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SOUTHBRIDGE NEWS

Established 1923

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Newsstand: 50 cents

Ninth annual Shawna Shea Film Festival does a COVID merge of 2020 and 2021

STURBRIDGE — The 2021 Shawna Shea Film Festival (SSFF) will host indie filmmakers from around the world Sept. 21-25, Tuesday through Saturday, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, 366 Main St.

SSFF2021 will also host an afternoon of panel discussions relevant to filmmakers and movie lovers alike at the historic Publick House, 277 Main St. in Sturbridge, at 1 p.m. and at 3 p.m.

We're excited to present more than 50 locally produced feature length and short films.

For the full schedule, movie programming and tickets, visit www.shawnasheaff.org.

Big news this year: Robin Lane will perform on Friday, Sept. 24, at 8:30 p.m. following the screening of her biopic documentary "When Things Go Wrong: The Robin Lane Story" by Tim Jackson. We are very excited to have Robin, a well known Boston rocker, with us. She is the founder of the non-profit Songbird Sings, working with domestic violence victims using music as a healing tool.

Another very special segment of SSFF2021 is the screening of all past Women in Film Fellowship movies, including our most recent Women in Film Fellowship filmmakers Christine Celozzi, Emma MacKenzie and Molly Lindsey. The Fellowship is a program of the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc. which supports first-time women filmmakers with financial and mentor support. The Fellowship film

block will screen Saturday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

SSFF2021 will also screen cult Italian movie director Luigi Cozzi's film "The Battle of Rome;" the Ryan Bliss film "Alice Fades Away;" the Charles Vuolo & Andre Phillips film "Lupe;" the Joe Badon film "Sister Tempest;" and "The Ventures: Stars on Guitars, a documentary by Staci Layne Wilson, the daughter of one of the iconic Ventures guitarist Don Wilson.

Our very popular Horror Shorts block is back with a vengeance as well as our favorite, the Experimental film block which includes "Darling Pet Monkey" by filmmaker Jim McDonough.

Even as we follow state guidelines, masks will be mandatory to enter the screening rooms and adjacent lobbies. After each screening and Q&A, we will be wiping and disinfecting the screening rooms.

About SSFF:

The Shawna Shea Film Festival celebrates independent films and the people who make them. Established in 2012 as a program of the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation Inc., SSFF honors Shawna's unique independent spirit by bringing audiences films that share the same quality. www.shawnasheaff.org. All proceeds benefit the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc.

About the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc.:

A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Shawna Foundation supports people, especially women, in filmmaking, per-

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19-year-old from Southbridge youngest graduate at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

CHARLTON — The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a mental and physical toll on many healthcare heroes and yet, Angeley Santa, 19 years old from Southbridge, is now an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse).

In a message to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, Santa shared that she "passed my test!" which is the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing) and that she is grateful to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, stating "Thank you for all your help throughout this journey!"

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Angeley Santa, credits her parents for her success. Her mother Susan Torres (Susie) is a PCA.

Santa said, "My mother has always been interested in the health field; she previously



completed CNA and phlebotomy programs, but she devotes

back to school."

Her father, Juan Santa, Jr. (known to family and friends as Al), graduated from Bay

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Old Sturbridge Village hires Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village has hired Jasmin Rivas to fill a new position at the Village, as Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. In this role, Rivas will work with the Village, as well as Old Sturbridge Academy and Coggeshall Farm Museum, to connect the stories being told through historical interpretation to the surrounding communities they serve.

Rivas was born in New Haven, Conn. and raised in Southbridge. She attended Michigan State University and later graduated with a bachelor's degree from Worcester State University, as

the first person in her family

to go to college. She later got her MFA in Creative Writing from Bay Path University.

Rivas' career has included time as a reporter with the Southbridge Evening News, a Victim/Witness Advocate and Forensic Interviewer with the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, and a Program Coordinator for the Voices With Choices Program. She has also worked in the Southbridge Public Schools as a Family Liaison and District Coordinator.

She joined the Board for the Old Sturbridge Village Academy after seeing the passion and commitment of the work being done there. In this new role, she hopes



Jasmin Rivas

to help the Village, Farm, and Academy grow and learn about the people, culture, food, language and beauty within the community – and

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Trinity Catholic Academy celebrates first mass of new school year

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Sept. 3, Trinity Catholic Academy was able to celebrate their first school wide Mass for the 2021-22 academic year. Fr. Ken Cardinale opened the special Mass with a "Happy New Year" greeting!

Opening this new school

year with Mass during the first week of school is a great start! This new year includes a few new classroom renovations, a new principal, and a new outlook with everyone able to start of school with in-classroom learning right from the beginning. TCA teachers, parents and grandparents were welcome to share the celebration with the students at Notre Dame Church of St. John Paul II Parish.

Knights of Columbus Council #199 followed the celebration of Mass volun-

teering to cook hot dogs for the students as part of the small picnic held the courtyard of Notre Dame Church organized by Trinity Catholic Academy's dedicated Parent & Teacher Organization. TCA students hale from as far as Stafford Springs, Conn., the Brookfields and Auburn, Woodstock, Conn. and towns in between. Trinity Catholic Academy is looking forward to a great successful school year continuing to build the leaders of tomorrow.

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