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A Special Pull-out Section



## Bosmas' Douglas Flea Market grows with the times

By Rod Lee

A visit to the Douglas Flea Market for the first time in several years is an eye opener in terms of how well the business is doing, these days—especially in the wake of a crushing pandemic.

Situated in an historic hoop barn on Northeast Main St. just outside Douglas Center, the Bosma family's flea market has been a popular weekend attraction in the Blackstone Valley for many years. One Facebook follower has described the merchandise arrayed on two floors and elsewhere on the grounds as "an expansive variety of vintage, antique and nostalgic with extra surprises thrown in."

"Expect the unexpected" is a common refrain offered by those who drop by. Many are staying longer and longer, drawn by the sheer volume of the inventory.

Much credit for the success the Douglas Flea Market is enjoying in 2022 deservedly goes to Amy (Bosma) Dunleavy, who is carrying forward the work of her mother, Marlene Bosma, for whom the Saturday-Sunday enterprise has always been a labor of love.

Marlene Bosma has not been able to be present in her usual place behind the food counter of late, but her presence is felt by dealers and customers alike.

"My goal was to keep the bar high that she set," Ms. Dunleavy said on the afternoon of March 20, in explaining the approach she has taken. Her methods mirror those of her mom.

"She's still the boss and it's dad's building and I have been doing it with her from the start, I know no other way," Ms. Dunleavy said. "With everyone here, I can see the walk she walked."

Asked "how many dealers do you have right now?" she took a few minutes to thumb through a card catalog before the startling reveal. "Thirty-four. Thirty-four dealers. Some have one spot, some have more than one."

Tonia Gosselin of Sutton used to operate Tonia's Treasures on Main Street in Douglas. "I have a spot upstairs, and two outside," she said. "We have such a blast here."

Ms. Gosselin's reference to the conviviality that prevails is echoed by other dealers.

"I came here in October," Joanne Lovejoy of Oxford said. "I've been in

Amy (Bosma) Dunleavy, first row, right, with some of the Douglas Flea Market's vendors. Top row, John Friend, Tonia Gosselin, Marlene Gregory and Carol Fillippelli. Second row, Joanne Lovejoy, Pat Kaczor, Lisa Cora and Virginia Lizotte.

other locations. I started with mid-century modern and now it's vintage, pottery, metal. I've been going to flea markets since I was a child. Everyone here is friendly. It's nice to be surrounded by old things."

Continued on page 2

## Northbridge points toward 250th anniversary parade on July 16

By Rod Lee

The memory is still fresh for those who were present when the town of Northbridge celebrated its 225th anniversary with a parade in the summer of 1997.

The late Rosaire J. "Ross" Rajotte served as grand marshal for the festivities. Wearing a short-sleeved shirt and riding in a convertible with the top down, he waved cheerily to crowds massed along Church St. in downtown Whitinsville.

A decorated World War II veteran who was wounded in action several times while attached to the Army's 181st Infantry Division, Mr. Rajotte returned home to become one of the community's most conspicuous and illustrious citizens.



The official seal issued for the town of Northbridge's 200th anniversary, in 1972.

He sponsored numerous bills in the Massachusetts State Legislature, wrote hundreds of letters on hot political issues to the editor to local newspapers, attended fifty-five straight town meetings and served on the Northbridge Board of Selectmen for three terms.

Known by his motto "God is our co-pilot," Mr. Rajotte died in 2005 at the age of eighty-five. A bridge that spans the Blackstone River in Rockdale is named for him, as is the National Guard Armory in Whitinsville.

Founded in 1772, Northbridge will again pay homage to its past with a 250th anniversary parade and fireworks on Saturday, July 16, according to Selectwoman Alicia Cannon. Ms. Cannon chairs the 250th Anniversary Committee, whose members also in-

clude Leonard Smith, Brian Paulhus, Maria Paulhus, David Potty and Anthony Genga.

"We have scheduled a rain date of July 17th," Ms. Cannon said.

In addition to the parade and fireworks, "we are also working on pulling together a couple of other smaller events," she said. These are not yet finalized.

Those who would like to donate to the 250th to help the anniversary committee defer expenses are welcome to do so. The committee that can be contacted at Northbridge250@gmail.com.

Mr. Rajotte and a number of others prominent in the life of Northbridge in 1997 have passed on. These include longtime Town Moderator Harold

Continued on page 2



The late Rosaire J. "Ross" Rajotte served with the famed "Yankee Division" of the Army's 181st Infantry during World War II and was one of the town of Northbridge's most dedicated citizens.

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## DOUGLAS FLEA

Continued from page 1

"I really enjoy the companionship here," Lisa Cora of

Milford, who runs three booths, said. "It's not about the money. It's more of a hobby."

"We've been shopping here for years but are new as dealers," Marlene Gregory of Webster and Pat Kaczor of Barre

said. "It's a fun place."

"I was only going to stay a few months. I've been here three and a half years," Virginia Lizotte said.

Carol Fillippelli has "started small and expanded" since arriv-

ing in 2016.

Ms. Dunleavy has continued to upgrade and strengthen the business. A stabilization of the roof was undertaken a few years ago. A food truck was added—her mom's idea. An appraiser is still available regularly. The second floor, accessed by way of an old spiral staircase, or from outside, brims with furnishings for the home or workplace. A whole new wing has been opened on that floor.

There is no admission charge. There is lots of free parking. Items are moderately priced.

"If people want it, I try to sell it to them, especially if it's their first visit, so they'll come back," Ms. Dunleavy said.

Ms. Dunleavy has made steady improvements in the barn while staying true to her mom's vision.

"I learned from the best," she says.

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



Left, "Hank's Wall," holds a commanding place on the second floor of the Douglas Flea Market. "Mom found the Boston Red Sox 'B' and it's up there with some of my dad's stuff," Ms. Dunleavy said. Henry G. "Hank" Bosma died in June of 2018.

Above, Arthur Griffin with Progressive Insurance's pitchwoman "Flo." Mr. Griffin "is very helpful around here," Ms. Dunleavy says.

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BASIC WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK</li> <li>• HIGH PRESSURE WASH</li> <li>• SPOT FREE RINSE</li> <li>• LASERDRI</li> </ul>	<b>\$8</b>

## NORTH-BRIDGE 250<sup>TH</sup>

Continued from page 1

Gould, Mary Frances Powers of the Northbridge Finance Committee, Selectman Robert Mellor, Fire Chief Cornelius Madigan, Gerald and Barbara Gaudette, and Spaulding Aldrich.

A Korean War-era veteran, Mr. Aldrich served as Northbridge's town manager and in numerous other capacities including as a member of the School Committee, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and Trustee of Soldiers Memorials. In observance of the town's 200th anniversary, he edited a "Bicentennial Commemo-



rative Journal/1772-1992" that contained historical information and pictures about the town.

The "Spaulding R. Aldrich Memorial Creation Area" at Plummer's Landing, off Church St. Extension, is named for Mr. Aldrich, who died in May of 2009 at the age of seventy-seven.

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

Spaulding R. Aldrich, who compiled a commemorative booklet celebrating Northbridge's 200th anniversary, "was a friend to many in the Blackstone Valley," former State Sen. Richard "Dick" Moore has said.

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(Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) [ads@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:ads@TheYankeeXpress.com)  
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The Newspaper Press, LLC / contents copyright 2022

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## Superintendent's scholars announced

UPTON – Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick is proud to announce that Carmen Gray of Northbridge and Riley Holt of Uxbridge are BVT's recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. They are both in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT. The annual commendation, also known as the Superintendent's Scholar Award, is presented to the two seniors who exemplify the school's commitment to cutting-edge career technical training and rigorous academics.

Presently, Carmen Gray is the Class of 2022 Valedictorian and a member of DECA (Distributive Clubs of America). Her dedication to academic and vocational studies was displayed when she earned a bronze medal in 2021 at the Skills-USA District competition in Mechatronics and recognition as an International finalist at the DECA 2021 Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making Event. Gray has obtained college credits in Engineering through PLTW and the Rochester Institute of Technology. She recently worked with a Worcester Polytechnic Institute Ph.D. student on a Computer Vision project specializing in sensor modalities and presented diversity, equity, and inclusion research to WPI staff and scholars. As a volunteer at Children Across America, she is committed to empowering children through education, serving as a mentor who leads educational STEM lessons for grade K-5 students.

Gray would like to travel and study abroad, crafting a unique path by seeking co-op employment opportunities that further her education and ex-



**Carmen Gray of Northbridge and Riley Holt of Uxbridge (left to right) have been named BVT's recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. They will graduate in May from BVT's Engineering & Robotics program.**

perience in environmental engineering or a related field while attending Northeastern University Honors Program for Environmental Engineering.

Currently, Riley Holt is the Class of 2022 Salutatorian and a National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society member. His academic and vocational skills were on display when he earned a gold medal in 2021 at the SkillsUSA State competition in Mechatronics. Recognitions include National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student, a Perfect Score on his Digital Electronics and Principles of Engineering exam, and an Outstanding Student of the Year Award (AP Lang, AP Chem, PreCalc, & Engineering). Other achievements include Destination Imagination Global Finalist and DECA State Finalist.

Holt wants to further his education and launch his engineering career by pursuing a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering at Georgia Tech to

strengthen his workforce entry opportunities. He wants to work on spacecraft and satellites, focusing on avionics and propulsion.

Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick was joined by Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Anthony Steele and the BVT School Committee in congratulating Gray and Holt on their awards, thanking them for their many contributions.

"Carmen Gray and Riley Holt demonstrate extraordinary commitment to career technical training and rigorous academics. They exemplify the modern career-technical student, and serve not only as a model for what is possible in career-technical education, but also as an inspiration for their classmates and teachers. It is a pleasure to work with them and an honor to have them represent our school," said Steele. "It will be equally exciting to see how they apply what they have learned at BVT in their future endeavors."

## Help tell the story of newly opened Samuel Slater Experience

Slater Experience Guides are volunteer hosts of the Samuel Slater Experience (SSE) who support and enhance visitors' experiences throughout their tour of the museum.

As knowledgeable emissaries, they greet visitors, assist with self-guided tours, supply transitional and anecdotal information for each exhibit, explain the digital technology and techniques used, and answer specific questions about the Samuel Slater story, the founding of Webster, and the history of the Samuel Slater Experience.

### Requirements

Slater Experience Guides are expected to share an interest and enthusiasm for the history of the American Industrial Revolution and the town of Webster.

They should have good people skills and the ability to actively interact with children, school groups, and adults in public speaking settings.

Volunteer Experience Guides are asked to make a one-year commitment and be available for at least two 3-hour shifts per month during SSE's hours of operation, including at least two weekend days each quarter.

SSE will provide periodic training sessions covering all aspects of the museum, the technology, and the building. Slater Experience Guides must be

able to attend Slater Experience Guide Orientation and Training and are expected to review additional material as periodically provided or approved by SSE in order to stay up to date on any changes, additions or deletions, and to broaden their knowledge of our mission.

### Benefits

Experience guides will receive a family pass for free entry to the

museum during their tenure as volunteers. They will receive a 20% discount in the gift shop, a 20% discount on event rentals, and invitations to special events.

For an application form, contact Reanna Kuzdzal at 528-461-2955 or email rkuzdzal@samuel Slater Experience.org. Applicants will be asked to come in for an in-person interview.

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## Annual Flea Market

MILLBURY - The First Congregational Church, 148 West Main Street is sponsoring a Flea Market on Saturday April 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve table space in the church vestry should call Jeri Stead 508-865-5371. The \$25 inside area consists of a large supper table plus a card table. An outside reservation is \$15 and those chancing the weather need to provide their own table.

The Kitchen will be serving coffee, water, and a variety of wrapped snacks. At lunch time, hot dogs will be available. There will also be a Bakery Table, and the Church Flea Market Table.

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## BVT students earn 102 SkillsUSA medals at District V Competition

UPTON — Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School students had an opportunity to test their vocational-technical competency by competing with other trained career and technical education students from six vocational high schools during the first of three SkillsUSA competitions. On March 16, 218 BVT students competed in the annual SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Competition with outstanding outcomes.

The competition allows students to demonstrate their vocational-technical education, skills, and knowledge with SkillsUSA employment and trade tests. Successfully demonstrating their knowledge in their career technical area of study, employability skills, and safety, student-competitors from BVT proudly claimed 33 gold, 37 silver, 32 bronze medals and swept 11 categories.

Seventy-seven students will advance from districts to compete amongst the most talented

vocational-technical students in the Commonwealth at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State competition held at BVT in late April. An additional twenty-eight students will go directly to the state competition, and twenty-five student delegates will represent BVT. The complete list of medalists is available at [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa).

BVT students who earned medals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference from Douglas, Uxbridge and Northbridge.

**Douglas**  
 State Officer Candidate: Hunter Claflin

Gold: Sophia Payson, Welding; Skyler Robinson, Restaurant Service; Bryan Wheeler, Robotics & Automation Tech; and Julia White, Esthetics

Silver: Laney Beahn, Urban Search & Rescue; Griffin Beaulieu, CNC Technician; Logan Hampson, Major Appliance Technology; John Kearney, Additive Manufactur-

ing; Lindsey Provost, Health Knowledge Bowl; Brett Staples, Web Design; and Chloe Vescio, Additive Manufacturing

Bronze: Emily Muniz, Urban Search & Rescue

**Northbridge**  
 Gold: Riley Driver, Industrial Motor Control; and Emily Wildfeuer, Architectural Drafting

Silver: Dylan Leeds, Mobile Robotics; Kayla Leppamaki, Robotics & Automation Tech; Mackenzie Malone, Health Knowledge Bowl; Ella Rogozenski, Urban Search & Rescue; and Faith Sawyer, Health Knowledge Bowl

Bronze: Joseph Hehir, Team Works; Jonathan Hollenbeck, and HVAC/R; Luke Scholl, Team Works

**Uxbridge**  
 Gold: Riley Holt, Mechatronics; Makaylah Holzman, Additive Manufacturing; Robert Mellen, Mechatronics; and Adam Pratt, Robotics & Automation Tech

Silver: Kali Bly, Cosmetology Under 500 Hours; Isabel Cahill, Photography; Caterina Corapi, Robotics & Automation Tech; Mia Guadagnoli, Health Knowledge Bowl; Autumn Herrick, Telecommunications Cabling; Nolan Holt, Culinary Arts; Om Patel, Mobile Robotics; Abril Sanchez, Digital Cinema Production; and Alexis Vazquez, Digital Cinema Production

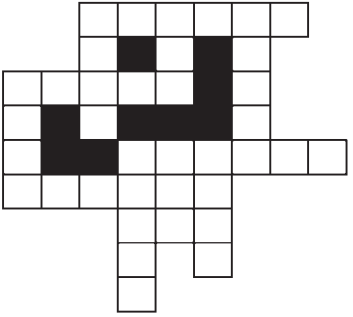
Bronze: Yara Alomar, Nurse Assisting; Savannah Brodeur, Cosmetology Under 500 Hours; Riley Goyette, Mobile Robotics Technology; Aleksandra Mach, Commercial Baking; Matthew Paxton, Team Works; and Joshua Thompson, Digital Cinema Production.

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By: rj johnson

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# Rock legends scheduled to perform at Indian Ranch

WEBSTER - Rock legends Collective Soul and Switchfoot are coming to Indian Ranch in Webster, on Saturday, August 6, as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Tickets are on sale at [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com).

Multi-Platinum Atlanta rockers Collective Soul -- Ed Roland (vocals/guitar), Dean Roland (rhythm guitar), Jesse Triplett (lead guitar/background vocals), Will Turpin (bass/background vocals), Johnny Rabb (drums/background vocals)-- are known for their collection of hit songs like "Shine," "Run," "December," and "The World I Know."

Collective Soul's highly anticipated and critically acclaimed tenth studio album, BLOOD, was released June 2019. It garnered impressive debuts on various Billboard's charts, including #3 on the "Alternative Albums" chart. Elsewhere, it debuted at #4 on the "Independent Albums" chart, #5 on the "Rock Albums" chart, #12 on the "Digital Albums" chart, #15 on the "Top Current Albums" chart, and #19 on the "Internet Albums" chart.

Switchfoot -- Jon Foreman (vocals, guitar), Tim Foreman (bass), Jerome Fontamillas (keys, guitar) and Chad Butler (drums)-- has sold almost 10 million copies worldwide of their



Collective Soul



Switchfoot

twelve studio albums (including their 2003 double-platinum breakthrough The Beautiful Letdown and 2009's Grammy Award-winning Hello Hurricane), racked up a string of Alternative radio hit singles, and performed sold-out tours with over 5 million concert tickets sold in over 40 countries around the world. Fans can expect to hear favorites that span Switch-

foot's illustrious 20+ year career including "Dare You To Move," "Meant to Live," "Love Alone Is Worth the Fight," as well as selections from the GRAMMY-winning band's latest album, the acclaimed interrobang, released in August 2021.

Collective Soul singer/guitarist Ed Roland can't wait to get the tour started. "It's always a thrill to go on tour, but this year

is going to be so special because we get to be with not only our friends but a great band, Switchfoot! Southern boys meet Southern California boys, which will be a fun time for all!"

Switchfoot singer/guitarist Jon Foreman couldn't agree more. "Been fans of Collective Soul and their songs from day one. Can't believe it took this long for us to finally tour together. Psyched it's finally happening!"

Indian Ranch offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands steps from Lake Chargoggagoggmanchaugga-goggchaubunagungamaugg. Nestled between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater's Restaurant and is also home to the Indian Princess paddlewheeler and Indian Ranch Campground. Already on sale are concerts with Trace Adkins on June 5, The Outlaws on June 11, The Mavericks on June 19, Michael Franti & Spearhead on July 2, Get The Led Out on July 8, Scotty McCreery on July 9, Little River Band on July 17, Three Dog Night on July 24, The Pike Hairfest on July 30, TESLA on July 31, "Weird Al" Yankovic on August 5, and

ABBA The Concert on August 12. More shows will be announced soon.

Tickets are available online at [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com), by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch

Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster. For more information, visit [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com).

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# Whitinsville Social Library calendar

WHITINSVILLE - The Whitinsville Social Library, 17 Church St. has listed the following schedule of events. Register for events at [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL). [www.northbridgemass.org/WSL](http://www.northbridgemass.org/WSL), (508) 234-2151. Follow WSL on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed April 18 for Patriots Day.

Fun with STEAM - April 12, and 26 from 3 - 3:45, ages 7-12. Are you curious about STEAM? Want to have fun while learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math? Join Miss Heather outside on the front lawn of the library as we explore these fun topics in a variety of ways! Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

Origami Club - April 21, from 3 - 3:45, ages 9-17. Join Miss Heather on the front lawn of the library for Origami Club! Each meeting we will go over different techniques for making origami. Join in on the fun. Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

Outdoor Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins - Wednesdays from 10:30-11a.m. Ages 1-5. Join WSL on the front lawn of the library for Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins! Deb Hudgins will be back with her Preschool Music & Movement Program with

the Whitinsville Social Library. There will be plenty of singing, dancing, games, stories and fun for everyone! Bring a blanket or something to sit on in the grass while we move and sing to this fun program! Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

Tween and Teen Crafternoons - Wednesdays from 3 - 3:45 p.m. Ages 9 - 17. Join Miss Heather on the front lawn of the library for Tween and Teen Crafternoon! Each week will be a different craft. Join us for this fun filled event! Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

Outdoor Storytime! Thursday from 10:30-11 a.m. Ages 1-6. Join Miss Heather outside on the front lawn of the library to sing songs and rhymes, make a craft, and read some books! Bring a blanket to sit on the grass and join in on the fun. This outdoor event is weather permitting. If the event changes it will be held via Facebook Live. Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

Outdoor Baby Bounce - Fridays from 10:30-11a.m. Ages 0-2. Join Miss Heather outside on the front lawn of the library for Outdoor Baby Bounce! Bring a blanket or something to sit on in the grass as we read some fun books, sings songs and rhymes, and other fun activities. Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

National Library Week - April 3-9; During business hours. Celebrate your local library during National Library Week! The best way to show your support of public libraries is by visiting and using its resources. Sign up or renew your expired library account this week in-person and be entered to win a prize.

Memoir Book Club - Wednesday April 13 at 6 p.m. Join us at the library for a discussion of local author Jarrett J. Krosoczka's graphic memoir "Hey, Kiddo." Copies of the book are available at the library or via Overdrive. Please register.

Adult Craft Kit Pick Up - Thursday April 14 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sign up to reserve a kit containing materials to create a notebook. Pick up your kit on the Holds Shelf during business hours on April 14. Register.

Earth Day Storytime & Planting - Thursday April 21 at 10:30 a.m. Ages 12 and under. Join Miss Heather on the front lawn of the library as we learn about Earth Day, sing some songs and rhymes and do some fun activities celebrating this important holiday! After storytime, we will be decorating pots and planting seeds to take home to watch grown. Special guests from DPW will also be by with some exciting things! Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

Earth Day Clean Up - Friday April 22 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Come to the library at 10:30 AM on Earth Day to pick up your clean up supplies. Then pick up litter in public areas of the town, like sidewalks, public parks, around the schools, library, and town hall. Meet back at the library at noon for refreshments and to drop off your full trash bags. For ages 13 and up. Wear neon or bright colors. Rain or shine.

Puzzle Swap - Monday April 25 from 5-6 p.m. Do you have a stash of puzzles at home that you've finished? Bring puzzles in good condition for people of all ages and skill levels to the library on 4/25 between 5-6 and swap them with other puzzle enthusiasts! This event will take place in the library's front yard. Rain or shine. Drop in.

Fiction Book Club 0 Tuesday April 26 at 6 p.m. Read "The Final Girls Support Group" by Grady Hendrix. Copies are available at the library. Ebooks may be available through Overdrive. Future book titles for this book club will be selected at this meeting. This meeting takes place at the library. Please register.

Cookbook Club - Thursday April 28 at 12 noon. Read "Extra Helping: Recipes for Caring, Connecting, and Building Community One Dish at a Time" by Janet Reich Elsbach. Copies of the book are available at the library or via Libby. Make and enjoy a dish at home and come to the meeting ready to discuss the cookbook. Please register.

Tween and Teen Graphic Novel Bookclub - Thursday April 28 from 3-3:45 p.m. Ages 9-17. Read "Tidesong" by Wendy Xu and join Miss Heather on the front lawn of the library to discuss this graphic novel and make a craft based on the book! Copies of the book are available at the library or via Libby. Registration is required. Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL)

The Historian is In - Wednesdays in April from 2-3 p.m. Drop-in between 2-3 on Wednesdays in April to get assistance on your local history research from historian Carol Brouwer.

Sen. Fattman Office Hours - Monday May 2 from 1-2:30 p.m. Stop by the library to meet with Northbridge State Senator Ryan Fattman.

# Looking For A Reason To Celebrate?

Join us on 4/20 and see why we're  
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Date: Wednesday April 20th  
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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

- A honey badger named Stoffel, resident of a wildlife center in South Africa, was noted not just for repeated escapes from his enclosure, but his stubborn penchant for pursuing much larger animals than himself. After ending up in the clinic after attacking two lions, upon his release, he immediately broke free to attack them again!
- The novelty song "Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett was banned by the BBC for over a decade on the grounds it was too morbid.
- Sorry, Honey Nut Cheerios fans, your cereal doesn't contain any nuts. While ground almonds used to be included, since 2006 just "natural almond flavor" has been used, and that is typically derived from apricot and peach pits.
- An estimated 5% of the population has never experienced a headache.
- Who needs Red Bull? In the early 1900s, distance runners were given champagne, brandy or even strychnine (rat poison) as a type of "energy drink" during long races.
- Robert Pirsig's "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" holds the world record for being the most-often rejected book to later become a bestseller, with a whopping 121 refusals before a publisher finally agreed to buy it.
- On the moon, the Earth doesn't appear to rise or set, just wobble a bit.
- A Ukrainian couple tried to save their failing relationship by handcuffing themselves together. They lasted about four months before throwing in the towel for good.
- Studies have shown that removing lead from gasoline was a factor leading to the decline of violent crime in 1990s America. Individuals exposed to lead at young ages have numerous conditions and problems with impulse control, all of which may negatively impact their decisions as they reach adulthood.

Thought for the Day: "You always pass failure on the way to success." —Mickey Rooney

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## Douglas Social Club events

DOUGLAS - On Wednesday, April 20. The Douglas Sunshine Club is welcoming spring with an entertaining evening. The club is hosting a Ham and Bean Supper followed by the wonderful music of the Tune Timers Band, a group of about 10 "retired" musicians playing big band music. They have been playing at the Holliston Senior Center for the past 15 years

as well as visiting many other venues. Sing-along and dancing are encouraged.

This is the club's first evening event in two years and hope you will join in for an enjoyable evening at the Douglas Adult Social Center, 331 Main St., Douglas. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. with the musical entertainment beginning about 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per person. Reservations are

required and may be made at the Douglas Adult Social Center in person or by calling 508-476-2283, contacting a member of the Sunshine Club or calling Pam at 508-476-4474.

On Friday, April 29 the Douglas Sunshine Club is hosting its famous mac 'n cheese luncheon followed by the music of the Blackstone Valley Strummers, a fun loving and sing

-along group of ukulele players. Activities begin at 12:00 noon in the Douglas Adult Social Center, 331 Main St. Reservations can be made by coming into or calling the Douglas Adult Social Center 508-476-2283, reaching out to a member of the Sunshine Club, or calling Pam at 508-476-4474. Tickets are \$6 per person. Join them for this engaging event.

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# St. Patrick's Day celebration transforms Plummer Place into Emerald Isle

Leprechauns. Shamrocks. Rainbows. Lucky raffle baskets. Shenanigans. These are just a few of the things local seniors said they enjoyed most about a St. Patrick's celebration which was held this week at Plummer Place, home of the Northbridge Senior Center.

"As I was entering the dining area, folks were commenting with oohs and aahs at the beautifully decorated room," said Carolyn Barrows, vice president of the Friends of Northbridge Elders' Board of Directors. "People were sharing with others and saying how wonderful it was to be able to get out and gather together once again." Irish music for the event was provided by the Blackstone Valley Strummers for all to listen to and enjoy. "The ukulele concert was a crowning touch to the event!" said Barrows. Kelly Bol, director of Plummer Place added, "it was absolutely wonderful to see our dining room filled with so many folks having such a great time and enjoying each other's company." A fun and festive time was had by all!

For more information on Plummer Place, or the Friends of the Northbridge Elders, Inc. please call (508) 234-2002.



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# Local students named to the Dean's List at MCPHS University

BOSTON - MCPHS University is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester:

Krista Helstrom of Douglas, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree. Krista will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

Laura Mikelonis of Douglas, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Echocardiography degree. Laura will graduate from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2021.

Lauren Brite of Millville, is pursuing a Doctor of Pharma-

cy degree. Lauren will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2027.

Kylie McLaughlin of Uxbridge, is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Kylie will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2025.

Hannah Muggeo of Uxbridge, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree. Hannah will graduate from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2022.

Taylor Walsh of Uxbridge, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Taylor will graduate from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2022.

Kirollos Wassef of Uxbridge, is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Kirollos will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

The Dean's List recognizes those students with a full-time course load who have achieved outstanding scholarship with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the academic term.



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This is a major fundraiser for the Blackstone Valley Chamber, Blackstone Valley Education Foundation and the Blackstone Valley Education Hub. Monies raised will fund important programs to support students and schools in the Blackstone Valley. The mission of this tournament is to enrich education and strengthen leadership among students, teachers, businesses and communities in the Blackstone Valley.



Registration, coffee, raffle and silent auction bidding open - 10AM

Tee time - 11AM

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres - 4PM

Auction/Raffle closes - 4:55PM

Buffet dinner - 5PM

Event concludes/Auction check out - 6PM

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Single Player: \$250  
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# BVT's Ireland-themed fundraising dinner a great success

UPTON – Irish eyes were smiling at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School's 28th Annual Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner held at the school on St. Patrick's Day. There were many smiles and a lot to celebrate.

Each year, students in the Culinary Arts program look forward to the Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner, a culmination of months of preparation. The planning and production of the gourmet dinner give students a taste of what skills are necessary for success in the food, beverage,

and hospitality industry. As well as celebrates the quality of career and technical education with a lavish reception and an elaborate gourmet dinner. This fine-dining experience is the school's largest fundraiser.

This year, the first course of the evening was a delicate and creamy potato and leek soup made with house-made chicken stock, topped with crispy fried shallots, snipped chives, and a drizzle of herb oil. An Irish salad was the fifth course served. Influenced by seasonally available ingredients, a blend

of arugula and baby spinach tossed with Gala apples, pickled red onion, goat cheese, and tarragon vinaigrette topped with beautiful slices of vibrant red and golden beet for a splash of color. After the deconstructed Irish stew, the final course was an apple cake. The tender and flavorful cake complimented by a Baileys burnt caramel sauce, apple chutney, and house-made vanilla custard ice cream was a sweet ending to a perfect meal.

The gourmet dinner was es-

tablished to support technology advancement at the school and, through the years, many initia-

joyed Ireland.

Over the years, the themed dinners have included events such as a "Kentucky-Derby" meal in 2017, which brought the "greatest two minutes in sports" to life by celebrating the food and culture surrounding the nation's longest continuously held sporting event with a menu of authentic southern fare. In 2015, the food and culture of the 1920s was celebrated with a dazzling

Gatsby-themed dinner, worthy of approval from the Great Gatsby himself.

"The gourmet dinners that our Culinary Arts program has expertly prepared, plated, and served against magnificent backdrops through collaboration with other departments and shops over the years have been remarkable," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick.

While a large group of students and staff contributes to the success of each dinner, key personnel make up the Executive Board in Culinary Arts. The executive positions include a food crew with a General Manager, two Executive Chefs, two Executive Pastry Chefs, and two Garde Mangers responsible for cold food. In addition to a Beverage Manager, Sous Chef, Banquet Managers, Photographer/Social Media, Emcee, and Decorations Facilitators. This

team works together to achieve the same goal: a successful dinner.

## Meet the 2022 Superintendents' Executive Dinner Team:

General Manager, Samantha Stephens of Mendon

Executive Chefs, Natalie Lambert of Millville and Nolan Holt of Uxbridge

Banquet Managers, Makala McQueston of Blackstone and Sofia Yitts of Grafton

Emcees, Amanda Wallace of Sutton and Ansha Khan of Northbridge

Beverage Manager, Colin Buckley of Bellingham

Decorations Facilitators, Katelyn Barrows of Northbridge and Erin Morrissey of Douglas

Executive Pastry Chefs, Emily Warner of Uxbridge and Alex Mach of Uxbridge

Garde Mangers, Darlene Johnson of Northbridge, and Kymber Morin of Douglas

Photographer/Social Media, Allison French of Northbridge

Sous Chefs (juniors), Leyla Hudson of Northbridge and Makayla Dunton of Sutton

Pastry Sous Chef (junior), Naomi Tsuda of Mendon

Check out all of the delicious details that made this annual event successful: [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/superintendentsdinner2022](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/superintendentsdinner2022).



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# Manchaug Pond Foundation spring clean-up

SUTTON/DOUGLAS - The Manchaug Pond Foundation will be holding their Spring Clean Up of scenic Manchaug Pond on Saturday, April 23. with volunteers meeting at the state public access boat ramp on Torrey Road in Sutton. Everyone will hit the pavement



Pond on Saturday, April 23. Volunteers are invited to join members and Friends of the Manchaug Pond Foundation in cleaning up Manchaug Pond and its watershed. Volunteers with boats are also welcome to help clean up coves. Volunteer time will support the MPF's third s319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant requirements which was awarded in the fall of 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The effort is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon,

with garbage bags in hand to clean the roadsides, shoreline, and boat ramp - all areas within the Manchaug Pond watershed and volunteers are not required to stay for the duration of the clean up. Good company, beautiful scenery, safety vests, rubber gloves, and garbage bags will be provided.

Rain date will be Sunday, April 24, and the rain date notice will be posted on the Manchaug Pond Foundation's Facebook page and website.

The Manchaug Pond Foundation's educational events look to improve the water qual-

ity of the picturesque 380 acre community lake, which lies within Douglas and Sutton, through the education of the many users and watershed residents. Educational information on residential Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as landscaping with buffer zones and rain gardens to limit runoff of fertilizer nutrients are available on the Foundation's website. Educational materials have been made possible by the MPF's previous two water quality grants awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. For more information visit manchaugpond.org.

## Country Music Club dances

UXBRIDGE - New England Country Music Club dances are held at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., live music 1-5pm. The next dances will feature: Sunday, April 10, "Kerrie Evers" band; Sunday, May 1, "Crossfire" Band. Follow them at www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

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## Tales from beyond

# The Phantom Snowmobile

By Thomas D'Agostino  
www.tomdagostino.com

Snowmobiling is a favorite winter past time in Northern New England. In fact, it may be the only way to get around cer-

tain places after the winter snows cover the land in droves. Deep in the woods of Conway, New Hampshire there is a ghost story that is told to this day. The story starts in Connecticut. Now you may ask what does Connecticut

have to do with New Hampshire ghosts? It seems the ghost that rides the trails of Conway in New Hampshire originally hailed from Connecticut. According to the story, a family named Prudeator, or Pudeator once farmed

the Nutmeg State. There were six burly sons and their mother. They all married and had children. They were not rich but one of them got an idea to buy a snowmobile. This was back in the 1950s and snowmobiles were

the newest and latest modern mechanical wonder. They pooled what meager savings they had and purchased a fine vehicle.

The family had a friend who loaned them a cabin in Conway. He always told of how the snow trails and ridges went as far as the eye could see. The family loaded the snowmobile on their trailer and towed it up to Conway. The convoy reached their destination in the afternoon and unloaded the snowmobile. They were several miles from the actual cabin, but the snow laden fields in front of them proved to be too tempting to pass up. The mother went on to the cabin by herself to prepare supper for the sons when they returned. This was not to happen. While taking in the fun of their new toy, a blizzard hit with full mountain fury. The trucks became stuck in the deep snow and the brothers were forced to spend a few days and nights attempting to weather out the storm in the vehicles.

They later managed to free the trucks from the snow and proceeded to the cabin where they found the mother frozen to death from the bitter cold. She had run out of wood during the Nor'easter and could not get out to salvage more.

The trucks had barely made

it through the snow to the cabin, so taking them back to town was not an option. One of the brothers volunteered to take the snowmobile to get help. The rest listened in apprehension as the roar of the engine faded into the distance. They were well aware that the territory was unfamiliar to him, but felt confident that he would somehow return with help. He never returned. Somewhere along the way, he became lost in the blizzard and was never seen again. Several searches proved futile as both the brother and the snowmobile had seemed to vanish completely off the face of the earth.

To this day, a strange sound is heard when the snows begin to fall and the wind visits, whistling down the trails and roads of the mountains. It is the sound of the phantom snowmobile as makes its rounds through the fields and trails of Conway. On dark snowy nights the echo of an engine from another world can be heard revving through the woods and a faint ghostly light is seen moving in the distance. Most believe it is the unfortunate son endlessly searching either for the cabin or rescue from the icy storm that held its deadly grip on him and his family.

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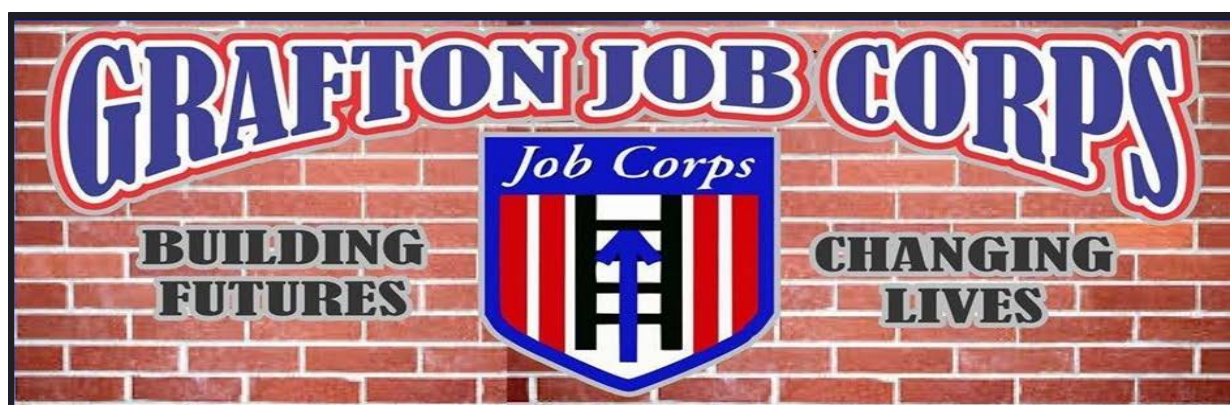
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# Comfort Foods Made Fast and Healthy!

By Healthy Exchanges

## Lemon Supreme Pie

---  
This recipe can be prepared with such ease, you'll be able to join in the Easter egg hunt and still have dinner on the table on time.

- 1 (9-inch) refrigerated unbaked piecrust
- 1 (4 serving) package sugar-free vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix
- 1 (4 serving) package sugar-free lemon gelatin
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1 (8 ounce) package fat-free cream cheese
- 1 cup reduced calorie whipped topping
- Sugar substitute to equal 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 2 tablespoons flaked coconut

ar-free vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix

1 (4 serving) package sugar-free lemon gelatin

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1 cup reduced calorie whipped topping

Sugar substitute to equal 1/4 cup sugar

1 teaspoon coconut extract

2 tablespoons flaked coconut

1. Preheat oven to 450 F.

Place piecrust in a 9-inch pie plate and flute edges. Prick bottom and sides with a fork. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until crust is lightly browned. Place pie plate on wire rack and cool completely.

2. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, combine dry pudding mix, dry gelatin and water. Cook over medium

heat until mixture thickens and starts to boil, stirring often. Place saucepan on wire rack and let set 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. After both piecrust and filling have cooled, in a medium bowl, stir cream cheese with a spoon until soft. Stir in 1/2 cup whipped topping,

sugar substitute and coconut extract. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly into piecrust.

4. Fold remaining 1/2 cup whipped topping into pudding mixture. Spread pudding mixture evenly over cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle coconut evenly over top. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Cut into 8 pieces.

\* Each serving equals: 179 calories, 7g fat, 5g protein, 24g carb., 362mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Fat, 1/2 Meat.

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**Roommate Stuck With Unwanted Kitten**

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: The local shelter in our college town does not allow college students to adopt pets. However, my roommate managed to get around the rule by using her boyfriend's address, and she brought a kitten into our dorm. I told her to take it back, as pets are not allowed in the dorm (except for service animals). She ignored me. Two weeks later, she dropped out of school and moved in with her boyfriend, leaving behind most of her stuff -- and the kitten! If I tell our R.A. I could get in trouble. What can I do? I don't want anyone to know what college

I'm at, so sign me -- Beth in Boston

DEAR BETH: Honesty is the best policy here, and the welfare of the kitten is at stake. Contact the shelter right away. Explain what happened with your roommate, that you're caring for the kitten as she's abandoned it, but that you aren't allowed to keep it. Next, tell your R.A. what happened. Call your parents, too, so they're aware of the problem and will support you if there's an issue with the school.



Your roommate used either her name or her boyfriend's name and his address. The shelter will have this on file, so they can verify that you're not the one who's responsible for the kitten. They'll give you instructions on how to bring the kitten back and surrender it to them. If there's a surrender fee, they should bill the boyfriend and your ex-roommate. Likewise, any penalties assessed by the college should fall on your ex-roommate.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Living with Luke

# Luke Valentino Comes Home

By Amy LeClaire

Luke Valentino entered my life on Friday, March 25 in the most peculiar way. I'd love to tell a story about how my puppy paraded through a pudgy pile of siblings to greet me, as though destined. "I've finally found you!"

Our story is less cliché.

He was nestled beside his brother, burying his face in a blanket before realizing what was happening. A person had come to meet the crew at a set and confirmed location to mark a second travel day (he had just been to the vet a day prior). One more person and one more activity gave Luke, at seven weeks old, one more reason to bury himself in the warmth of a brother. "I'm wiped."

His eyes met mine, and registered my face for a split second. "That's him. That's Luke," I said. I recognized him immediately from the picture sent a few days prior. He was a bit darker than the others, and a good size. The camera captured his essence in a perfect shot, one that melted my heart. Something about his expression held a calm and healing essence to correlate with his name: Luke Valentino. I knew him before I met him. He was the one.

"I gotta' get to the bottom of this." As though searching for a treasure, he dug away at soft blankets which lined a clothes basket repurposed to be a travel-bed for the ride home. Every now and then he looked up at me and broke into his heartbreakingly miniature puppy smile. "I don't really know you yet, but I feel you." Then he peed on one of my old shirts.

We arrived home and introduced our puppy to our yard, one we would later realize was overly full of mulch shards and acorns. He looked around and sniffed the air with hesitation. His short legs wobbled like a newborn lamb's as he experienced a whole new landscape, a view that seemed wide and mysterious next to the only one he knew with his mother and litter mates. "This is your new home, Luke." I picked him up and squeezed him close, already

smitten by an indescribable love and prayer for a pup whose story was about to be written. "Luke Valentino – my love for you is endless."

We brought him inside. He looked around, still unsure, and found his bed, a cozy wooden crate which was lined with

joy Luke had brought us, just as Lincoln had eleven years ago.

A week passed and our pup's progress had us breathless. Puppies are so impressionable. Given enormous attention, they learn how to survive with you comfortably and quickly. We gushed and bragged and vid-

echo of a helicopter. The sound seemed great enough to swallow the sky. Maybe the sound could take Luke with him? He ran like a puppy actor auditioning for The Lion King during an adventure scene. He ran mightily and with record speed, straight towards the deck steps where, for the first time, he managed one step at a time, so as not to fall through the spaces between. I scooped him back into the house. "You're okay, Luke." Then he chewed on Daddy's boot and forgot all about it. Luke was a survivor. In one week, he had learned that home is where the heart (and fun) is.

The bed he had tentatively crawled into became a cave for hauling stuffed animals up-and-into. He learned to master the art of the "running start" in order to manage the big teddies. Occasionally he'd misjudge the physics and bounce off of the stuffed animal's belly onto the



eotaped every milestone. Our bashful puppy had grown into a confident member of our family. He knew he was loved. Lonely nights that had him whimpering and confused became serene cuddle moments with Daddy, who shared his sweatshirt to sleep upon throughout lonely nights. He began to explore rooms and hallways that once seemed scary. He found Lincoln's favorite spot beneath the island counter and sniffed with obsession. If I dared to walk across the driveway, creating a distance between us, he'd sit and stare up at me. "Don't leave me! I like you!" He'd race towards me, his little legs surprisingly strong and assured, and we'd cuddle while he nibbled my sweatshirt tassel.

I'll never forget the first time he noted the hovering

a thick, orthopedic dog mattress, soft blankets, and stuffed animals. He crawled in and collapsed safely in a corner while I breathed in a knowing sigh. The bed mattered; it was not an expense to be skimped on.

The next few days gave way to the intense work of a puppy and, along with that, progress.

Minutes streamed like a river of watercolors, blurring the lines between day and night while Luke gained our trust and kept us honest. "Are you really going to be here for me?" He wailed for us on the first dark night alone. We sat up like parents in an ER. "Did Lincoln do this?" We couldn't remember. We had been wearing rose colored glasses for so long and felt like rookies. "It's okay, Luke." We stroked him, took him outside, gave him Nyla bones to chew on, and redirected curiosity gone chewy. When he attempted to squat, we scooped him up and praised him for going pee-pee outside. We sauntered about our kitchen with bed head and slippers, pouring coffee for each other, and talking about poop. It was a new puppy thing. Late March weather happened to be atypically cold, down to the twenties at 2 a.m., but we cut our losses. Imagine days of torrential rain happening with a new pup! Neighbors and friends visited, showering little Luke with toys, countless hugs, and well wishes. We were exhausted but we were a team, unified by the bundle of



floor. "I meant to do that." A tenacious pup, he'd try and try again. He soared over the step-down into our family room, and learned how to "sit" on command, given a kibble reward. He even exposed a rebellious side, dashing away from us in the yard, acorn in mouth, and changing direction like a tennis player when we got close enough to snatch back the chok-

ing hazard. We were exhausted but so enamored by our March puppy, son of Mister Big and Molly of Cloverdale Goldens. We couldn't wait to build more adventures with a puppy named Luke Valentino. We couldn't wait to experience all that dogs do for us.

Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke. Write to me. amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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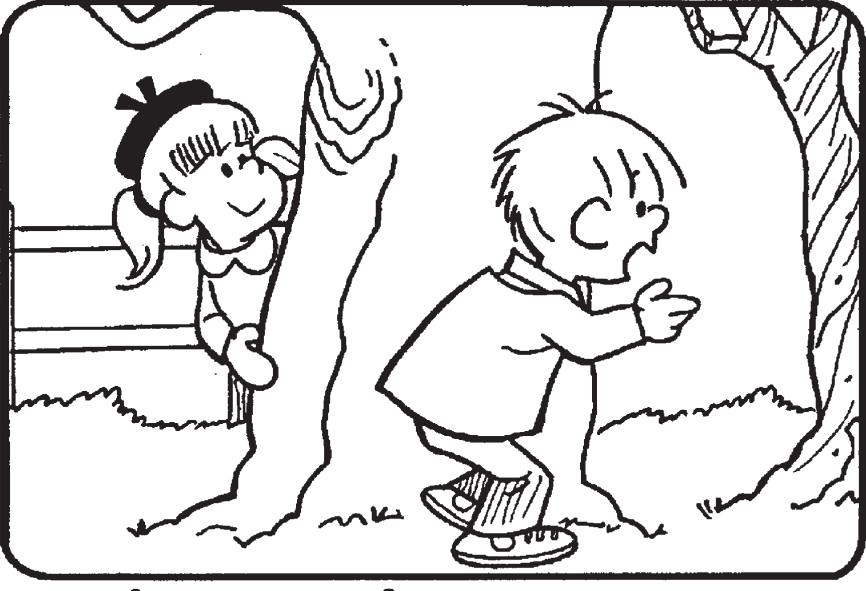
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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF




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## Q & A with The Car Doctor

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over 40 years' experience in the automotive business and is an ASE certified master technician. He will answer reader's questions each week. You can find the Car Doctor podcast at [www.johnpaul.podbean.com](http://www.johnpaul.podbean.com) or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to [jpaul@aaanortheast.com](mailto:jpaul@aaanortheast.com). Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on facebook mrjohnfpaul



**Q.** I own a 2015 Ford F-150 with the Eco-boost engine and only 9,300 miles on it. When stopped at a red light the engine would shut off as it is supposed to and then would restart when gas pedal was applied. Now, it no longer does that. It was checked by a Ford dealership mechanic, but he could find no reason for this. I'm hoping you know more than they do.

**A.** No one should know more about your Ford truck than a Ford technician. For the auto stop system to work certain criteria need to be met. These include engine temperature, engine load (air conditioner on/off), trailer towing, brake light switch and charging system operation. It is possible that with such low mileage on a seven-year-old truck the battery state of charge is low enough that the computer won't signal to shut off the engine. The first step in diagnosing this problem would be to check to make sure the battery is at full charge of at least 12.6 volts.

**Q.** I have a 2000 Toyota Landcruiser and the air conditioner button is always on when the heat is turned on. It was supposed to turn off and on if you press the button, but it is always on. It always used to

work this way. It appears to just be stuck on. How do I make it properly functional again?

**A.** The climate control system in your Landcruiser has a diagnostic mode and the diagnostic test should be performed first. The problem could be as simple as a shorted switch or relay, but a diagnostic inspection is the first place to start.

**Q.** Are the MPG's listed by the manufacturer for their hybrid models realistic, or would they fall short by every day driving? In other words, what kind of driving behavior would a driver need to follow in order to meet or get close to the MPG estimates touted by the car manufacturers in the vehicle descriptions?

**A.** I have driven many hybrids and found the mileage very realistic. Like any vehicle, mileage is mostly controlled by the driver, quick starts and high speeds will affect mileage. Drive reasonably at the posted speed limit and mileage is easily attainable and sometimes exceeded. Drive a Prius at 80 MPH and you will never get 50 MPG.

**Q.** My car is a 2018 Volk-

swagen Jetta with only 12,000 miles on it. I've owned it since 2016 and put maybe 7000 of those miles on. Recently I've noticed that when I start up, the dashboard display (odometer and tachometer) do not light up. Eventually, they will light up, but may (or may not) go back off for a while. I can get them to light by switching on headlights and, yes, it does not appear to affect the day-light running lights. Most recently, I found that if I lower the driver's side window the lights will come on, but they go off as the window is closed. The problem seems to be related to moisture, but I haven't been able to pin it down to the point where I can tell a service tech what's happening. Any idea?

**A.** I would suspect some sort of poor electrical ground. At this point a series of voltage drop tests need to be performed as well as a basic test of the battery. When putting the window up and down you are putting more of a load on the electrical system causing voltage to vary.

**Q.** I just bought a 2021 Jeep and would like to know if there is a way to get better fuel millage. It has the V6 engine and I am getting around 12/14 miles per gallon in the city and at best 20 miles per gallon on the highway.

**A.** I would expect to see about 15 to 16 miles per gallon around town and 22-24 miles per gallon at a steady 60 miles per hour on the highway. The winter gasoline sold this time of year has less energy and you can lose up to 10 percent of your fuel economy. If your Jeep has a remote starter and you use that regularly, fuel economy can be

reduced dramatically. At this point, check and inflate the tires to the correct specification and look at your own driving habits. Fuel economy can be improved by driving reasonably, easy on the gas and brake and staying at the speed limit. Depending on the mileage on your Jeep it can take up to 10,000 miles for the engine to fully break in.

## Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON - Grace MacSween of Uxbridge was named to the 2021 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston. To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.



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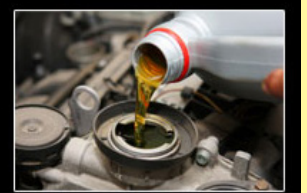
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## Chief's corner

## Night Vision Glasses

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar  
Dudley Police Department

I often receive opinion-based questions on a variety of subjects. Without personal experience, or sound facts, it is challenging to weigh in at times. Recently, a person inquired my thoughts on what are often referred to as "night vision glasses" for driving (certainly not to be confused with military

night vision goggles). These are yellow tinted, polarized, glasses. They are promoted to reduce glare while driving a vehicle, particularly in the dark. Since I had no personal experience using these, I purchased a pair online to conduct own test.

I researched these glasses online and found them in all styles and prices. The pair I purchased cost approximately \$20. In re-

searching their effectiveness, I came across varying opinions. According to a company called Night-Lite, these glasses "filter out high-intensity glare from oncoming cars, streetlights, and billboards, and enhance clarity and visual acuity for night driving." Many people raved about their effectiveness. Other reviews say they do not improve night vision. However, consistent messages

indicate they do reduce glare. Anything that does this should improve your night driving. This is especially true in situations of diminished atmospheric conditions, such as rainstorms.

In my trial run, I used them both during the day and at night over the span of a week. I found them to be effective in reducing the glare of headlights at night. During the day, the solar glare

was reduced, and my field of vision did appear clearer. They do not completely block out the sun, however, so it may be necessary to use the car's visor or switch to proper sunglasses for assistance. I did find these glasses helpful. Before writing this column, I discussed this subject with others who use them. Everyone I spoke with had similar opinions to mine.

Certainly, I am not an expert

or advertising for any specific types. I will recommend people try these glasses if they wish. They are very affordable for the average person. In researching these online, I found several versions which may appeal to a wide range of people. They can range in price from \$7 up to \$100 or more. If you are wondering about these or are simply seeking some added benefit to reduce nighttime glare, I recommend giving them a try. You may find them to be helpful and the low cost makes it worth the chance.

For those still seeking COVID-19 vaccination or other information, it can be found at [www.dudleyma.gov](http://www.dudleyma.gov) or by calling 508-949-8036. We encourage everyone to continue to be safe. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. These times continue to be challenging and we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St. Dudley, Ma. 01571 or email at [swojnar@dudleypolice.com](mailto:swojnar@dudleypolice.com). Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

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## RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

If you're thinking of selling your house this year, timing is crucial. After all, you'll want to balance getting the most out of the sale of your current home and making the best investment when you buy your next one.

If that's the case, you should know you may be able to get the best of both worlds today. Here are four reasons why this spring may be your golden window of opportunity.

#### 1. The Number of Homes on the Market Is Still Low

Today's limited supply of houses for sale is putting sellers in the driver's seat. There are far more buyers in the market today than there are homes available. That means purchasers are eagerly waiting for your house.

Listing your house now makes it the center of attention. And if you work with a REALTOR to price your house correctly, you can expect it to sell quickly and likely get multiple strong offers this season.

#### 2. Your Equity Is Growing in Record Amounts

Homeowners are sitting on record amounts of equity thanks to recent home price

## This spring presents sellers with a golden opportunity

appreciation. Reports show that the average homeowner has gained \$55,300 in equity over the past year.

That much equity can open doors for you to make a move. If you've been holding off on selling because you're worried about how rising prices will impact your next home search, rest assured your equity can help fuel your move. It may be just what you need to cover a large portion – if not all – of the down payment on your next home.

#### 3. Mortgage Rates Are Increasing

While it's true mortgage rates have already been climbing this year, current mortgage rates are still below what they've been in recent decades. In the 2000s, the average mortgage rate was 6.27%. In the 1990s, the average rate was 8.12%.

For context, the current average 30-year fixed mortgage rate, according to Freddie Mac, is 3.85%. And while recent global uncertainty caused rates to dip slightly in the near-term, experts project rates will rise in the months ahead.

When that happens, it'll cost you more to purchase your next home. That's why it's important to act now if you're ready to sell. Contact Marzeottigroup who can connect you with a trusted advisor to kickstart the process so you

can take key steps to making your next purchase before rates climb further.

#### 4. Home Prices Are Climbing Too

Home prices have been skyrocketing in recent years because of the imbalance of supply and demand. And as long as that imbalance continues, so will the rise in home values.

What does that mean for you? If you're selling so you can move into the home of your dreams or downsize into something that better suits your current needs, you have an opportunity to get ahead of the curve by leveraging your growing equity and purchasing your next home before prices climb higher.

And, once you make your purchase, you can find peace of mind in knowing ongoing home price appreciation is growing the value of your new investment.

Bottom Line: If you want to win when you sell and when you buy, this spring could be your golden opportunity. Call Marzeottigroup.com today or get connected with a local real estate professional so you have the insights you need to take advantage of today's incredible sellers' market.

Mark Marzeotti  
Realtor

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SMART



## Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God.

Believer

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