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Dudley selectmen recognize new Eagle Scout



The newest Boy Scout from Troop 273 in Dudley, Joe Guaragno, is recognized by Dudley Selectmen for his accomplishments during a Dec. 6 meeting.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Board of Selectmen recognized the latest Eagle Scout from Troop 273 in December, Joseph Guaragno, who became the 59th member of the troop to reach the highest ranking in Scouts in October.

Guaragno was presented before the town during a Board of Selectmen meeting on Dec. 6, and provided a certificate from the town's highest elected board recognizing his prestigious accomplishment. Guaragno's commitment to his community dates back to his early teens when he began working with Dudley's Town Assessor Lisa Berg who spoke highly of the young man before presenting him to the Board of Selectmen.

"I've known Joe since he was around 14-years-old. He was a student. He knew that a girlfriend and I were helping with the homeless and the needy and he approached me to see if he could help with non-perishable foods. This wasn't through the Boy Scouts. This was on his own and he used his allowance to do this. Even at that young age he wanted to help those in need, which is impressive for today. Not only does he continue to help us every single month, but he has also volunteered for similar type charita-

ble organizations," said Berg.

When it came time for his Eagle Scout project, Guaragno continued to give back to those in need in his community filling backpacks for the homeless and local children. His project resulted in filling over 20 backpacks for kids and 12 for local homeless and the needy.

"Joe wanted to help people which attests to his willingness to (assist) people in need without being recognized, which is a rare treat today. Joe doesn't realize how many hopeless, needy, and just plain old down on their luck people who are trying to get back on their feet that he's helped," said Berg.

Joe Guaragno lived up to his humble nature when he was finally brought forward to talk with the selectmen where he credited the scouts for helping build his character. He started scouts at eight-years-old and eventually moved up to Senior Patrol Leader, a role he filled during the 2020 pandemic which proved to be a true test of his leadership abilities. When talking with selectmen Guaragno said his time with the Boy Scouts has provided him invaluable experience and knowledge that will help him continue to grow and lead in the real world.

"Many of the ideals I've learned through scouting pass into my personal

life like with this project I've been doing with Lisa the number of years. I'm not sure who I would be today if it wasn't for scouting to be honest. It's just created my identity as a whole and it's crafted me to be who I am today," Guaragno said.

Selectmen praised Guaragno for his character and accomplishments before presenting him with a proclamation recognizing him as Dudley's latest Eagle Scout.

St. Joseph School celebrates new members of Children of Mary

WEBSTER — On Sunday, Dec. 12, the Children of Mary Sodality at St. Joseph School held its annual installation for new members. Membership is open to girls in grades three through eight who attend St. Joseph School. New members are Third-Grade students Evelyn Macko, Lily Martin, Abigail Rubin, Sophia Surowanec, and Fourth-Grade students Hayley Benes and Ivanka Warnajtyts.

During the installation, Children of Mary President Gabriela Pianka invited each student and a member of their family to the altar to place traditional Children of Mary blue capes on the girls' shoulders. Following this special moment, Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski, Pastor of St. Joseph Basilica had the girls recite their Acts of Consecration. Then, with the assistance of Children of Mary officers Leah Boudreau and Emily Macko, Rev. Chodkowski placed a Miraculous Medal around the neck of each new member. In addition, Elizabeth Sabaj, President of the Holy Rosary Sodality, presented rosaries to the girls.

As members of the Children of Mary Sodality, the girls actively participate in various parish activities such as processions on important feast days and the Fatima processions on the 13th of the month from May through October. The girls also participate in First Friday adoration,

Jolda resigns; elections to change

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Selectmen will not be holding a special election to replace member Andrew Jolda, who resigned effective Dec. 7 to move to Chelmsford.

"There's no better reason to leave elective office in our town than for love," Chair Randy Becker said, noting Jolda had recently gotten engaged. Jolda has been a selectman since 2014 as well as being a volunteer in several capacities around town.

"You've always kept the best interests of the town at heart," Becker added. He credited Jolda with being "the deciding

vote" to hire recently-departed Administrator Doug Willardson and thus bring all the changes Willardson created to town.

"It has been an honor and a pleasure" to serve, Jolda replied.

He said he will return for "a few key events," including a poker run he's been helping to organize, and will "stay in touch with the town" more generally.

Fellow selectmen praised Jolda for his "caring personality and dedicated work ethic" in a proclamation Becker read aloud.

"It's been an experience working with you and seeing how you give

to this town," Earl Gabor said. "... It's hard to hold up to those standards."

Lisa Kontoes and Tom Klebart agreed, with Kontoes saying, "you bring a sense of integrity to this board" alongside a knowledge of recent history and a "logical, non-emotional approach."

The board elected Gabor its new vice-chair and Kontoes its new clerk. They then briefly considered holding a special election, but opted to wait until the next regular polling date in May. Since it would take a minimum of 64 days to prepare for a special

Turn To **JOLDA** page **A4**

Dogs and cash take center stage at Oxford selectmen's meeting

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Dogs were the stars of the show Nov. 30, as selectmen held a dangerous dog hearing for two canines from Wayne Avenue.

According to ACO Kelly Flynn, a woman was running with her friend's beagle mix Rocky when

"two dogs ran out from 8 Wayne Ave and attacked Rocky" on Oct. 19 at 2:43 p.m. The dogs bit Rocky on left ear and neck, and the woman received injuries to her right hand and left forearm trying to assist Rocky.

Flynn described the attackers as Penny, a black-and-white female pitbull mix, and Cash, a

brindle male pitbull mix. When police and EMTs arrived, they found the dogs had been separated. ACO Ed Hart spoke to David Tremblay Sr, who said he'd opened the front door and the dogs ran out, but he's blind and could not see what happened. Neither Hart nor

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A6**

Early deadlines for Christmas

To ensure that the Dec. 24 edition of the Webster Times arrives in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the Webster Times thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

Turn To **CHILDREN** page **A4**



St. Joseph School's Children of Mary Sodality gather on the altar of St. Joseph Basilica for a photo following the installation of new members. Joining them are Advisor Mary Ann Papiez, Associate Pastor Rev. Anthony Kazarnowicz (left) and Pastor Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski (right).

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Funding still available for local microbusinesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local microbusiness owners struggling with the impacts of the

pandemic are encouraged to continue seeking available funding.

Officials remind microbusiness owners in certain local towns that federal funds remain available to assist eligible microenterprises impacted by the pandemic.

Eligible businesses must have five or fewer employees currently working for the entity. Additionally, qualifying businesses must be located in Leicester, Brookfield, Dudley, Millbury, North Brookfield, or West Brookfield. Finally, business owners must meet federal family income limits.

Grants of up to \$25,000 per business are available to aid qualifying businesses that have been impacted by the COVID-19 disaster and need financial assistance.

Funds may be used to offset lost income through reimbursement of certain past costs, or payment of current bills. The Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is assisting with the process of guiding business owners through the application phases for funding.

Devastated by the effects of the pandemic since March 2020, several local microbusiness owners have already applied for funding and received relief. CMRPC leaders and area officials are urging others to apply as well.

“For eligible very small businesses, this program can be a great fit. It allows them to be reimbursed for eligible expenses, or it can cover a variety of current costs,” said Andrew Loew, a planning specialist with the CMRPC.

Grants are made possible by federal Cares Act community development funding.

If you are interested in learning more about this funding opportunity for microbusinesses, please visit www.cmrpcregionalservices.org/microenterprise.

You can also download the application form and learn about program eligibility requirements by visiting the aforementioned site.

“Applications are still being accepted for the microenterprise program, but we encourage interested businesses to contact us as soon as possible due to upcoming deadlines from the program’s funding source,” Loew added.

Locally, the microenterprise assistance program is funded through a Cares Act Community Development Block Grant disbursed to the Town of Leicester from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This federal agency is working in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.



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DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 3-10.

Angel M. Rivera, age 51, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 3 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.


Brandon M. Benoit, age 29, of Holland was arrested on Dec. 4 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Marked Lanes Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.




Happy Holidays!

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Rescue personnel respond to crash on Route 131

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Fire Department has released details concerning a fiery crash that occurred on Saturday, Dec. 4 in the area of Mill Road.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 4 emergency crews responded to a reported vehicle fire on Southbridge Road, Route 131 near Mill Road, where firefighters discovered a single vehicle that had crashed into the guard rail and was on fire. The driver and lone occupant of the vehicle was uninjured from the crash and self-extricated themselves before the fire began. According to Dudley Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski reports indicated that the driver was operating erratically before the crash occurred.

“I was informed that the individual hit a street sign, dragged the sign a hundred feet and it dropped up by the PNA and then he proceeded to keep driving. I don’t know if something went wrong with his steering or something, but he ended up in the bridge abutment on Southbridge Road. The car burst into flames. My guys made a quick response. They did a great job putting out the fire. We had back-to-back calls and they still responded quickly without any injuries. The driver self-extricated himself from the vehicle so it worked out,” said the chief.

It took about an hour for crews to clear the scene reopening the roadway at around three in the morning. Chief Kochanowski could not determine an exact cause of the crash or why the driver lost control and noted that sometimes incidents simply just happen.

“I think in some cases accidents happen and there’s nothing you can do about it. Maybe in other cases people need to be more responsible when driving. I think you have to take it on a case-by-case basis because the circumstances surrounding each call are very different all the time,” said the chief.

No charges have been announced by Dudley Police nor has the driver of the vehicle been identified by emergency responders or authorities as of this report.



Dudley firefighters manage a car fire following a crash on Dec. 4.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

The Webster Times is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected in a timely manner on page A3. We cannot run corrections based upon differences of opinion or unconfirmable facts. We will, however, print letters to the editor from area residents who wish to add their comments to our news coverage. If you find a mistake, please email news@stonebridgepress.news or call (508) 909-4106. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voicemail box.

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Webster to see \$13.96 tax rate

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — For the fourth year, selectmen unanimously voted to support a single tax rate after a tax classification hearing that drew no public comments.

According to Assessor Mark Becker, that rate will be approximately \$13.96 per thousand dollars of property value, meaning the average residential property of \$314,500 will be paying \$4391.

Becker, however, warned against holding too closely to that average, noting the actual tax bills vary by type of property and other factors. Although the average tax hike compared to this year is 2 percent, some homes will see less, and some will see 10-20 percent more. He noted he always gets hundreds of calls complaining about tax bills.

“We’re talking apples. We’re talking pears. We’re talking grapes,” he said. “It’s across the board: different types of values.”

For example, Becker cited a hypothetical case in which a house assessed at \$200,000 sees a “bidding war” that drives its purchase price up to \$325,000. Within a year or so, the assessment will rise to match that, meaning the actual taxes “will jump from \$3000 to \$4500.”

He also noted some parts of town are valued much more than others, pointing to the roughly 1000 homes on Webster Lake specifically. There, “we went from 18 homes that are over \$1 million

assessment – sorry, folks – to 50 homes,” he said.

A non-residential area that saw rapid growth was commercial property, mostly driven by two large solar projects that came online and recent legal changes that allow towns to assess utility-owned property at higher values. Solar added about \$5 million to that property class, while utility property rose by \$12-\$14 million.

Similarly, Becker noted Webster has seen several commercial buyers “paying 495 prices on 395.” This year’s rates do not include changes that happened in the past year; by law, their calculations are based on data from Jan 1, 2020, and, in some property classes, 2019, depending on the number of “arms-length” sales. Becker noted prices have continued rising since then.

“In other words, people should buckle their seatbelts when the 2021 numbers get cranked through next year at this time,” Selectman Chair Randy Becker (his brother) observed. “... They’re likely to see similar changes.”

Overall, the assessor added, Webster’s total value rose about \$200 million to a little more than \$1.22 billion.

“Pretty amazing,” Mark Becker said. “It just shows how strong the economy and the housing market has gotten in the last 15 years.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 5-11.

An 18-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 5 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Larceny from a Person.

A 69-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 5 for Assault on a Family or Household Member.

Daphne Wanjiru Kamau, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 5 in connection with a warrant.

Brian S. Boucher, age 53, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 6 in connection with a warrant.

Brad Roger Akerson, age 44, and Belinda Belle Legere, age 48, both of Webster, were arrested on Dec. 6 in connection with warrants.

Michael John O’Brien, Jr., age 29, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 6 in connection with multiple warrants.

A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on Dec. 6 for Assault & Battery.

Sarah J. Taylor, age 31, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 9 in connection with a warrant.

Richard H. Lewis, age 48, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 9 in connection with a warrant.

A 61-year-old male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 11 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Season's Greetings

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor

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Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Jessica and I love the color pink!

Jessica is a sweet and respectful, young girl who likes unicorns, anything Barbie, and her favorite color is pink. Jessica loves to color, especially with gel pens. Although described as shy at first, once she gets to know someone, she will talk about anything and everything! Jessica is aware of maintaining her appearance and loves her hair.

Legally freed for adoption, families of all constellations will be considered for Jessica, including homes with older children. A family with a trauma-informed approach will help her to thrive in her new setting. Jessica continues to have contact with her previous foster mother and she is an important, positive, life-long support for Jessica that will need to be maintained. Jessica is open to meeting new people and will benefit from a loving and patient home where she can develop a sense of safety.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

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Adult Programming
Book Discussion Group
– December 20th 6:30PM
The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! Next month’s book discussion will be on Monday, November 15th at 6:30PM the meeting will take place via Zoom, and will be about the book The Widow’s War by Sally Gunning. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmars.org for inquiries.

Indoor Movie Night – Third Thursday of the month, next on December 16th at 6:00PM
Join us monthly on the third Thursday of each month as we show a new release film. We’ll make theatre-style popcorn for you to enjoy! The film selection changes each month, call the Library for this month’s title: 508-949-3880.

Armchair Travel Series – Tales of a Reluctant World Traveler – January 6th at 6:30PM
Join us Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 6:30 PM for a performance from Randy Ross of his one-man show: Tales of a Reluctant World

Traveler. “Sixteen weeks, four continents, three bungee jumps, and I couldn’t come home soon enough.” This is the story of how a Boston homebody turned a solo trip around the globe into a comedy novel and an acclaimed one-man show. The one-hour multimedia event includes a humorous travel slideshow, readings from his novel God Bless Cambodia and performances from his show The Chronic Single’s Handbook.

Armchair Travel Series – The Wilds of Southern Belize – January 13th at 6:30PM
Located in Eastern Central America, Belize shares borders with Guatemala and Mexico. From the crystal blue ocean waters and inland to the nearby mountains, it is amazingly diverse. Wildlife along the Southern coast, and nearby rivers, includes magnificent tiger herons, fast flyers like the cinnamon hummingbird and the peregrine falcon, and large swimmers like manatees and crocodiles. Traveling inland to the rainforest brings sightings of spectacular butterflies, birds, like the black headed trogon, but also mammals like the elusive jaguar and bands of coatimundi. Join us for a virtual trip to see some

of the stunning wildlife of Southern Belize.

Armchair Travel Series – New Zealand: Penguins, Parrots & Pods – January 20th at 6:30PM
New Zealand is home to many rare birds and marine mammals including the comical yellow-eyed penguin. Watch and listen as the yellow-eyed penguin returns from the ocean to feed its chick and the Antipodes Island parrot demonstrates “looks, personality and talent.” Not to be outdone, rare New Zealand sea lions make quite an impression as they interact on isolated South Island beaches, pods of rare Hector’s dolphins frolic near coastal shores and dusky dolphins play with kayakers as they travel deep into the fiords of southern New Zealand. Join us for sights and sounds of animal personalities from this amazing country.

Armchair Travel Series – Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail – January 27th at 6:30PM
Those who attend this program will be treated to a modern day adventure. In March last year, Sam Ducharme set out on a 2,180 mile, 14 state backpacking trip from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mt. Katahdin Maine. During his six month journey he documented the rugged beauty of the Appalachian Mountains, the wildlife, the hardships encountered on the trail, as well as the people, culture and humanity at its finest. Come join him as he takes

you through the trail towns, over the mountaintops and through the backcountry. The images and stories will leave you with a renewed awe of the beauty of our country and its people.

Yoga with Julie – Saturdays from January 8th through March 26th 10-11:15AM
Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the “uniting of movement with breath”. A typical class involves a centering of the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages and, finally, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free for Gladys Kelly Library patrons.

Before Brooklyn book discussion with Ted Reinstein – February 24th at 6:30PM
Thursday, February 24 at 6:30, Ted Reinstein from WCVB-TV’s Chronicle will be at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library to present his latest book, Before Brooklyn. This book tells the story of the little-known heroes who fought segregation in baseball, from communist newspaper reporters to the Pullman car porters who saw to it that black newspapers espousing integration in professional sports reached the homes of blacks throughout the country. There will be time for a brief Q&A after the presentation as well.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming
Fall into Reading at the Gladys E. Kelly Public

Library – October 11th through December 20th
From October 11 to December 20, sign up at: gladyskellylibrary.beanstack.org, or download the Beanstack app on iOS or Android. Join this fun reading program for kids 0-12. Earn digital badges as you log reading, earn digital badges for attending library events, and earn book prizes by reading! Read 10 hours to complete the program. This new online reading platform has an app that is easy to download and use. Along with the app/website, you can also ask for a paper version. Questions? Contact Andrew at atai@cwmars.org.

Drop in Paint Hour – Mondays from 3:30-4:30PM
It’s Time to break out the paintbrushes! With a variety of paints and paper available, bring your artist of any age to join in the fun.
Masks are required for everyone in the Children’s Room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

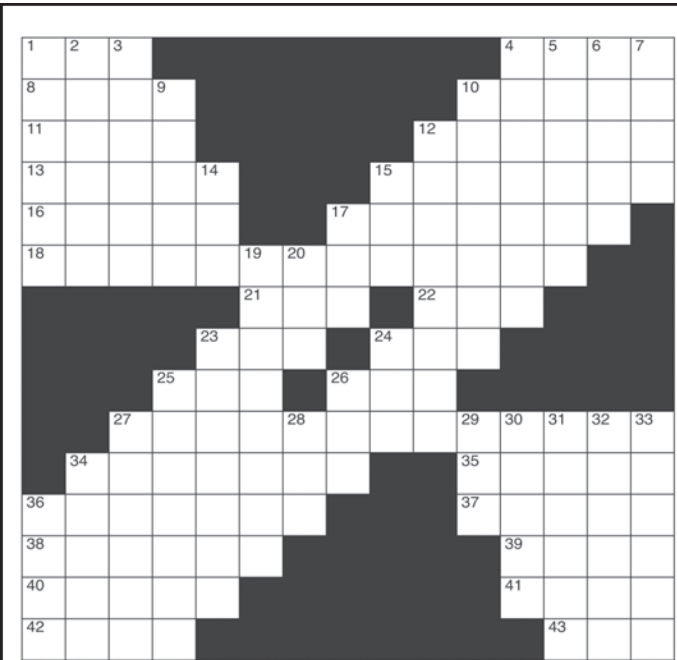
LEGO Club – Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30PM
LEGO Club is back, and we’re so excited to have you build with us again. Stop by the storytime room every Tuesday at 3:30 to freeplay with our BUCKETLOADS of LEGOs or try out our weekly challenge!
Masks are required for everyone in the Children’s Room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

Songs and Stories Storytime – Wednesdays at 10AM
Join Miss Emily

Wednesday mornings at 10am (starting Sept. 1st!) to read books, sing songs, and do rhyme games. Meet other children and caregivers at this community event. After stories, catch up with other community members over a simple craft. This Storytime is best for children 0-5, but all ages are welcome!
Masks are required for everyone in the children’s room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

Winter Food Crafts – Thursdays in December, starting December 9th from 3:30-4:30PM
Get cozy at the Library with a series of four food crafts for children! Each Thursday in December from 3:30 to 4:30pm, children and their caregivers are invited to stop in to make a yummy treat. December 16th we will be making gingerbread houses with all sorts of decorations! This program is open to all ages and is free, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library.

Noon Year’s Eve – December 29th from 11AM-12PM
Your littles don’t have to miss out on all the New Year’s Eve fun: bring them to the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a special Noon Year’s Eve party just for them! On Wednesday, December 29 kids ages 0-6 are invited to count down the new year beginning at 11am. We’ll have noisemaker and hat crafts, a dance party, stories, and a balloon drop at noon! This program is generously funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

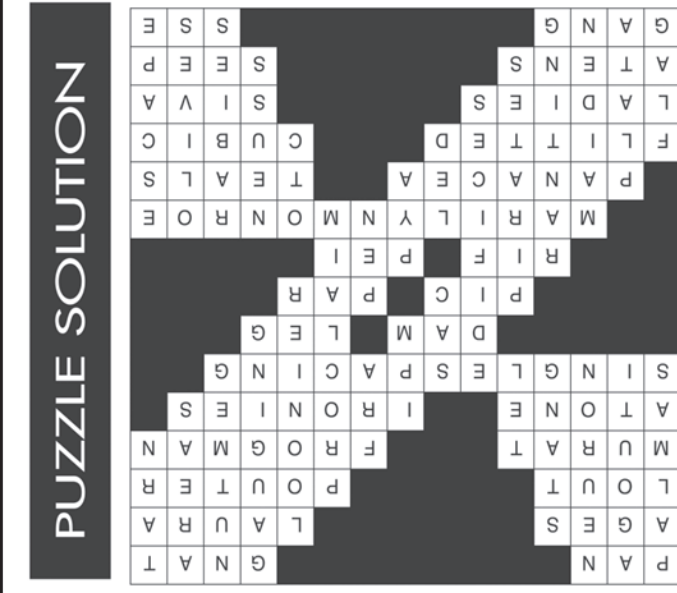


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. You fry food in it
- 4. Pesky insect
- 8. Gets older
- 10. ___ Dern, actress
- 11. Uncouth man
- 12. One who sulks
- 13. Napoleon’s king of Naples
- 15. One who swims underwater
- 16. Make amends
- 17. Expressions
- 18. Document format
- 21. What a beaver makes
- 22. Limb
- 23. Photograph
- 24. Golf score
- 25. Moroccan mountain range
- 26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar ___
- 27. 20th century sex symbol
- 34. Remedy for all diseases
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Moved swiftly
- 37. Type of units
- 38. Madames
- 39. Indian religious god
- 40. Potentially hazardous asteroids
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. An association of criminals
- 43. A way to push content (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Town in central Brazil
- 2. Large burrowing rodent
- 3. Nerve cell
- 4. Estimating
- 5. Bakers use it
- 6. Regions
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Environmentalist nun
- 10. More kookie
- 12. Announce officially
- 14. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 15. Title given to friar
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Buildings
- 20. Pouch
- 23. They steal on the high seas
- 24. It’s mightier than the sword
- 25. Going off on a tangent
- 26. Monetary unit
- 27. Young woman
- 28. Type of bulb
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. City opposite Dusseldorf
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini necessities
- 33. Elude
- 34. La ___: Buenos Aires capital
- 36. An oft-enduring symbol



JOLDA

continued from page A1

election, that would only leave two more months before May.
Becker noted the benefit of holding one was that Webster “wouldn’t have three of the five members up for election at the same time,” but it was also cost around \$10,000. Either way, whoever replaces Jolda will serve until his term ends in May 2023.
Coincidentally, next year’s elections will be the first under a new redistricting map. The board’s agenda called for approving that Dec 6, but it was delayed because Town Clerk Robert Craver said the secretary of state wanted another chance to look at it first.
That’s because Webster is one of about 100 communities that have to implement “sub-precincting,” a somewhat unusual situation in which one precinct is whole for local and state balloting but split for federal elections. Precinct #1 is being split between the 1st and 2nd Congressional

CHILDREN

continued from page A1

where they pray the rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament and join parishioners in singing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. In addition, they take part in a variety of service activities, including organizing and preparing the parish Advent Angel Tree. Sr. Mary Ann Papiez advises the Children of Mary Sodality.

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PRE-K POWER STORYTIME
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Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time! We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

TODDLER TIME
Wednesdays @ 11:00AM
Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs!
This is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

BABY TIME
Fridays @ 11:30AM
Join us for a Baby Time story time! We will be doing songs, fingerplays, and reading to our babies!
This is geared for babies 0-15 months.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GROUP
Mondays @5:00PM
Have you ever wanted to learn to play D&D or are you a player looking to join a group? We have an experienced DM starting a group on Monday Nights at the pearle!
If you have a Player’s Handbook or dice bring them with you. We will have extras for anyone who needs them.
Free; registration required.

POKEMON CLUB
Tuesdays @ 3:30PM
Calling all Pokemon fans! Children ages 7 to 14 are invited to join our club. This meeting will be a great opportunity to meet other players and share ideas. Please make sure you bring your trading cards and anything else you would like to share and discuss.

LEGO CHALLENGE CLUB
Wednesdays @ 3:30PM
Come join us each week for a different Lego challenge, from writing your name in Legos to making a Lego zipline. Ages 5+

ADULT BOOK GROUP
Third Thursday, 6:00PM-7:30PM – beginning January 20th!
The adult book group meets for an informal discussion of the month’s title, which is available at the circulation desk a month prior to the meeting.

For more information contact Kathryn Ward at 508-949-0819

TEEN CANDY BINGO
Monday, December 13 6:00PM-7:00PM
All teens are welcome to come play candy bingo. We’ll have pizza and soda too!

Free; open to ages 13-18. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

MUSIC TIME WITH DEB HUDGINS
Thursday, December 16
10:30AM-11:00AM
Join Deb Hudgins for this thirty minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, stories, and more! This program will be held via Zoom. Registered participants will receive the link 24 hours before the program.

Free; registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES
Friday, December 17 11:00AM-12:00AM
Music, songs, and movement designed for ages 3-6!
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH THE SHEPHERD HILL SHOW CHOIR
Saturday, December 18
11:00AM-12:00AM
Members of the award-winning Shepherd Hill Show Choir will sing old favorites and new tunes in this family-friendly free concert.
Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
Monday, January 3 5:00PM-6:00PM
All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join. You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form).
Pizza and drinks will be served!

Free; Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

YOGA WITH JULIE
Saturday, January 8 11:30AM-12:30AM
All ages are welcome at this beginner-friendly yoga class led by Julie St. Francis.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

LEGO MASTER BUILDER DAN STEININGER
Monday, January 10 6:00PM-7:00PM
Dan Steininger is one of only eight official LEGO Master Builders in the

entire world and he wants to share what it’s like to have his dream job. He uses humor, great storytelling, and hands on building to entertain and inspire.

Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

REDUCING PAIN NATURALLY
Thursday, January 13 6:00PM-7:45PM
Do you find yourself thinking “when will this pain end?” “why do I still have this pain?” or “how can I get rid of this pain?” Brad and Pamela Thompson will introduce some of the most recent breakthroughs in our understanding of pain and introduce a powerful and natural pain-reducing technique.

Registration is recommended for this free program.

JEWELRY JAM WITH KIM LARKIN
Thursday, February 3 6:00PM-7:45PM
Make a gift for your Valentine at this jewelry-making workshop for teens and

adults and create a mixed-media necklace on colorful cording using a decoupage technique with scrapbook paper or text. Kim will bring an assortment of materials to inspire your creativity.

Free, but space is limited: registration required.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

YOGA WITH JULIE
Saturday, February 5 11:30AM-12:30AM
All ages are welcome at this beginner-friendly yoga class led by Julie St. Francis.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
Monday, February 7 5:00PM-6:00PM
All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join. You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new

people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form).
Pizza and drinks will be served!

Free; Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

VALENTINE CRAFT FOR KIDS
Thursday, February 10 4:00PM-5:00PM
Come and create a Valentine craft! Ages 5+, please.

Space is limited; registration required.

HOUSEPLANTS 101
Thursday, February 24 6:30PM-7:45PM
Join the master gardeners from Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens to learn everything you need to know to successfully grow houseplants. Learn about several kinds of houseplants, and how to identify common plant-growing problems, so you can beautify your home and purify the air you breathe.
Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Dudley officials debate increasing permitting fees

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Board of Selectmen in examining the possibility of increasing permit fees following a presentation by a student intern that indicated Dudley could still make more money while maintaining some of the lowest fees in the state.

Olivia Antonson, an intern from Nichols College who graduated this month, has worked with the town to research permit fees of five communities and compare them to Dudley’s to determine whether or not it would be feasible or beneficial for Dudley to increase its fees. The research, which focused on electrical, gas, plumbing and building fees, showed Dudley was among the lowest in most fee categories among the sample communities which included Webster, Oxford, Southbridge, Charlton and Sturbridge. The only fees where Dudley wasn’t in line with or one of the two lowest from the sample towns was in commercial construction where it was the third lowest fee in the sample set. The research also showed a sharp dip in revenue from the Zoning Department and while the 2020 pandemic could be attributed to that drop, the number reached its lowest point in six years in 2021 while 2018 was the previous

low point. Building department revenue only slightly increased from the last two years while expenses in that department skyrocketed in 2021. Gross profit from the two departments his \$48,051 in 2021, much higher than the previous two years but still lower than 2016 through 2018.

All of this added up with Antonson passing her recommendation onto Selectmen that they consider increasing the fees in the near or immediate future.

“My recommendation is that a raise in the permit fees is justified because I believe Dudley provides above average services and our fees should reflect this. I don’t recommend that the Board of Selectmen increase permit fees to such high costs that it would impose a financial burden on residents and commercial developers. Increasing some of the town of Dudley’s permit fees would subsequently increase revenue to the building department likely leading to an increase in gross profit,” she said.

Selectmen were split on the recommendation thanking Antonson for her hard work and providing the data she collected. The board was shorthand for the discussion with both Selectmen John Marsi and Paul Joseph absent leaving it a three-member board. Still there were plenty of opinions to go around.

“I want to make sure that were basing the fee structure on the cost and expected volume. That’s why I’m not interested

if we are keeping up with the Joneses,” Selectman Jason Johnson said. “What I am interested in is if we’re doing what we’re supposed to do to balance the budget, provide the appropriate services for the people in the town.”

Selectman Kerry Cyganiewicz provided a similar take. “We’re not a business. We’re not here to make money. We’re here to provide services to the people in the town. We’re here to collect enough to offset that. We’re collecting more than enough to offset that and that’s the number I’m looking at. Fine, we haven’t raised it in nine years, we’re still collecting more than what it costs us to provide the services to the people. I don’t see the need to raise it,” he said.

Selectman Steve Sullivan was the most supportive of increasing the fees especially when looking at the data provided in the presentation.

“It’s just obvious looking at the numbers Olivia provided, when you break it down to each category we are obviously severely out of the norm when it comes to the surrounding towns. That’s who we compete with,” said Sullivan.

The present selectmen decided not to make any motion during the meeting and to hold off to allow input by the other two selectmen at which point the board may or may not make an official decision on the fate of Dudley’s fees.



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Tri-Valley, Inc. joins Meals on Wheels, Subaru in Sharing the Love this holiday season

WEBSTER — Tri-Valley’s Nutrition Program is proud to announce that it will be participating in the 2021 Subaru Share the Love Event as a member of Meals on Wheels America – one of four national Share the Love charitable partners supported through the campaign. From Nov. 18 through Jan. 3, Subaru of America will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased to the customer’s choice of participating charities.

Kristin McCarthy, Nutrition Program Director, said, “We are happy to be partnering once again with Long Subaru. They believe in giving back to the community and understand the importance of delivering meals to the seniors in Webster and the other 24 towns that Tri-Valley serves in South Central Massachusetts.”

Participating Meals on Wheels America members, like Tri-Valley, Inc., will receive a share of the donation raised by Subaru in their state. Tri-Valley has partnered with Long Subaru of Webster to raise awareness for the popular year-end sales and giving event, and drive support for Meals on Wheels.

“Meals on Wheels America is proud to partner with Subaru of America for the 14th consecutive year to enable more seniors to live with independence and dignity,” said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO, Meals on Wheels America. “Since 2008, the Subaru Share the Love Event has helped deliver more than 2.5 million meals and friendly visits to vulnerable seniors nationwide. We’re enormously grateful to Subaru and its retailers for their long-standing commitment to Meals on Wheels and the millions of seniors who depend on it for nourishment and companionship.”

Over the last 13 years, Subaru of America and its participating retailers have donated more than \$200 million to its charity partners. This year’s Subaru Share the Love Event is on track to bring that total to over \$225 million, proving there’s no limit to the amount of love we can all share.

By purchasing or leasing a new Subaru during the Subaru Share the Love Event and selecting Meals on Wheels as your charity of choice, you can help deliver nutritious meals and other important services to seniors right here in your community.

For more information, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove.

About Tri-Valley, Inc. Tri-Valley is a private, non-profit agency. The agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from the Federal government, under the Older American’s Act, processed through the Central Mass Agency on Aging. Funds are also received from other public and private sources. All donations are welcome and memorials may be established. For more information about services or volunteer opportunities, please call Tri-Valley at 508-949-6640 or visit www.trivalleyinc.org.

About Meals on Wheels America Meals on Wheels America is the leadership organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network serves virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America’s seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, education, research and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.

About Subaru of America, Inc. Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Subaru Corporation of Japan. Headquartered at a zero-landfill office in Camden, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 630 retailers across the United States. All Subaru products are manufactured in zero-landfill plants and Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. is the only U.S. automobile manufacturing plant to be designated a backyard wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. SOA is guided by the Subaru Love Promise, which is the company’s vision to show love and respect to everyone, and to support its communities and customers nationwide. Over the past 20 years, SOA has donated more than \$200 million to causes the Subaru family cares about, and its employees have logged more than 63,000 volunteer hours. As a company, Subaru believes it is important to do its part in making a positive impact in the world because it is the right thing to do. For additional information visit media.subaru.com. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

For additional information visit media.subaru.com. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

OXFORD

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Tremblay, Sr., spoke at the hearing, but dog owner David Tremblay Jr said he was not home at the time, but the dogs escaped because his father had opened his room’s door to see if he was.

“I’m going to do everything I can to prevent it from happening again,” he added.

Flynn said he has already added “appropriate latches and hinges” to the front gates to prevent future escapes, and she found the backyard well fenced. Neither dog was licensed or vaccinated for rabies on Oct. 19, but both are now, she said.

Flynn recommended identifying Cash and Penny as “dangerous dogs” under state law – a designation that will follow them for the rest of their lives. Furthermore, she proposed several specific restrictions, including requiring they be “humanely restrained” whenever outdoors but not chained to inanimate objects, on a three-foot leash and muzzled whenever off the property, in the backyard only when an adult is home, and microchipped for future identification. She recommended giving them 30 days to complete those things.

The selectmen unanimously agreed to deem them “dangerous,” and voted 4-1 to accept those restrictions. Afterward, Chair Dennis Lamarche said, “We wish you good luck in he future. Hopefully, we won’t see you again.”

Much of the meeting’s remaining time was filled with Town Manager Jen Callahan’s presentation on how she intends to use Oxford’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Oxford has been earmarked \$4,187,386 and has received half of it so far, but there are “a multitude of reporting requirements” for their use.

Callahan said there are seven major eligible categories, of which town administration has identified five they’re likely to use funds under: public health, premium pay, infrastructure, revenue replacement and administrative costs. The other two are social services and ameliorating negative economic impacts. All money must be “obligated” by Dec. 31, 2024 and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

“We’re going to have to petition the federal government – it’d be smart to do that – to make sure we think this is going to be qualifying,” Callahan said.

If they can’t prove it, they’ll have to pay the funds back.

Under public health, she’s looking at doing ventilation upgrades for Town Hall and other buildings, noting “a lot of legislators” are seeking such things. Some funds will go for Covid-related staff pay, which means the town will have to define “essential workers,” a group that includes police and fire, but also “many other people who had to deal with coming front and center.” She noted, however, that even the state hasn’t defined that term, so the auditors are telling towns “to be a little cautious.”

Around town, she’s considering using funds for sewer projects and worked with town auditors to devise a formula under which they’ve calculated around \$500,000 “we could actually justify” in revenue replacement. (That amount for 2020 “has already been certified.”)

Regarding administration, Callahan noted it will be “burdensome to report” how Oxford uses the money, and she doesn’t know what doing so will look like yet. That will involve establishing a grant management plan.

The rest of the meeting was mostly the board’s annual approval of various kinds of business licenses.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.





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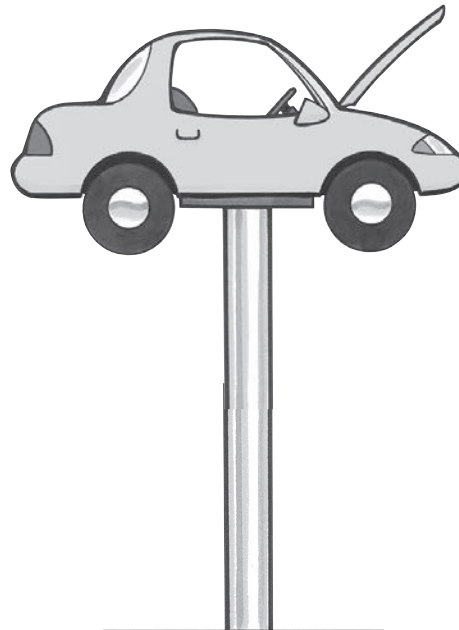
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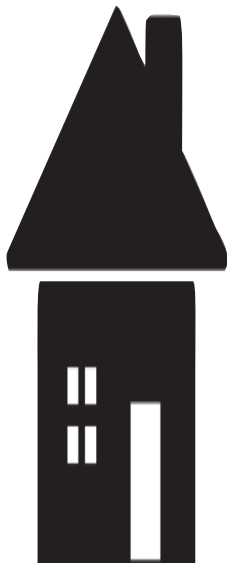
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BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

An epidemic of ‘experts’

“Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge.” — Charles Darwin

It seems as though in today’s society, everyone is an expert. It’s one thing to have a specific belief system or an educated opinion on a certain topic, (with the operative word here being educated) this to include all topics. However, it seems as though critical thinking has all but flown right out of the window. Common sense is used less and less with people making outlandish assumptions, believing misinformation and falling into line with outright absurdities. Social media doesn’t help. Unfortunately, some people will read a meme and take it as face value. Some people even think JFK, Jr. is coming back to life.

With that, let us make one thing clear. None of us are experts — unless, well, we are. It turns out there’s a name for this phenomenon, called the Dunning-Kruger effect. This is defined as a cognitive bias in which people think they are smarter and more capable than they are. So much so that people don’t recognize their own incompetence.

The Dunning-Kruger effect takes place when a person begins speaking at length about a topic they know nothing about, yet claims everyone else is uninformed and wrong. For an example, if a student fails a test, yet believes they should have received an A. They are incapable of seeing their own faults.

David Dunning, an American social psychologist who along with Justin Kruger discovered the phenomenon, described it as such: “Instead, the incompetent are often blessed with an inappropriate confidence, buoyed by something that feels to them like knowledge. The trouble with ignorance is that it can feel just like expertise.”

The cause of this effect, as described by Dunning, is that people are too incompetent to realize how incompetent they are. These individuals will fail to recognize the skill and expertise of others.

Also mentioned by Dunning is what’s called metacognition. This is the ability to look within and evaluate yourself honestly. Oftentimes, those who suffer from this syndrome hear a small amount of knowledge on a topic, and then think they are experts.

No one person is an expert at everything. Dunning pointed out that everyone has areas in which they are incompetent. Oftentimes, if a person is an expert in one area, they mistakenly think they are an expert in all areas. Dunning did point out that those individuals who are genuine experts in any given field, are more likely to see their own flaws in other areas, and are able to accept the knowledge and expertise in others who truly possess it.

If your car breaks down, you will not bring it to the dentist. If you have a toothache, you will not go see a florist. Further, with the divide in our country politically, let us remember, that politics has zero to do with anyone’s skill set. Our healthcare workers are being harassed daily by those who believe they are experts. There are doctors, nurses and healthcare providers who are both Republicans and Democrats or Independents. Car repair is car repair, healthcare is healthcare, creating a fine dining menu and becoming a top-rated chef is simply about food and creativity. We need to stop politicizing anything other than politics.

Common sense and critical thinking needs to find its way back into our society. Common sense is defined as the sound and prudent judgement based on a simple perception of the situation or fact.

As far as the political divide that has taken hold in this country. It’s ridiculous. There is no need for anyone, on either side, to be filled with so much anger, because their candidate lost, or because someone disagrees with your way of thinking. The beauty of our country is that we can all think differently and still respect one another, and still have the ability to laugh over beers and pizza on a Friday night. The angry political signs still strewn about on either side, are tacky, immature and unintelligent. We can do better.

VIEWPOINT

The man who invented Christmas?

How many of you have ever seen some version of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol?” It’s probably one of the most famous and beloved Christmas classics that countless people watch every year. Kids at Shepherd Hill go see it at the Hanover Theatre each year. There are many local productions throughout towns around the country. Even Hollywood seems to come out with some new version of this story every so many years. Google it and you will literally find dozens of different productions of “A Christmas Carol.”

Well, my wife and I have an annual tradition to watch the musical version of “A Christmas Carol,” starring Kelsey Grammer. This is one of our favorites. Because we love this movie so much, we were intrigued to come across the movie, “The Man Who Invented Christmas.” Despite its heretical title, it proved to be another delightful and quite creative version of our favorite story, telling how Charles Dickens came to write his Christmas classic. Dickens wrote it in only six weeks, right before Christmas in 1843, at a time following three literary flops and as his debt was increasing following his best-selling novel “Oliver Twist.”

What is it about “A Christmas Carol” that holds our attention year after year? Is it that it’s a story of redemption, compassion, kindness, generosity, and love? Is it the power of seeing Mr. Scrooge’s miserly, greedy, pathetic, egocentric, lonely, and depraved worldview transformed by the spirit of Christmas?

Yet as much as I enjoy every year watching this classic, I can’t stop asking myself where is Jesus in it all? Isn’t Christmas centered on the birth of a baby born in Bethlehem who changed the history of the world? Where is that in “A Christmas Carol?”

Now, maybe one could argue that “A Christmas Carol” conveys the spirit of Jesus, the virtues that He incarnated, and the good news that Christ proclaimed – that life is about love, compassion, kindness, and generosity, along with a hope of redemption for each and every one of us, even if we are as pathetic as Mr. Scrooge. Yes, Dickens conveys these virtues in such a moving and inspiring way. I still feel, however, that as much good as he conveys, he leaves out the essence of Christmas. Then we have the title of this movie, “The Man Who Invented Christmas,” and it can confuse people all the more.

Did Dickens invent Christmas? Of course not. Yet, it is said that his book in 1843 inspired the British to celebrate Christmas in a totally different manner than they previously had done – with gatherings around one’s families, offering good will toward suffering human-kind, and trying to bring out the light and love in our lives during this festive season. Thus, maybe Dickens helped to create the atmosphere in how we understand and celebrate Christmas today.

I find it interesting how the more our American society embraces its secular, non-religious spirit, our society doesn’t eliminate our religious holy days in the national calendar, but it tries to change these holy days into something the leaves out the essence, the depth, and the heart of the religious feast itself. In other words, celebrate Christmas with love and kindness and good will, but celebrate Christmas without any mention of Jesus Christ.

Christmas isn’t simply a season when we try to show more love, compassion, kindness, and generosity to one another.



BEYOND THE PEWS

• • • • •
BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
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AND HELEN
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THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week’s newspaper is Friday at noon. **SEND ALL ITEMS** to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news

Disability plates



CHIEF’S CORNER

STEVE WOJNAR

I recently received a question regarding Disability plates or placards issued by the Registry. I was asked to explain the process for obtaining one. I was also asked for my recommendation on which one should a person should seek when applying.

Disability placards and plates are described in 540CMR17.00. Disability plates are issued to a vehicle owned by a qualified individual. Placards are special permits issued by the Registry to a specific person. Someone interested in obtaining one of these permits must complete an application and submit it to the Registry. It also must be filled out and signed by a qualified physician outlining the reason for the disability. The application is free of charge and may be issued on a temporary (Generally up to 24 months) or a permanent basis. Temporary permits apply to individuals who have possibly suffered injuries but are expected to recover. Permanent applications will renew automatically, which is the reason why the state is looking at this to prevent abuse. The start to finish process for this will take at minimum, 30 days, however, in these CPVID times, it can be much longer.

Generally, only one (plate or placard) is issued to people whose conditions warrant this privilege. The main purpose is to limit misuse opportunities of these items. The rule under 540CMR17.03 however; does allow for the Registrar to “issue both a plate and placard upon application and for good cause shown by the applicant.” This is totally discretionary on the part of the Registry of Motor Vehicles and they in turn will determine what is “good cause” for issuance. If you have a condition that makes you eligible for a disability plate or placard, you should take the opportunity and apply. If you are only choosing one type, my recommendation would be to seek the placard. This is issued to you directly and can be used in any vehicle. If you ride with a friend or family members, you can still use this for the proper parking privilege. If you have a plate, only that vehicle is authorized to park in designated places, limiting your access.

It is equally as important to remember to not misuse one of these permits. The fines and penalties are serious. The person who is issued the placard or plate must be present with the vehicle when it is used. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 Section 2 calls for a first offense civil infraction of \$500 for misusing a disability plate or placard. The second and subsequent offense penalty is \$1,000. In addition, the person who owns the placard or plate may have it taken away. These spaces are in their designated locations for the convenient use of facilities for those with limited mobility. Remember to observe the laws carefully and show consideration for those individuals who need this assistance.

Please check us out at our new Facebook link at <https://www.facebook.com/dudleymapolice>. 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. 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for a wonderful tree lighting

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I would like to thank our sponsors and volunteers for their contribution to our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 9 at the Dudley Municipal Complex.

We had a great turnout as children and parents visited Santa Claus and enjoyed the antics of Frosty the Snowman! Pizza, treats, hot chocolate and coffee were served, and music was performed by the Shepherd Hill Marching Band led by David Macuga. While it was a bit different this year due to COVID protocol, all enjoyed the festivities.

We would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for making this event such a

success after a long and challenging year: Dudley Fire, Police and Highway Departments, Peter & Betsy Fox, Webster Five Cent Savings Bank, Gentex Optics, Park n’ Shop, Nichols College, Yummy’s Chinese Restaurant, Dudley Woman’s Club, Roy’s Auto Glass, Precision Auto Rebuilders, McGee Toyota, R.L. Spahl Plumbing and Heating, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Dunkin Donuts, Big Al’s Pizza Plus, Leoni’s Brick Oven Pizzeria, Dudley House of Pizza and Jimmy’s Pizza. A special thank you to all the volunteers, many of them town hall staff, who helped plan, prepare and participated in this event. Thank you!

And to all our Dudley residents...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

JOHN MARSI
DUDLEY

What are your financial resolutions for 2022?

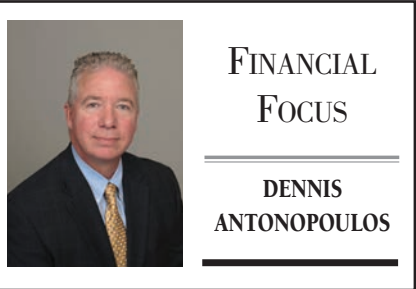
As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few ideas to consider:

Prepare for the unexpected. If you haven't

already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

Boost your retirement savings. The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the



retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33 percent of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Reduce your debt

load. The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress – at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were making the right moves.

Don't overreact to the headlines. A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation – it shot up in 2021, but it may

well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates? How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't forget extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day. Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust

this strategy over time, in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

Deer season winding down

The final three weeks of the Massachusetts deer season opened for primitive arms hunters this past Monday, ending on Dec. 31. There are still a lot of deer in local covers. Shotgun hunters reported a lot of sightings during the shotgun season, but were unable to get a good shot. Hopefully, a few inches of snow will give the hunters some great tracking conditions, providing the hunters with an opportunity to harvest a deer before the final day of hunting.

Most of the deer that were harvested during the shotgun deer season were in good shape, and had a good amount of fat that was observed during the skinning process. The large acorn crop should help many forms of wildlife survive the upcoming winter months. This past week, a package of venison steaks were dropped off at my home, which were quickly pan fried with a few onions and peppers the next day. A special thanks to the person that was kind enough to share some of his venison.

This week's weather was expected to stay warm, which is not good news for ice fishing. Shoreline anglers are still catching some impressive trout at local lakes and ponds. Anglers that have not winterized their boats, are continuing to enjoy some good fishing for trout. Cape ponds are also producing some good late fall or early trout fishing. It is worth the



trip to the Cape to enjoy some great trout fishing, if the warm weather continues. Hamblin Pond is this writer's favorite pond to fish for trout, and often produces some 18-plus-inch rainbow trout. This Kettle pond is a shallow sediment-filled body of water, formed by retreating glaciers or draining floodwaters in years past. There are numerous Kettle Ponds on the Cape.

Mass. Fish and Wildlife has implemented a new Recreational Permitting System for hunting and fishing licenses. The new system has been a bit of a pain for many first-time, users but they have managed to go through the process. You need to set up an account with a new MassFishHunt permitting system. You will also notice that all license and permitting fees have increased and will continue to rise every year, for the next few years. You will also need an e-mail address and password to log onto the new site.

This year, overall transaction fees will stay the same or decrease for most online customers. The previous online system charged an administration fee of \$1.34 per license and a 3 percent convenience fee on the total transaction. The new online system will charge an administrative fee of \$1.45 per license and 2 percent convenience fee on the total

transaction. It sounds like I am reading my electric bill or gas bill! It is what it is!

Canada goose season opened this past Monday in the Central District, with a daily bag limit of two birds. The season will run through Jan. 1. The late and final Goose season will open on Jan. 15 – Feb. 1, with a five-bird daily limit.

This past week, a few of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club members observed a few trout poachers at their club pond. When they were confronted, they quickly left the area, but not until the damage was done. The culprits were extremely brazen, ignoring our shouting to leave the area. A family of otters were feeding on recently stocked trout at the club pond as they do every year, and when they have depleted the trout population, they move on to neighboring Rod & Gun Clubs, to feed on their trout.

With trout costing \$3 a pound or more from trout hatcheries, many anglers become a bit upset with the poachers, but there is not much they can do as very few trappers are left to keep their populations down. Even if we could find a trapper, the trapping season for mink and River Otter ended December 15, 2021. Someone must have sent the otter a copy of the Massachusetts trapping season, as they seem to show up after trapping season?

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club will be holding another Breakfast Buffet



Courtesy

This father and son team are eagerly awaiting some safe ice for ice fishing. It may not be long!

on Sunday, Dec. 19, from 8 till 11 a.m., and is open to the public. The club will also be holding another Founders Day Prime Rib supper on the third Saturday of January, 2022. Be sure to get your tickets early as ticket sales are limited to 80 reservations. It was a sell out last year and is expected to sell out early. The supper is also open to the public.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all. Stay safe and get your shots. Do not be foolish!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Ode to Cranberries: A Festive Fruit Beyond the Holiday Table

New England cranberries are not just for the holidays anymore. The tart fruit, hailed as the “king of antioxidants,” are enjoying a surge of popularity as fans of the bouncy berries are finding new and delicious ways to work the wee wonders into a daily diet. From stalling a urinary tract infection, to preventing peptic ulcers, cranberries have been credited with an array of health helping benefits. Ongoing research also shows the fruit holds promise in the fight against such illnesses as cancer, heart and gum diseases and more. Add the fact the berries are touted as a powerful antioxidant and are high on the list of 20 anti aging foods and its no wonder the bowl of cranberry sauce could be the most important dish on the holiday table this year!

Humble Beginnings: Cranberries are native to New England, and the Northeast has long been credited with producing top quality bumper crops of the bright berries. Today, cranberries are grown commercially throughout the northern United States, but it was the early Native Americans who first unleashed the impressive properties of the humble, bitter berry.

The Indians used cranberries to make a poultice which proved an effective means to draw out the poison of arrow wounds. The dark, red juice of the fruit also provided an attractive dye for precious blankets and fabrics. In addition, cranberries mixed with dried venison and fat and dried in the sun formed staple food that could



withstand the rigors of travel, providing Native Americans with a valuable food source when they were hunting.

The wild cranberry got its name from the early settlers, who dubbed the round fruit the “craneberry” for its pink blossoms that resemble the head of a crane. The Pilgrims adopted the Indian's uses of the fruit and expanded its use in cooking to include meat sauces, tarts, jams and nogs. As the early New England settlements expanded, new applications for the berries were discovered including their role in relieving stomach disorders, gall bladder pain, as well as treating blood and liver ailments. The fruit, a rich source of vitamin C, was also credited with preventing scurvy in 17th century seafaring crew members.

Cranberry Cures Can the common cranberry cures what ails you? Medical studies prove the fruit, until recently overlooked as a health benefit in modern times, is packed with healing properties. Cranberries are perhaps best known for their role in preventing urinary tract infections. A bottle of cranberry juice is often prescribed as a first response approach to an impending infection. According to medical studies, the cranberries secret weapons are pro-

anthocyanidins, nutrients which prevent certain bacteria from sticking to the lining of the bladder, thus preventing an infection.

Research reveals the same anti stick properties might help stall bacteria from adhering to teeth and gums, slowing or preventing cavity growth. The same components may prevent stomach ulcers by stopping H. Pylori from sticking to stomach cells.

Better yet, according to Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., the fruit may benefit the heart, as medical studies show cranberries can inhibit oxidation of low-density cholesterol, which is thought to be one way cholesterol becomes sticky, allowing it to attach to the blood vessel wall. In addition, early laboratory studies suggest cranberry juice cocktail may be as effective as red wine in benefiting heart health.

The impressive healing properties of cranberries include the powerful antioxidants, plentiful in the little red berries. These compounds, which include flavonoids and vitamins, are credited with boosting the immune system and reducing free radicals, which can lead to a healthier body.

Current studies indicate a daily dose of ten ounces of cranberry juice can effectively achieve the bacteria blocking benefits to help prevent such health problems as urinary tract infections, gum disease and ulcers.

Cranberry Recipes The tart, bright taste of cranberries is always a

crowd pleaser, whether the fresh fruit is cooked in a sauce, or served up a la mode at the end of a holiday meal. The following recipes are holiday worthy, but are versatile enough to be served up any time of year.

Apple Cranberry Crisp Too busy with the hustle and bustle of the holidays to whip up a fresh, cranberry dessert? This crock pot version cuts the effort, not the flavor of this cold weather favorite. Ingredients: Three apples; one cup cranberries; three quarters cup brown sugar; one third cup rolled oats (quick cooking); one quarter teaspoon salt; one teaspoon cinnamon; one third cup butter, softened. Directions: Peel, core and slice apples. Place apple slices and cranberries in cup. Mix remaining ingredients in separate bowl and sprinkle over top of apple and cranberries. Place a few paper towels over the top of the crock pot, then place an object (such as a wooden spoon) across the top of the pot and set lid on top. This allows the steam to escape. Turn slow cooker on high and cook for about 2 hours. Serves 4.

Cranberry Walnut Relish A step up from ordinary relish, this sweet condiment is festive and fancy enough to serve at the yuletide table. Ingredients: 12 ounces fresh cranberries; 3/4 cup white sugar; 1 (12 ounce) jar orange marmalade; 3/4 cup chopped walnuts; 1 tablespoon lemon juice; Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour cranberries into a shallow 1.5 qt oven proof baking dish. Sprinkle with sugar, cover with tinfoil

and bake for 30-35 minutes. Remove from oven and evenly distribute walnuts into the dish. Recover and bake another ten minutes. Stir in marmalade and lemon juice and combine well. Allow dish to cool at room temperature, then cover and refrigerate for several hours before serving.

Curious about Cranberries?:

*Did you ever wonder why cranberries have the ability to bounce? Tiny pockets of air inside the fruit allow the berries to bounce off hard surfaces. It is this same air that makes cranberries bouyant in water! *Think cranberries grow in water? Think again! Cranberry vines grow in marshes and sandy bogs. Because cranberries float, producers flood the bogs at harvest time to ease the chore of collecting the cranberries. *It is widely reported that fresh cranberries were served at the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts. *Cranberries are almost 90% water. *Cranberries helped fight the war? During World War II, American forces were supplied with about one million pounds of dehydrated cranberries each year. *The United States boasts eight townships in the USA named “Cranberry” or a variation of the name. *Cranberries pack a big punch! There are over 4,000 cranberries in each gallon of cranberry juice. *It took until 1994, but that year the native Cranberry was declared the official state berry of Massachusetts.

*History traces cranberry juice back to 1683, where the tart drink was first made by American settlers. *The first commercial cranberry sauce was marketed in 1912. * Believe it or not, cranberry beds over a century old are still producing healthy berries! **

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!

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

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

School Committee honors standout Shepherd Hill seniors

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Several standout senior class students were recognized during the final meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee for 2021 as the annual awarding of the Principals’ and Superintendent Certificate of Academic Excellence Awards were presented on Dec. 8.

Shepherd Hill Regional High School Principal William Chaplin started off the ceremonies by awarding his yearly Principal’s Award, this year to Molly Starczewski. Calling her a “standout” and “stellar student,” Chaplin complimented Molly for her exceptional leadership skills in addition to her academic success.

“(Molly) is always the first one to volunteer or raise her hand and take the lead or initiative on events. She certainly has grown over the last four years in terms of her leadership and her academic skills and hard work per-

severance through tough moments – Ultimately, she’s a young woman who exemplifies all of Shepherd Hill’s core values,” Chaplin said.

Molly Starczewski’s list of accomplishments include her involvement in School Council, a Class officer for the Class of 2022 as Secretary for her junior and senior years, a member of the Principal’s Advisory Council, a member of the national Honor Society, Drama Club and Hill Improve, a member of Student Council all four years including serving as President in her senior year, accomplishing First Honors every year in high school and recently being named a Presidential Scholar nominee for the State of Massachusetts.

Next, Superintendent Steven Lamarche announced two recipients of the Class of 2022 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence Awards. The first was Gabriel Roach who Superintendent Lamarche said had represented both the district and his high school at a “high level.”

“As a student, Gabe has put forth

a prodigious effort to experience and learn from all that we have to offer our students academically and athletically and through his membership in various Shepherd Hill Regional High School student groups. In turn, through his dedication and commitment to his experiences, family and community, he quietly and unassumingly leads with confidence and mature convictions,” the Superintendent said.

Roach’s accomplishments including not only outstanding and recognized success in his academics and state test scores but also serving as Treasurer of National Honor Society, as a member of the Math Team, a member of the Foreign Language Club, a peer tutor, and the recipient of, with distinction, the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy recognizing students who have achieved proficiency in English and at least one other language.

Finally Regional School Committee Student Representative Trevor Wallace was recognized as the second Superintendent Certificate of Academic Excellence Award win-

ner. Superintendent Lamarche called Wallace as “dynamic young man” who approaches life with “zeal” and a thirst for opportunity.

“(Trevor) is a well-rounded individual who embraces and contributes to the overall student experience at Shepherd Hill. He is an outstanding athlete and musical talent only surpassed by his academic prowess. Trevor takes his academics very seriously. He elected to take the most rigorous schedule of AP and Honors classes available, and he has excelled while doing so. His cumulative GPA is top in his class, number one, and earned him tremendous accolades,” said Lamarche.

Wallace caps off his accomplishments with a resume that include membership in the National Honor society, First Honors recognition for four years, and as a nominee to represent Massachusetts for the Presidential Scholar honor as well as being an active Shepherd Hill musician and instrumentalist.



LEGALS

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 19 Upper Gore Road, Webster, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Sean T. Madore to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., said mortgage dated January 11, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester) Registry of Deeds, in Book 59930 at Page 213 and now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by virtue of an assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., to Freedom Mortgage Corporation dated October 21, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61262, Page 357, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on January 6, 2022 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:
Tract I
A certain parcel of land situated on Upper Gore Road in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, shown as Parcel A on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Webster, Massachusetts” Owned by Edward J. Kus, Rae S. Young, Jayne E. Hinchliffe, Glenn C. Kuss and Rita Kus, Scale 1’ = 40’, prepared by Para Land Surveying, Inc., which plan is dated September 26, 2016, and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38395, Plan 115.
Being a portion of the premises conveyed to Edward J. Kus, Rae S. Young, Jayne E. Hinchliffe and Glenn C. Kuss, dated February 15, 2005 and recorded with Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38395, Page 16.
Tract II
A certain parcel of land situated on Upper Gore Road in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, shown as Parcel B on a plan entitled “Upper Grove Road Revision of Property Lines Lots 8, 8.1 & 16.1” Owned by Edward and Rita Kus”, Scale 1’ = 50’, prepared by Robert W. Kilmartin, which plan is dated August 15, 1994, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 685, Plan 116.
Tract III
A certain parcel of land situated on Upper Gore Road in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, shown as Parcel B on a plan entitled “Plan of Land belonging to Edwin Kus, Webster, Massachusetts”, Scale 1’ = 20’, prepared by V.F. Kubic Surveyor, which plan is dated December 11, 1959, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 250, Plan 4.
Being the same premises conveyed to herein named mortgagor(s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.
The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagors’ Title see deed dated January 5, 2019, and recorded in Book 59930 at Page 210 with the Worcester County (Worcester) Registry of Deeds.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 28 Old Depot Road, Oxford, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Peter Chrysostom to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Encore Credit Corp., said mortgage dated August 24, 2005, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 37223 at Page 17 and now held by U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series AHP Servicing by virtue of an assignment from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series AHP Servicing dated February 26, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65008, Page 30, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Encore Credit Corp. to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A dated April 21, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57437, Page 150 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **January 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
THE LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON IN OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF OLD DEPOT ROAD, BEING LOT #8 ON PLAN OF LAND IN OXFORD, MASS. OWNED BY MRS. RAY RUTMAN DATED JULY 3, 1950 RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT DEEDS PLAN BOOK 194, PLAN 101, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS :
BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER THEREOF AT AN IRON PIPE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF OLD DEPOT ROAD AND THE WESTERLY LINE OF WELLINGTON ROAD; THENCE WESTERLY BY LOT #9 ON SAID PLAN, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 43 DEG. 10’ W. SIXTY (60) FEET TO LOT #7 ON SAID PLAN; THENCE EASTERLY BY SAID LOT #7 ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN (147) FEET TO OLD DEPOT ROAD; THENCE S. 32 DEG. 27’ E. BY SAID ROAD, NINETY (90) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
For Title See 26479/359
The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagors’ Title see deed dated April 26, 2002, and recorded in Book 26479 at Page 359 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or

cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series AHP Servicing
Present Holder of the Mortgage (860) 677-2868

December 17, 2021
December 24, 2021
December 31, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P3956EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Michael A Perro
Date of Death: 10/20/2021**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jason Perro of Leicester MA and Michael Perro, Jr. of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Jason Perro of Leicester MA and Michael Perro, Jr. of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/04/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 03, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
December 17, 2021



The Shepherd Hill Color Guard greeted guests passing out candy canes prior to the arrival of Santa.

Dudley holds annual Tree Lighting



Santa makes his grand arrival onboard one of the Dudley Fire Department' trucks.



The Dudley town Christmas tree is lit signaling the official start to the holiday season.

DUDLEY – The town of Dudley held its annual tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 9 welcoming in the holiday season a year after the event had to be called off due to the pandemic. The event featured the return of jolly Old St. Nick himself Santa Claus who continued a longstanding tradition of visiting and meeting with young locals while food music and more capped off the event.



Families and children line up to their chance to meet Ol' St. Nick.



Volunteers passed out delightful Christmas treats and hot cocoa to guests after they met with Santa.



Michelle Jarvis, Executive Administrative Assistant for the Dudley Town Manager and Board of Selectmen and unsung hero of the annual Tree Lighting celebration, poses with Frosty the Snowman.



Linda Hickey brought young Santa fans Mia and Leo Piotti to visit the jolly Christmas icon himself.



Santa and Frosty the Snowman make their big arrival courtesy of the Dudley Fire Department.

SPORTS

Minutemen — improving as game wears on — march past Southbridge



Bay Path's Cam Hafner soars toward the basket.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — When Bay Path Regional hosted a varsity boys' basketball game on Friday, Dec. 10 for the first time in close to two years — it came against Southbridge High — head coach Al Greenough knew that in the early going the quality of play may not be superb.

"For not having played in a couple of years, I kind of expected that it was going to be a lot rusty. There's only so much in two weeks you can get in for the first game," he said. "I was proud of the guys because they battled through the first half... but in the third quarter they pulled away. They got the lead and in the fourth quarter they took care of the basketball late in the game."

The Minutemen trailed after the first quarter, 14-12, and held a slim lead of 28-25 at the half. But Bay Path outscored the Pioneers in the second half, 40-33, to emerge with a 68-58 victory.

Dylan Cotton, a senior for the Minutemen,

scored a game-high 30 points, with 20 of those coming in the second half. In fact, Cotton got better by the quarter. He scored three points in the first quarter, seven in the second, eight in the third and 12 in the fourth.

"He's been around on varsity for four years and he's our go-to guy when we need a basket, and he did that tonight. Every time we really needed one, he delivered," Greenough said of Cotton before mentioning how he, like the team, improved in the second half. "He really struggled in the beginning. I think he was rushing his shot. He settled down as the game went on and we did a better job of moving the ball, getting openings for him to shoot. As a result, he had better looks at the basket and he started making more."

As much as it looked like Bay Path may run away with the victory in the third quarter when they grabbed as much as a nine-point lead, Southbridge hung tough. Five late points from Angel Morales gave the

Pioneers life, as they only trailed by a 40-36 margin heading into the final frame.

But too many "hiccups," according to head coach Victor Colon, did Southbridge in. He noted that "turnovers," "not rotating," and "not finishing at the basket" as the key elements that didn't allow for the comeback to be completed.

Cotton also had something to do with Bay Path maintaining the lead, as his 3-pointer with 6:07 to play put the Minutemen ahead, 48-38, for their first double-digit advantage of the night.

"We knew Cotton was going to go and just shoot. A lot of the times they went to the high post and everybody collapsed. I had to call a timeout to adjust that, and they still did it. Once they collapsed into the high post, that wing is wide open. That's where he got the majority of his points," explained Colon. "We knew he'd be a lethal shooter."

In addition to Cotton, seven other Minutemen registered at least three



Nick Ethier photos

Zack Fritze of Bay Path sizes up a 3-point shot.



Bay Path's Dylan Cotton saves the ball from bouncing out of bounds.

points and Corey Scovil pulled down double-digit rebounding totals to aid in a total team effort.

"Wearing these masks, it's a very difficult situation — breathing on the court, and so on and so forth — so I knew going into this year we're going to have to rely on the whole team to get it done. The good news is this is one of the deepest teams I've had in years. I was proud of the whole team effort tonight," said Greenough.

Similar to Bay Path, the Pioneers also had con-

tributions all around the floor. Morales and Kevin Loftus both scored 12 points, while Sam Ortiz added 10 more. A total of 12 players either scored or grabbed a rebound, which is familiar for a Colon-coached club.

"That's the way I like to play," he said of playing all the substitutes and then giving more time to the top producers. "Angel Morales, he sprained his ankle in practice [two days prior] so he iced it, iced it, iced it — he was determined to play — I didn't go to him in the

first quarter and I don't even think in the second quarter. At halftime I asked, 'are you sure you want to do it?' and he said, 'put me in.' He went in there and he did work."

Colon isn't overly concerned about losing the first game of the season, either.

"I saw a lot of good things — obviously a lot of bad things — but it's just lessons. Tomorrow we go and hit practice again," he said.

Auburn ice hockey hangs tough, but ultimately falls in season-opening loss to Nashoba



Nick Ethier photos

Auburn's Dillon Winkelmann controls the puck over the blue line and into Nashoba's defensive zone.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — With Auburn High having not competed in winter season athletics during the 2020-2021 season due to COVID-19, it had been quite a while since the Rockets took to the ice for a game.

"This is like starting a whole new program," explained head coach Glen Bombard. "We didn't have any hockey last year. It's like starting from scratch."

Additionally, Auburn had three tryout dates and just five practices before hosting Nashoba Regional at the Horgan Arena on Thursday, Dec. 9 for a first round matchup in the Dana Willard Memorial Tournament. The Rockets — who co-op with Millbury High,

Shepherd Hill Regional and Tantasqua Regional — played well in spurts but committed too many turnovers in a 4-2 loss.

"I was expecting more. I thought we had a good week of practice and a good week of prep," explained Bombard. "It came down to four key, big mistakes. That second one in the second period with 20 seconds left when we pinched, that was a tough one."

Bombard spoke of a goal off the stick of the Wolves' Billy Johns, which made it a 2-0 game at the second intermission. Johns broke down the left wing uncontested and fired off a wrist shot that got underneath the arm of Rockets' goalie Nate Brown. Kameron Pierce and Joseph Quinn were credited with the assists.

That trio struck first for Nashoba just two minutes into the game when Pierce scored, and Pierce and Quinn grabbed assists.

Auburn righted the ship in the third period when it took just one minute and one second to slice the deficit in half. On the power play, Dillon Winkelmann snapped the puck from the slot, and it got up and over goalie Jack Peterson (18 saves) for the goal.

Then, just over three minutes later, the Rockets tied the score thanks to a strong individual effort from Braden Rich. Rich stole the puck in the offensive zone, and it slipped down to Jack Gaudette. From there, Gaudette sent the puck back up to Rich, who turned and shot into the net.

"It was hard work. If you do that all the time — you know as well as I do — you're going to get good results," said Bombard.



Auburn's Nolan White stick-handles the puck through Nashoba's defense.

Although Auburn had all the momentum, it only took four minutes for the Wolves to regain their two-goal advantage.

"We didn't work hard every minute; we didn't play 45 minutes," said Bombard. "Then we go out and make two more mistakes. We'll learn and put it behind us."

On the winning goal, Nashoba's Marcus DiBello was the beneficiary of a nice pass from Joseph Scanlon. Adam Balewicz had the secondary assist.

Then, with 6:45 to go, the Wolves put the game away when Quinn scored off a rebound. Scanlon and Johns added assists.

Despite the four goals against, Bombard was pleased with Brown's play in between the pipes. Brown fin-

ished with 18 saves, including a break-away stop against Johns that kept the game tied at 2-2 for the time being.

"I thought he played well. The goals they got were all good goals," the coach said.

Despite the season-opening setback, Bombard is optimistic for the games ahead.

"There's a lot of good signs. For the first game, it's just the mistakes. I think we'll be all right in the long run. We have to grow and get to know each other, and we'll go from there," he concluded.

Update: Nashoba went on to win the Dana Willard Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 11, defeating Worcester 6-3 in the championship game. Auburn won its consolation game versus East Longmeadow, 7-1.

Use your words

When I was a boy, my parents always told me, “Toby, you’re so smart and handsome!” I didn’t know any better, so I believed I was smart and handsome. When I started attending school, I heard something different. I heard whispers from my teachers to my parents about how they thought I had a learning disability.

Around that time, my parents started telling me, “Toby, you’re smart, handsome, and you’re a late bloomer.” They were putting a positive spin on the situation.

I took to heart what they said, whenever I didn’t do well in school, which was often, my parents would worriedly look over my report card,

and I’d reassure them, “Don’t worry, I’m just a late bloomer, I’ll get good grades someday!” which turned out to be true. A decade or more later, I started earning excellent grades while studying acting in college. To take my business to the next level, I recently graduated from a UCLA coding Bootcamp with almost all A’s. I grew up with the expectation that one day I’d get good grades, and it came to pass.

What if instead of telling me that I was a late bloomer, my parents said, “you’re dumber than a box of rocks.” If they did, every time I got a bad grade, I’d say, “of course! I’m dumber than a box of rocks; I’ll never get good grades. I’m an idiot!”

Some of you may have gone through life feeling like a loser because that’s what you were told at home. I think we’re all born to win in our own way. It’s never too late to change what you’re telling yourself.

I learned in college that it doesn’t matter what other people say or think about you. What matters is what you think and say about yourself.

When I became an actor, I was surrounded by people who were more talented than me. I had never acted before, and it took me a few years to get the hang of it. I remember hearing how some people in my classes thought I was a terrible actor. It was a massive blow to my ego, but rather

than telling myself, “I’m a terrible actor; I’ll never get better.” I told myself, “I will become a talented actor; they don’t determine how good of an actor I will become - I do.” No matter how insecure I felt, I kept telling myself, “I will become a talented actor!” For all the roles that I’ve booked on TV, Film and the Stage, I’ve never received a bad review.

I used to hear a former co-worker tell herself, “I’m so stupid!” whenever she did something wrong. Interestingly, I never heard her say, “I’m so intelligent!” when she did something right.

If you call attention to your mistakes by tell-

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

I had a close friend who sarcastically told himself dozens of times a day, “I hate my life!” coincidentally, he was depressed and suicidal. His life seemed great; he had a great family and personality; why did he hate his life? Is there a connection between how he felt and what he told himself?

When you create a negative narrative about yourself, you’re putting yourself into prison. It’s a trap, and you’ll become ensnared by your words.

I know people use their words to describe how

ing yourself that you’re stupid, more stupid mistakes will follow.

they feel, but what if we used our words to change how we feel? What if you used your words to change the direction of your life?

Next time you feel insecure, tell yourself, “I’m talented, I’m secure, I’m valuable, I have everything I need to succeed!” Next time you feel like a failure, tell yourself, “Tomorrow will be better; my future is bright, I am a champion, I will accomplish my dreams!”

As you move forward, don’t use your words to imprison yourself. Use them to set yourself free! Use them to set into motion the type of life you always wanted.

Plant a terrarium for a unique winter garden or gift

Create a garden under glass to enjoy or give as a gift to new, experienced, and even reluctant gardeners. This self-contained system makes it easy to be a successful gardener with minimal care.

Purchase a terrarium or repurpose something hiding on a shelf in the basement, garage or shed. Even a cool glass container, cloche or bell jar turned open side down and placed on a shallow planting tray will work. Just glue a decorative doorknob or handle on the top for easy access.

Make it more festive for the holidays. Visit the ornament aisle in your favorite craft store. Create a mini terrarium from DIY Christmas orbs for holiday decoration or the perfect hostess gift.

Use closed terrariums like this when growing tropical plants. They thrive in the high humidity and moist soil.

Leave the top off or use open contain-



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

terrariumsandcactipottingmixprovide.

Once you have the container, you need to fill it with potting mix, plants, and other decorative items. Consider a layer of decorative stone, twigs, sea glass or sand at the bottom for added color and interest. Some gardeners include a layer of charcoal to help absorb any odor. The key is not overwatering as the decorative stone and charcoal won’t prevent waterlogged soil from killing your plants.

Consider covering the stone layer with black landscape fabric to prevent the potting mix from filtering through and covering up these items. Cover this with a layer of well-drained potting mix for tropical plants and cacti and succulent mix for drought tolerant plants. Add contours to the soil level if space allows for added interest.

Select a variety of plants of different heights, textures, and colors to create an attractive terrarium garden. Many garden centers now sell small speci-

ers like glass vases, or mason jars for cacti and succulents. Use a cacti and succulent mix for these drought tolerant plants. They prefer the lower humidity and drier soil that open

mens perfect for these mini gardens.

Low growing tropical plants such as baby’s tears, creeping fig, moss, and ivies make excellent groundcovers. Small specimens of dracaenas, crotons, palms and podocarpus make nice upright features. Fill in the middle ground with ferns, nerve plants, polka dot plants and more.

Once assembled, terrariums are relatively easy to manage. Moisten the soil and cover. Crack the lid open if condensation builds up on the glass. Then replace the cover and monitor the soil moisture and condensation. Add additional moisture carefully. A turkey baster is an easy way to water only the plants in need of a drink.

Place your terrariums in a bright location away from direct light. Heat can build up in this covered ecosystem and cook your plants when placed in a sunny location.

Now is the perfect time to gather or purchase fun glassware, planting and decorating supplies, and, of course, plants. Then take a break from the hectic holiday season to plant up a few holiday decorations and green gifts for your loved ones.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener’s Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The*



Melinda Myers

Use open containers like glass vases for drought tolerant plants that prefer lower humidity and drier soil.

Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

MARIANAPOLIS ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

Monday Men’s Business
Single — Mike Nardone 136, Ryan Pelletier and Bruce Labay 134
Series — Mike Nardone and Ryan Pelletier 373, Jon Dufield 347
Series over average — Mike Nardone and John Guillotte +43

Ten Pin City
Single — Division 1: Edna Miranda 213, Natalie Wood 194
Division 2: Lynn Webb and Bernice Stackpole 154, Kristine Russell 152
Series — Division 1: Natalie Wood 566, Edna Miranda and Claudia Allen 516
Division 2: Shirley Smith 418, Kristine Russell 409

Tuesday Chet’s Social
Single — Ryan Pelletier 129, Tom Smith 126, DJ Devish 121, Erin Van Dam 118, Ellen Fugatt 106, Dawn Gleason 94
Series — Ryan Pelletier 371, DJ Devish 324, Joe Pranaitis 322, Erin Van Dam 315, Ellen Fugatt 285, Dawn Gleason 276
Series over average — Luke Lamontagne +39, Michelle Kimball +38

Wednesday Women’s Industrial
Single — Annette Bent 107, Monique Pierangeli 105, Lynne Smith 104
Series — Monique Pierangeli 299, Lynne Smith 295, Marie McNally 294
Series over average — Deb Gevry +59

Summit Tenpin
Single — Bob Hanville 218, Derek Reynolds 168, Dawn Kupiec 158
Series — Mike Smith 558, Bob Grant Jr. 448, Kevin Ryder 462

Thursday AM Coffee
Single — Nancy Zumpfe 120, Ruth Penniman 110, Tammy Moran 100
Series — Priscilla Piekarczyk and Nancy Zumpfe 271, Pat Johnson 267
Series over average — Nancy Zumpfe +61

Thursday Men’s Industrial
Single — Ryan Pelletier 128, Kevin LeTourneau 121, Joe Pranaitis and Bo Gauvin 116
Series — Ryan Pelletier 347, Bo Gauvin 322, Chris Andros 317
Series over average — Bill Werner +42

Thursday Mixed Tenpin
Single — Frank Bosma 170, Randy Schlegel 164, Zach Merchant 157, Denise Wong Kam 156, Brenda Johnson 148, Carol Buchanan and Miranda Jones 128
Series — Todd Gaucher 472, John Caskey 430, Chris Wong Kam 417, Carol Chausse 408, Jenn Andino 362, Barbara Choiniere 359

THOMPSON, Conn.
— Congratulations to the following students on earning honor roll status for the first trimester, based on their weighted trimester GPA and the defined criteria. The Academic Office applauds their hard work and dedication to their studies.

Head of School List
Olivia-Mae Acquaah-Harrison, Charlton; Chloe Alba, Sutton; James Alves, Uxbridge; Kaitlin Baca, Webster; Briella Bailey, Pascoag, R.I.; John Barnwell, Danielson, Conn.; Celia Bouchard, Douglas; Vincent Bourgeois, Thompson, Conn.; Campbell Braun, South Grafton; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, Conn.; Lauren Conde, Danielson, Conn.; Sidney Corriveau, Brimfield; Spencer Courville, Charlton; Anna Czechowski, Webster; Anna De Villa, San Pietro di Cadore, Italy; Giana DeCesare, Chepachet, R.I.; Caitlin Diaz, Oxford; Sophia DiPietro, Worcester; Joseph DiPietro, Worcester; Hoang-Dat Do; Charles Eggen, Worcester; Klara Elezaj, Tirana, Albania; Ava Fabiano, Killingly, Conn.; Felicia Fongemie, Ashford, Conn.; Barbara Forgues, Shrewsbury; Federica Galli, Lipomo, Italy; Kyle Gallo, Dudley; Kira Gillette, Webster; Ashley Giorgio, Millbury; Xiayuan Gong, Wuxi, China; Sofia Gonzalez Tabares, Cozumel, Mexico; Justin Griffiths-Lam, Thompson, Conn.; B Hannon, Putnam, Conn.; Angelina

Signs placed designated Dudley Hill Historic District

DUDLEY — The Dudley Historical Commission is pleased to announce that signs have been placed at the northern and southern limits of the recently designated Dudley Hill National Historic District. We wish to thank the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for funding the signs, which were fabricated by Graphics Unlimited of Dudley and erected by the Dudley Highway Department.

“Walking tour” brochures of the district are available at the Dudley municipal building, the Pearle L. Crawford library, and also on the porch of the Black Tavern on Dudley hill.

Hargrave, Charlton; Luisa Henao, Southbridge; Thu Hoang, Hai Phong, Vietnam; Patrick Hoban, Millbury; Kaylynn Horan, Putnam, Conn.; Ge Jia, Baoding, China; Madeline Joyce, Dudley; Mackenzie Jutras, Greenville, R.I.; Ethan Kalmin, Dudley; Zachary King, Plainfield; Molly Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Kate Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Chengxun Li, Xiamen, China; Alana Lorusso, North Oxford; Kaya Lukasek, Webster; Sydney Lundt, Woodstock, Conn.; Yihui Luo, Jiangsu, China; Bridget MacDonough, Grafton; Ian MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Szymon Mamro, Webster; Claire Marchand, Holden; Delia Marchand, Holden; Amelia Margoupis, Sutton; Jack Margoupis, Sutton; Miriam Martinez de la Herran, Bilbao, Spain; Tessa McCabe, Douglas; Benjamin McGarry, Thompson, Conn.; Shane McGlone, Southbridge; Keegan McLeod, Foster, R.I.; John McMullen, East Greenwich, R.I.; Katherine Melnick, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Brady Miller, Sturbridge; Ayame Mizuno, Aichi, Japan; Siena Mueller, Whitinsville; Luciana Najjar, Northborough; Hugo Ndizeye, Kigali, Rwanda; Gianna Nichols, Fiskdale; Abbie O’Brien, Dayville, Conn.; Riley O’Connor, Dudley; Declan O’Connor, Worcester; Natalie Olkowski, Harrisville, R.I.; Lindsey Paradise, Dudley; Alek Popovich, Charlton; Wiktorja Potem, Webster; Victoria Pozo Domingos, Higuey, Dominican Republic; Sophia Raboritor, Dayville, Conn.; Grace Rhoades, Stafford Springs, Conn.; Olivia Richardson, Lincoln, R.I.; William Savoie, Northbridge; Olivia Sczurowski,

Brooklyn, Conn.; Emily Shamback, Sterling, Conn.; Andrew Shultz, Oxford; Ava Simon, Southbridge; Alex Spetseris, Webster; Zachary Stoddard, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Christian Terwilliger, Lebanon, Conn.; Matthew Tomasino, Leicester; Violeta Torres, Plainfield, Conn.; Daniel Twohig-Mann, Douglas; Rachel Ullstrom, Auburn; Caroline Villa, Auburn; Vincent Vo, Worcester; Emily Walsh, Thompson, Conn.; Sophia Wildes, North Uxbridge; Rasim Zekiri, Plainfield, Conn.; Yang Zhang, Yuxi, China; Xingyu Zhu, Wenzhou, China
Dean’s List

Samuel Balzanka, Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia; Morgan Beaudreault, Dayville, Conn.; Lillian Belsito, Millbury; Ana Paula Beltran Perez, Villahermosa, Mexico; Jamie Calkins, Charlton; Kaito Correa Wagatsuma, Merida, Mexico; The-Trung Dang, Hanoi, Vietnam; Phuong Nhi Duong, Hanoi, Vietnam; Benjamin Duquette, Webster; Timothy Hall, Plainfield, Conn.; Franklyn Herasme, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Filip Kalis, Prague, Czech Republic; Norah Larson, Charlton; Vinh-Kien Le, Hanoi, Vietnam; Abigail Leahy, Leicester; Elena Lensing, Cologne, Germany; Alexander Litke, Brooklyn, Conn.; Logan Mueller, Webster; Ngoc-Anh Nguyen; John Perverier, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Emma Raps, Webster; Morgan Royston, Oxford; Lily Tessmer, Lancaster; Alessandra Torelli, Genoa, Italy; Isabella Vigliotti, Worcester; Miles Wesolowski, Brooklyn, Conn.; Anna Wildes, North Uxbridge

Gladys E. Kelly Library renews commitment to community building

WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is using this new year to renew their commitment to community-building.

Sondra Murphy, Library Director, spoke to the Library’s desire to foster community connections, noting “Throughout the pandemic, we have all been separated from each other, from our communities. By branding our year-long slate of programs ‘What Unites Us,’ we are focusing our energy on community, building relationships, exploring our similarities, and celebrating our differences. We will have programs and events, Covid-allowing, that bring us together to create, learn, and explore the world around us.”

Patrons can expect to see crafty and maker-type programs, deep dives into history, inquiries into the natural world, and series of programs that allow for full exploration of a topic.



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WEBSTER - 8 Riverside Dr! Super Convenient 9 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliance Kit w/Granite Island & Dining Area! 24' Living Rm w/Laminate Wood Flooring, Slider to Composite Deck! 3-5 Bdrms Total! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths Total! Finished Lower Level! Oil Heat! Roof 2019! **\$399,900.00**

WEBSTER - 6 Slater Street! Professionals Take Notice! Ideal Office Setup! 1st Floor w/Waiting Rm, Reception Area, 4 Offices w/Sinks, 3 Alcove/Prep Areas, Handicap Accessible 1/2 Bath, and Hrdwd Flrs! 2nd Floor Currently w/Employee Breakroom w/Full Kitchen, Cabinets & Closet Storage, 3/4 Bath and additional office/bedroom! C/Air! CVA! Security System! **\$349,900.00**

DUDLEY - 50 Brandon Rd! 3 Family! 5/4 Rm! 2/2! Bdrms! 2/2! Bathrms! Investors take Notice! Fully Rented! Solid Rental History, Long Term Tenants! Conveniently Located! Washer & Dryer Hookups in the Basement for Each Unit! Efficient Natural Gas Heating! Two Driveways provide Off Street Parking for up to 5 Vehicles! Dudley's Low Taxes & Desirable School System! **\$349,900.00**



DUDLEY - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/Guest Closet! SS Appliance Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6x27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$570,000.00**

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WEBSTER LAKE - 50 Laurelwood Drive! 90' Waterfront! Western Exposure - Beautiful Sunsets! Half Acre, 22,729', of Natural Privacy! 6 Room Custom Built Cedar Home with 2 Car Attached Garage! Dining Area and Fireplaced Living Room with Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! First Floor Master Bedroom with Full Bath! 2 Second Floor Bedrooms and Second Full Bath, Large Second Floor Expansion Area! Additional Garage Space Under! Lighting Strike Fire Damage Repair Required! Tons of Potential! **\$889,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 33 Loveland Rd! South Pond - Fantastic 19,243' Waterfront Lot with 125' of Prime South Facing Natural Shoreline which Highlights this 5 Room, 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage! Start Your Lake Memories Here! Cute & Cozy, the Way the Lake Use to Be! Open Floor Plan with Lots of Glass and Panoramic Lake Views! Just Enjoy it as it is, or Add on to it, or Take it Down and Build Your Dream Home Here! Don't Need the Entire Lot, Subdivide it and Bring the Cost Down! Perfect Gentle Slope to the Water! Town Services! **\$949,900.00**



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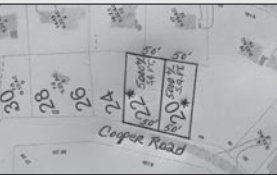


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Killdeer Circle! Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear shoreline. Ranch with 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walkout lower level to patio! Garage! **\$650,000.**

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Unit 1404 Marina side of the Complex - with 2 Boat Slips! 6 rooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, garage, Sandy Beach, Heated Salt Water Pool! **\$549,000.**

WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND



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WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.



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WEBSTER



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OBITUARIES

Irene A. Bombardier, 89



M A S H P E E -Irene A. (Rybacki) Bombardier, 89, died Tuesday, December 7, 2021 in Royal Cotuit Nursing Home with family at her side. Her husband of 59 years, Walter P. Bombardier, died in 2011.

She leaves 3 children, Diane L. Rego of Teaticket, Michael P. Bombardier of Norton and Paul J. Bombardier and his wife Sherie of Webster; 6 grandchildren, Jason, Sr. and his wife Amy, Justin, Stefanie, Michael and his wife Samantha, Janelle and Shannon; 4 great-grandchildren, Lily, Zoe, Aubrey and Jason, Jr.; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son David Bombardier who died in 1992 and by 2 brothers and 1 sister.

She was born on November 3, 1932 in Webster and raised there, a daughter of Christy and Antonia (Bafan) Rybacki and attended Bartlett High

School. She lived in Southbridge for 20 years, returning in 1996. She moved to Mashpee in 2017.

Mrs. Bombardier was an inspector at the American Optical Company and then a housekeeper at Liberty House, both in Southbridge, retiring in 1996.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Royal Cotuit for the excellent care they provided for Irene during her stay there.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 14, at 12:00 noon in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation was held in the funeral home from 11:00 AM to the time of the service. Donations in her name may be made to National Multiple Sclerosis Society, PO Box 91891, Washington, D.C. 20090 or to the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, 8588 Potter Park Drive, Suite 500, Sarasota, FL 34238.

www.scanlonfs.com

John Patrick Healy, 58



Dudley, MA- John Patrick Healy, 58, entered eternal rest on Thursday, December 9, 2021, at Harrington Memorial Hospital due to complications of COVID. With sorrowful hearts, his family mourns his passing.

John leaves his parents Bill and Addie Healy of Dudley. His daughter, Sadie Linkous, and her husband Keith of Pascoag, R.I., his son Joshua J. Healy of Auburn and his former wife Denise, and three granddaughters, Alaina, Jayde, and Hannah Linkous.

John also leaves his sister Anne Marie Safae and her husband Mehdi of Dudley. Brothers M. William Healy III and wife Gretchen of Woodstock CT. Christopher D. Healy and fiancée Stacey of Cincinnati, Ohio, Paul Healy, and his wife Donna of Webster. He

leaves many nieces and nephews, especially “Little man” Trenten.

John was a lifelong resident of Dudley. He was born in Webster, MA, on November 29, 1963, the fifth child and fourth son of Maurice W. Healy, Jr., and Adelina N. Healy. He moved to Dudley at four and attended the Dudley schools. John graduated from Marian Hill Catholic High School in Southbridge, MA, in 1982.

He was the owner of Dudley Concrete Co., Inc., and Green Meadows Modular Homes. Calling hours will be Friday, December 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 18 at St. Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster, MA.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Louis Church or the charity of one's choice in memory of John. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Theresa A. Labby, 99



DUDLEY - Theresa A. (Bonczek) Labby, 99, died Thursday, December 2, 2021 in Dr. P. Phillips Hospital, Orlando after a period of declining health. Her husband of 61 years, Peter T. Labby, died in 2009.

She leaves 4 children, Dorothy J. Reardon of Orlando, Cynthia L. Cioffi and her husband Alfred of Whitinsville, Peter T. Labby and his wife Kirstin of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Elaine R. Nepini and her husband Michael of Cumberland, RI; 8 grandchildren, Shaune Reardon, Timothy Reardon and his wife Bonnie, Rebecca Freniere and her husband Paul, Nicholas Cioffi, Peter Labby and his wife Candis, Christopher and Jeffrey Labby, and Michaela Nepini; 8 great-grandchildren, Amanda Reardon, Abigail Reardon, Lucas, Nathaniel, and Jonah Freniere, Damian Bakerlis, and Deken and Dmetri Labby; a great-great granddaughter Aria Violette; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 5 brothers, Anthony, Vincent, Victor, Chester, and Theodore Bonczek, by 2 sisters, Bernice Walusiak and Monica Drescher, and a son-in-law John Reardon.

She was born on June 22, 1922 at

home, the youngest of the children of Stanley and Mary (Ponczatek) Bonczek and lived here all of her adult life. She graduated from Bartlett high school in Webster. She moved to Orlando 2 years ago to live with her daughter, Dorothy.

Mrs. Labby was an experienced sewer. She worked at the Herideen Rug Company in Webster for many years, first making ammunition bags for the troops during World War II and then braiding rugs. She was a stitcher at Ethan Allen Company before retiring in 1989.

She was a life member of Saint Andrew Bobola Church. She enjoyed solving jigsaw and word search puzzles and made clothes for herself and her children. She also loved to read.

Her funeral wase held on Wednesday, December 15, from Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation was held from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the funeral home on Wednesday prior to the Mass. Donations in her name may be made to Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571.

www.websterfunerals.com

New book shares how to forgive when you’ve been wounded deeply

DUDLEY — Mark Sowersby, who leads Calvary Community Church in Dudley and heads a ministry to help people find peace and freedom through forgiveness, has just released his first book, “Forgiving The Nightmare” this week through Arrow Press Publishing.

In his new book, he shares how he overcame years of horrific abuse and suffering during his childhood to find freedom and forgiveness through his faith in Christ.

The book, which tells the story of his abuse and pain in his childhood, and true forgiveness in his adulthood, has been on his heart for many years. He believes that in reading his book, many that have been hurt and have struggled with letting things go can find freedom and peace through God’s grace and forgiveness.

“Recognizing what God has done for me has been the benchmark of my life forever,” says Pastor Sowersby, about his mission in sharing his story. He plans to continue getting the message out about forgiveness and freedom in whatever medium he can, whether it be another book, video, podcast, or even a movie.

Sowersby’s book “Forgiving The Nightmare” can be found on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and wherever books are sold.

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Estate jewelry is bringing strong auction prices



Recently, estate jewelry has been bringing some of the strongest prices we’ve seen. In today’s column I’ll define exactly what estate jewelry is and share more about prices for this desirable item.

Even estate jewelry dealers’ opinions differ on what estate jewelry is. However, the consensus is that estate jewelry is simply jewelry that was previously owned by someone else. There seems to mainly be agreement that costume jewelry isn’t estate jewelry. It’s generally believed that estate jewelry is fine jewelry crafted from precious metals like gold or platinum. Estate jewelry often includes gemstones like

diamonds, opals, rubies, emeralds, jade, sapphires, etc.

Estate jewelry can be broken down further by the age of the pieces. U.S. Customs defines an antique as an item that’s 100 years old or older. Therefore, jewelry made 100 or more years ago is considered antique. But what is considered vintage varies. Some consider vintage to be 50 years old or more. Others consider vintage jewelry to be 30 or even 20 years old. Some describe jewelry that isn’t old enough to be antique or vintage as pre-owned.

Age is just one of the factors that determines the value of your estate jewelry. Most collectors want antique or vintage pieces as the value is typically higher for them. As with most items, the craftsmanship with older jewelry is often much better than with newer pieces.

The designer also makes a difference with estate jewelry. People will pay more for well-made pieces by compa-



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

nies like Cartier and Tiffany. Further, the size and weight are important factors. Larger, heavier pieces are worth at least the value of the gold they contain. Diamonds and other gemstones can have significant value. In one of our auctions several years ago, a three and a half carat diamond sold for over \$30,000. Whether you have an old mine cut, Marquise cut, oval cut or any other diamond cut, the 4 Cs of diamonds still apply (color, cut, clarity and carat.)

Our November auction featured estate jewelry, gold coins and watches that brought nice results for the consignors. A newer 14-karat gold Italian 20-inch serpentine necklace sold for \$650. An 18-karat jade ring brought nearly \$900. A 14-karat gold with two and a half carat old mine cut diamonds and sapphire ring went for over \$1,000. An 18-karat seven-inch turquoise bracelet with small diamonds reached over \$2,100. A men’s platinum moonstone ring with two small diamonds on the side sold for nearly \$3,000.

A Tiffany 18-karat white gold, platinum, emerald and diamond ring fetched over \$4,000. A jeweled 18-karat gold dagger cut through all other items to reach the top auction price when it sold for over \$8,000.

We will be running Session 5 of the model railroad, die-cast cars and models next month. We are now accepting quality consignments for our next multi-estate auction including estate jewelry, sterling silver, coins, art, comic books, sports cards, advertising signs and other valuable antiques and collectibles. I’ll be teaching my “Evaluating your Antiques” class again on March 23 at the Bay Path Evening school in Charlton, Mass. Please sign up for our email list on our website or follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula
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NICE Shapes workforce of the future by creating Automation ‘Center of Excellence’ for Higher Education

HOBOKEN, N.J. — NICE (Nasdaq: NICE) today announced a collaboration with Nichols College to form a Center for Intelligent Process Automation (CIPA) to jointly expand the next generation of robotic process automation (RPA) developers. Using NICE’s RPA capabilities and training, students at Nichols College, a private institute of higher education in Dudley will learn to develop, support and consult on robotic process automation projects.

Despite the rapid growth in demand for RPA, organizations claim that experienced automation developers are still scarce. Through its support of academic projects like CIPA, NICE is helping to shape the future IT workforce with more graduates bringing these much-desired skills to the table.

In addition to promoting the education of the next generation of automation developers and experts, NICE and Nichols College are collaborating to make CIPA a “center of excellence” providing training, research, automation solutions and consultation to the greater educational and business communities. This will both increase career prospects for students and expand the pool of automation experts in a market where they are increasingly in demand. NICE’s alliance with Nichols College also opens the door for student-initiated research projects and curricular opportunities, such as new degree and non-degree programs related to emerging technologies.

Glenn M. Sulmasy, President of Nichols College, said, “We chose NICE for this important initiative following a competitive procurement process to ensure our students are trained on the most cutting-edge technology and that we have a good partner to make this a success. The partnership with NICE catapults Nichols College to the forefront of tech business and leadership education and builds an analytics mindset across the institution. CIPA provides students an unrivaled immersive opportunity in a data science field that is revolutionizing the business landscape, including the opportunity to apply their RPA skills toward solving real problems for neighboring organizations. This is a hallmark of the Nichols experiential education and another example of our commitment to the community.”

Barry Cooper, President, NICE Workforce and Customer Experience Group, stated, “With the establishment of CIPA and the support of NICE, Nichols College ensures its curriculum is attuned to trending technologies and practical job market opportunities. Together, we provide students with increasingly desirable RPA skills, as well as unique hands-on experience while creating more options for organizations to find new developers to meet their automation needs. We are proud to collaborate with Nichols College.”

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