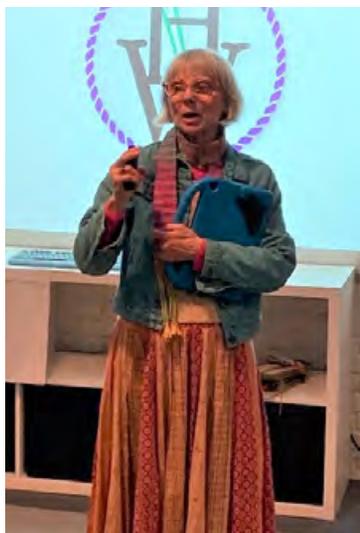
pictures, focused on providing an answer to the question “what is childhood?” At what age does an individual go from adolescence to adulthood? For a friend of hers, she said, it was “fighting in World War II at the age of sixteen.” He is now in his 90s and apparently still alive, although she has lost contact with him.

“Is this a soldier?” she asked as well, of Charles Everett. He was “a drummer boy” in the horrific “Battle of the Wilderness” and died at fourteen in 1854. An only child and standing just 5 feet 4 inches tall, he joined the Army in January and was killed in May.

“The Army knew better,” she said.

Ms. Hixon made a point of championing the work of Lewis Hine, whose remarkable photographs of children working in “the mills, the mines and as chimney sweeps” were meant to put an end to America’s horrific practice of depending on child labor.

An historian who has taught at Worcester State, she was introduced to a large and attentive gathering by the museum’s Barbara Van Reed, who said “a big part of our story here is the children.”



Historian Linda Hixon talks about “Women and Children in the Mills” during an appearance at Samuel Slater Experience in Webster on June 10th.

The stories Ms. Hixon told hammered home the message that utilizing children in mills for up to sixteen hours a day with the windows closed was just plain wrong.

“These places were death traps in a lot of instances,” she said, citing several examples.

Located at 31 Ray St. in Webster and dedicated to the life of Samuel Slater, “Father of the American Industrial Revolution” and a founder of the town of Webster, Samuel Slater Experience is open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to

4:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4:00. The museum with its array of interactive exhibits is available for field trips, parties and private functions, and to tour groups.

Call 508-461-2955 or go to <https://samuel Slater Experience.org> for more information or to make a donation.  
Samuel Slater Experience prin-

cipal sponsors are the Janet Masler Humanities Trust and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.  
Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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# Luke Valentino, a bashful pup gone spunky

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

Luke Valentino has grown so much in the past year and a half. Puppies are cute, but they are also a tremendous amount of work. Directly proportional to the energy expended on a puppy seems the reward of a full-grown dog who understands how to live with us. Luke has learned that we can't cater to his every whim. He has a toy box. He has a bone. He has a life!

Luke came into my life in March of 2022. He was the darker-hued of three other Golden males, the one nestled in the warmth of his brother, the guy uninterested in me or a new home for that matter. Of the Seven Dwarfs, Luke was Bashful. "That's Luke," I said to myself. "I'll take the one in the back," I said aloud, fighting to ignore Happy, who sat staring at me with a heart-breakingly small smile. "I'll be

your forever friend." My heart had already settled on Luke a few days back. He caught my eye in a picture sent me by his breeder. He seemed to look into my eyes as though to say, "My name is Luke Valentino. I'm not Lincoln, but you'll love me just the same, and I'll love you back." He looked like a Luke. He was Luke! Fate had brought us together.

Do we ever love our new pets in the same way we do those we've lost? I don't believe so. Rather, I think we love them differently or perhaps individually. I loved Lincoln for his athletic, robust spirit. He was up for a new adventure on the ball field. He was my partner in crime; with me to share in my love for people and life. He was a dog who viewed the world with rose-colored glasses until his last day. He didn't focus on the pain of his tumor, but on being together. Why complain when we can play? He seemed to understand that our journey is paved with highs and low—and that it helps to focus on the highs. He was my dog.

What about Luke?

Bashful dashed like a bunny into

the comfort of his plush crate on his first day home. He cried for me at three a.m. with a miniature puppy howl. "Arooooooo! Help! Help! I somehow pooped on myself!" He was careful to explore only sections of our home at a time and tackled the deck stairs with trepidation and a shrill bark. "I know I'm supposed to walk down the stairs but it's easier for you. Your legs are bigger!" Weeks turned into months and little Luke grew into his big, boxy head. In the process, he began to trust us. He may have been the most docile puppy I've owned, the only one I could trust to be alone on the front steps, but he was developing confidence and attitude. The mane of his chest puffed out like a lion's—and so did our love for a bashful pup gone spunky. There's so much to celebrate about Luke. Where to begin?

**HE'S A SNUGLER**

A dog is therapeutic, scientifically, and remarkably so. Research shows that petting a dog lowers the stress hormone, cortisol. Moreover, the social interaction between

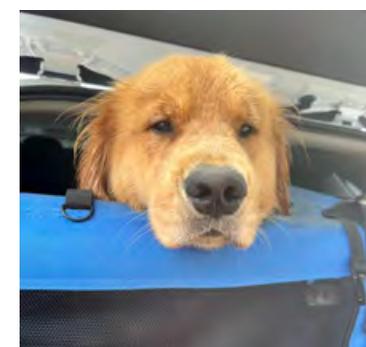


people and their dogs increases oxytocin, a feel-good hormone, the same one which bonds a mother to her baby. More simply put, snuggling feels good. "Do you want to snuggle, Luke?" My grown pup is more a thinker than a jumper. He'll look up at me or my husband at the edge of the couch as though to say, "I was thinking of snuggling with you, but I don't want to bother you." We scoop him up and he makes the big, clunky transition from floor to chest. Then he tucks his big head against one of our chests. Luke's coat is soft and extremely thick. Snuggling with him is like hugging a brand new, expensive teddy bear. He'll gaze up at the television and tilt his head in curiosity to the sight of a dog on film. Occasionally, he'll find himself hooked on a scene. "There's a dog who looks like me! Now he's walking on the grass like me! Hey, there's a car. I ride in cars, too! A person is swimming. I know how to swim, too!" I'm not particularly fond of watching television. Unless Luke is beside me.

**HE TRAVELS LIKE A CHAMP**

I used to travel everywhere with Lincoln, but rides were not easy. He was a backseat pacer, and far more high-strung than Luke. In some ways, I created the monster in the backseat. I acclimated him to Dunkin Donuts drive-throughs and tossed him one too many donut holes. He came to attach

car rides with indulgence. Luke, on the other hand, lays down patiently in his travel dog crate (highly recommended) and will sleep through long rides. He'll pop his head out of the sunroof upon arrival. "We're here already?" Luke has already been to Vermont, New Hampshire, and numerous



central MA destinations. He's sat beside me in cafes, restaurants, and bookstores. He's not a Service Dog and I've never claimed him to be. "I'm a columnist. He's working" is what I say, instead, when questioned. I write lots of stories about Luke. I need to be with him, my companion and muse.

**HE AIMS TO PLEASE**

Admittedly, food rewards have been a central part of this equation. Still, nothing warms my



heart more than the expression on Luke's face when he has made a good choice and knows it. "Hi Momma! I really, really wanted to chase after that shaggy mutt but you've worked so hard to help me stay in the yard. How about putting something in my dish so I'll remember to do it again? Aren't we a great team?" I've learned that consistency matters the most when it comes to training a dog. Luke's consequent behavior is no exception (barring a few erratic bunny chases; every dog needs to chase a bunny now and then).

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REAL ESTATE

# Your needs matter more than today's mortgage rates

If you're thinking about selling your house right now, chances are it's because something in your life has changed. And, while things like mortgage rates are a key part of your decision on what



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

you'll buy next, it's important to not lose sight of the reason you want to make a change in the first place.

It's true mortgage rates have

climbed from the record lows we saw in recent years, and that has an impact on affordability. With rates where they are right now, some homeowners are deciding they'll wait to sell because they don't want to move and have a higher mortgage rate on their next home.

But your lifestyle and your changing needs should matter more. Here are a few of the most

common reasons people choose to sell today. Any one of these may be more important than keeping your current mortgage rate.

**RELOCATION.**

Some of the things that can motivate a move to a new area include changing jobs, a desire to be closer to friends and loved ones, wanting to live in a dream location, or just looking for a change in scenery. For example, if you live in suburbia and just landed your dream job in NYC, you may be thinking about selling your current home and moving to the city for work.

**UPGRADING.**

Many homeowners decide to sell to move into a larger home. This is especially common when there's a need for more room to entertain, a home office or gym, or additional bedrooms to accommodate a growing number of loved ones. For example, if you're living in a condo and decide it's time to seek out a home with more space, or if your household is growing, it may be time to find a home that better fits

those needs.

**DOWNSIZING.**

With inflation driving up everyday expenses, homeowners may also decide to sell to reduce maintenance and costs. Or, they may sell because someone's moved out of the home recently and there's now more space than needed. It could also be that they've recently retired or are ready for a change. For example, you've just kicked off your retirement and you want to move to somewhere you can enjoy the warm weather and have less house to maintain. Your new lifestyle may be better suited for a different home.

**CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP STATUS.**

Divorce, separation, or marriage are other common reasons individuals sell to buy different homes. For example, if you've recently separated, it may be difficult to still live under one roof. Selling and downsizing may be better options.

**HEALTH CONCERNS.**

If a homeowner faces mobility challenges or health issues that

require specific living arrangements or modifications, they might sell their current home to find one that works better for them. For example, you may be looking to sell your home and use the proceeds to help pay for a unit in an assisted-living facility.

With higher mortgage rates, there are some affordability challenges right now – but your needs

and your lifestyle matter too. If you're ready to sell your house so you can make a move, connect with The Marzeotti Group or a REALTOR. That way you have an expert on your side to help you navigate the process and find a home that can deliver on what you're looking for.

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**LUKE**

continued from page 32

**HE'S ONE OF A KIND**

Luke Valentino is unique. He doesn't like the game of fetch like most dogs. Instead, he prefers Tease and Chase, a game involving



a stuffed animal pushed into our butts (a subtle nudge) to initiate an intense game of chase that goes on with unathletic slides and raucous

unfairness. Luke positions himself to win every time, finding the perfect angle around the coffee table to prevent us from grabbing the stuffed lamb from his mouth. He's also a colossal sore loser. Should we find a means to take the lamb back and run with it, he'll whine like an NFL player handed a bad call. "THAT'S MY LAMB!!! GIVE IT BACK!" He's even adopted a clever tactic in grabbing a second stuffed animal to make us jealous, so that we'll drop the lamb. "I like the beaver better anyway." Often, I find myself losing patience with his tantrums. "Let Luke win, please!"

Luke may win a game of Tease and Chase, but when it comes to finding the right "next dog" my family has scored big. Whether snuggling, playing, or traveling with us, Luke has added so much joy to our lives. I never thought I'd find a dog I'd love as much as I did Lincoln. Then came Luke Valen-

tino. I couldn't be happier.

Write to Amy at amyclair@hotmail.com

Find Luke Valentino on Instagram @livingwithlukevalentino

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Sin and Flesh Brook a horrific reminder of King Philip's War

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

There are many relics of King Philip's War, a conflict that has been proclaimed to be

the most brutal and bloodiest war ever fought on American soil. The war was not only fought between soldiers from either side, villages and settlements were attacked and

burned, killing women and children as well. The object of the war was, from both sides, to completely eradicate the other from the land.

Fort Barton in Tiverton, Rhode Island offers a 2.3 mile loop where hikers can explore an important parcel of history and take in some of the most stunning views the state has to offer. The trail is not hard to navigate being mostly flat and if you hear the sound of gunfire, do not be alarmed. What you hear is not a ghostly battle being replayed, but instead, the noise from a nearby firing range. If you see some indigenous people attacking a person dressed in very old minister clothing, that is not a reenactment. You have just witnessed the ghosts of Sin And Flesh Brook reliving the moment that gave the waterway its rather macabre name. Sin & Flesh Brook runs southwesterly from the area near Fish Road and Route 24, terminating at Nanaquaket Pond. The best place to see it and perhaps the ghosts is by hiking on the trails in Fort Barton Woods.

On March 28, 1676, at the height of King Philip's War, Quaker minister Zoeth Howland mounted

his steed and left his Dartmouth, Massachusetts home to travel to Newport, Rhode Island for a meeting. Traveling alone during this period in time was dangerous due to the raiding native parties traveling through the woods in small bands. Howland felt the Lord would protect him as he and his steed meandered along the small trail that would take him to his destination. He had covered fifteen of the thirty-mile trip when he tragically became a casualty of the war. When he reached the path in Tiverton, six hostile Indians ambushed him.

The Quaker preacher was tortured and killed. His mutilated body was found in an unnamed stream still running red with his blood. The stream became known as "Sinning Flesh River" in remembrance of the horrific event. Over the years, the name evolved to Sin and Flesh Brook.

People may now travel the paths along the river and the fort with ease of danger but Zoeth, still trying to get to his meeting, makes his way among the leaves and brush along the banks of the watercourse. People claim to have heard ethereal

screams from the direction of the river and have claimed to even see the river run red with blood. Zoeth has made an appearance to more than one hiker on the trail that still traverses the area where he was killed. The ghostly event has played itself out, sometimes in front of astonished witnesses and other times when no one is there to witness it, just as there was no one when Howland met his fate. The trail loop is worth a visit whether you are looking for scenery or paranormal activity. Thanks to six Indians and a Quaker minister, Fort Barton is one of the places that harbors ghosts from King Philip's War.

Sin and Flesh Brook is located on the eastern side of Tiverton. Follow directions above. Just past Nannaquaket Road will be Bridgeport Road. Take left onto Bridgeport Road and then right onto Old Main Road. The brook crosses under the road at its starting point where the little pond on the right is. The trail leads to Fort Barton, the small ruins of a Revolutionary War fort, as it snakes back and forth over the river.

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# Replacing low-profile tires might not be worth the expense

**Q.** I own a 2010 Hyundai Elantra Touring (80,850 miles). It has a rough ride for an old guy like me. Would higher profile tires improve my riding comfort? My car tires are 195/65 on 15" rims. Should I get



BY JOHN PAUL

195/70 or 195/75 tires on 14" rims?

**A.** The low-profile tires are one of the reasons your car has a stiff, rough

ride, but that model also has a stiffer touring suspension. Replacing the wheels and tires may give you a slightly better ride, but in my opinion would not be worth the extra cost. In addition, at 13 years old the suspension has likely started to sag adding to the rough ride. If it were my car, I would just live with it.

**Q.** I just read an article about plugging tires and now I am confused. I have read that you only recommend a plug/patch combination, is that still the case?

**A.** The approved method to repair a tire is to take it off the rim, inspect the tire for damage and then use a combination plug/patch. The patch seals the tire, the plug portion keeps water from entering the tire. Now, have I plugged a tire, yes, in an

emergency (in fact I keep tire plug kits in my emergency kit in my cars). Once I am back on my way, I get to a good tire store and have the tire inspected and properly repaired.

**Q.** I have been driving regularly on Interstate 95 between New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts during the evening hours. It has become increasingly dangerous due to vehicles driving without headlights and taillights engaged in the dark of night. How can we as a country mandate that vehicle manufacturers must always ensure that all exterior lights come on when a vehicle is turned on? Statistics indicate that we are at least ten percent safer day and night when front and back lights are on.

**A.** At AAA we recommend lights on for safety at all times, the vehicle is just that much more visible. Although there is no mandate for automatic headlights today many new cars have them. I road test and evaluate about 50 cars per year and cannot think of any vehicle that did not have a setting for automatic headlights. Even my 2018 Hyundai has an automatic headlight setting. My wife's VW has daytime running lights and that is a problem because at night it seems as if the lights are on, but the rear lights are not on. But that car is eight years old. Since the average car on the road today is

12 years old and it will take many years until all cars have automatic headlights. So, at this point we are left with education and laws that require lights on in inclement weather and after sunset.

**Q.** After my mechanic installs two new front struts on my 2002 Honda Accord should I get wheel alignment?

**A.** My opinion is, anytime a suspension part is replaced the wheel alignment should be checked. Even carefully marking the location of the old parts and matching up the new parts does not guarantee the wheel alignment will not change.

**Q.** I bought a 2012 Nissan Leaf in Massachusetts from a used car place for \$7,000 and I live in Rhode Island. It does not hold a charge and will only charge to 64 miles if it is on the charger for 24 hours. I took it in to my local Nissan dealer and they said the big battery needs to be changed out for \$13,000. The place I bought it from tells me it is not

a lemon because the check engine light is not on, and the battery change is just a suggestion.

**A.** Unfortunately, 60-70 miles range is pretty typical of a 10-year-old Leaf. The range was only 90 miles when new (although Nissan claimed 100 miles), as any rechargeable battery ages and this includes phones and power tools the battery capacity is reduced. With a 110 volt charge you may get about four miles of range per hour and should fully charge overnight. Without knowing more about your car, from your description this range sounds

about normal. As a side note, we have Nissan Leaf at AAA for training purposes and the range is about 60 - 70 miles and somewhat less in wintry weather.

*John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.*




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