

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, September 18, 2020

Webster schools start remotely

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – With school formally opening this week, the most recent School Committee meeting was still addressing details for what everyone expects to be “a year like none of us have experienced,” in Superintendent Ruthann Goguen’s words.

“This was the strangest opening I’ve ever experienced in my career,” she noted, observing that district staff and teachers began two weeks ago in their own offices and classrooms talking to each other by internet despite being just feet away.

“It’s going along exactly as anticipated, with lots of bumps in the road,” but people are reacting well to it all, agreed Math/Science Curriculum Director Jill Chapdelaine.

The state delayed students’ return to give districts time to train teachers and staff in the long list of things Covid-19 has changed about education this year. Over the previous 10 days, the district held 157 online seminars for teachers, most of them coordinated by district staff themselves. Among them, Chapdelaine said, were sessions in han-

dling trauma and behavior issues, stress and anxiety, psychological safety, and the mechanics of remote learning. Regarding the latter, she said, “Teachers were saying ‘Oh, it’s all about teachign practices?’ Yes. It’s not about the technology; that’s a tool.”

But this year, it’s a tool that everyone will become very familiar with. Like many districts, Webster is opening in an entirely-remote format except for a relatively small number of special-needs students who need more direct interaction and will therefore be in the classrooms. Administrators hope to transition to a “hybrid” model in early October, where about half of the regular student body will attend school in person on alternating days while the rest will take the same classes concurrently using a Zoom-based internet platform. The district recently bought additional Chromebooks to ensure all students will have them for remote use, replacing outdated laptops that have been formally discarded (often, given to the students who had them last), Goguen said.

She added, however, that the changes haven’t

appealed to some families, sparking a jump in the number of homeschooled. Last year, just 13 took that route, but 43 students are being homeschooled this year. Some of them are special needs kids. With enrollments still coming in as of the Sept 8 meeting date, she said the total number of students was 1670, well below May’s 1805, but with 112 new students across all grades.

Business Manager Monique Pierangeli said the first day of school featured internet problems because Charter had issues outside the schools. Additionally, automatic Chromebook updates slowed things, but most of those bugs have been worked out. “I anticipate us being fine” overall because Webster has experience with standardized testing of many students at once, she added.

One issue that’s still in limbo, though, is acquiring web-cameras for the classrooms and computers for the kindergarten and first graders. Pierangeli said shipment was delayed from late September to mid- or late October, in part because of restrictions on

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Amanda’s Army supporting Anny’s House with virtual 5K

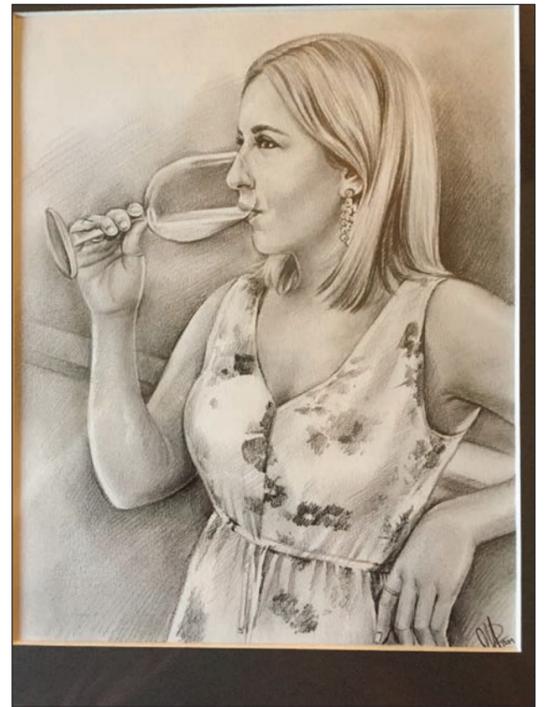
BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – It’s been more than a year since the untimely passing of Amanda Dabrowski, whose death on July 3 of 2019 at the hands of an ex-boyfriend shocked the region and sparked a larger conversation about domestic violence.

Since her passing, Amanda’s parents Ed and Beth Dabrowski have become advocates for an organization called Abby’s House, a Worcester-based nonprofit that helps provide shelter, housing and advocacy for battered, homeless and low-income women.

In 2019, the Dabrowskis organized a team called Amanda’s Army in honor of their daughter to participate in the Abby’s House 5K and Walk event which in 2020 is going virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From Oct. 1 through Oct. 17, participants can walk or run to benefit Abby’s House in Amanda’s name. Ed Dabrowski said they are encouraging people to get involved with the virtual event, but also invite participants to join them for an in-person, socially distanced walk specifically to honor Amanda’s memory.

“We did do it last year. This year is a little different because of COVID where it is virtual. We’re



Courtesy

Amanda Dabrowski lost her life in an attack by an ex-boyfriend in July of 2019.

working a little independent from Abby’s House. We’re doing our own thing on Oct. 10 at Memorial Beach in Webster,” Ed Dabrowski said.

Beth Dabrowski, who works as a nurse, said they are determined to follow social distancing guidelines to make the local walk happen and called the cause and message of the event an

important one for people to embrace especially today where helping neighbors and caring about each other is vital.

“I think in these difficult times we really need to be proactive in protecting others,” Beth Dabrowski said. “It’s not just about Amanda. It’s really about everybody in need. All of them. There

Turn To **5K** page **A12**

Engelkemeyer announces retirement plans



Susan Engelkemeyer

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer has announced she will retire in 2021 completed nearly a decade of leadership at the Dudley campus.

Nichols College made the announcement in a press release on Sept. 9 that Dr. Engelkemeyer will retire in June at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic year. Engelkemeyer became the seventh president in Nichols College history in 2011. The departing president said her decision was based on a

desire to explore the next chapter in her life and to spend more time with her family.

“These years have been the highlight of my professional career in so many ways, and I am truly grateful to the Nichols community for your partnership, your support, and your commitment to our mission, and to our incredible students who are at the center of all we do,” said Dr. Engelkemeyer.

While the current year will be her last at Nichols, Dr. Engelkemeyer expressed optimism for the future of the school and a commit-

ment to helping the college endure through the unsure times of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“While the global pandemic has slowed our pace as we work to actualize our vision to become ‘a college of choice for business and leadership education,’ I am confident that we will quickly regain our footing and emerge stronger than ever,” she added.

Dr. Engelkemeyer’s tenure at Nichols College has seen many improvements including a 20 percent increase in enrollment, 30 percent increase in retention, and a 50 percent graduation rate. She also helped oversee a \$45 million comprehensive campaign and saw the number of endowed scholarships increase from 21 to 81. Dr. Engelkemeyer herself even established her own scholarship.

Nichols Board of Trustees chair John H. Davis commended Dr. Engelkemeyer as a visionary who helped provide powerful leadership to the school helping advance Nichols College through “one of the toughest periods in higher education.”

“Her dedication to this institution is matched only by her genuine affection for the students it serves, and Nichols will long benefit from the foundation she has set for our continued success,” said Davis.

The Board of Trustees has formed a Presidential Search Committee to lead a nationwide search for Nichols College’s eighth president.

Oxford man takes MS Walk virtually

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — For Paul Keohane, this past weekend would have been his 18th annual MS Walk.

It still was, just he didn’t do it on Cape Cod as he usually would. Due to Covid-19, Keohane had to create his own route around Oxford and his former hometown of Burlington to meet the 50-mile threshold.

He said he “expected it to be pretty tough walking 50 miles by myself,” but found family, friends and neighbors who turned out to join him for various parts of the route all three days. “I got a lot of people involved who donated before,” but also got support from people he didn’t know in Burlington.

“We raised more money this year than in any prior year,” Keohane said. In fact, the MS Walk website states he was the event’s 10th-highest fundraiser, totaling \$7152.79 this year.

Friday, that meant hoofing it along several roads in Oxford from Buffumville to the center, to Webster and back to Auburn. Saturday was his Burlington day, where he “mapped out 20 miles around my hometown,” before returning to Oxford for 20 half-mile laps around his own neighborhood on Sunday.

Most years, Keohane



Courtesy

Paul Keohane and his sister Anne have been tag-teaming to fight MS most of the last 20 years.

has done the Cape Cod route with his sister Anne, pushing her in a specially-designed bike that she can pedal with her hands. But she has the illness and “it became untenable” to do it this year, he said.

The Keohanes do, however, have a new bike that’s “much easier” for Anne to use, but they haven’t yet had the chance to do so.

“We always go into the

year intending to do it again together if things line up right,” he said. “Once we did it together [the first time], I knew I wasn’t going to stop until there is a cure.”

Unfortunately, that’s a tall order. At this point, scientists don’t even know what causes multiple sclerosis, never mind how to cure it. It has been associated with pollution, exposure to

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St. Joseph School welcomes students back for in-person learning

WEBSTER — Following extensive planning, training, and parent orientations, St. Joseph School opened for in-person learning on Sept. 8. It was the first time in nearly six months that children and teachers were in their classrooms.

The school originally planned to re-open in late August. However, shortages of personal protective equipment prompted the school to postpone their start date. Principal Michael Hackenson communicated this change to parents and stressed the need for safety. Meanwhile, the delay provided additional time for thorough training of staff and parents, including a mandatory virtual orientation with the school nurse, Kareen Powaza BSN, RN where she discussed COVID-19 and its causes, preventive measures, screening for symptoms, how to wear a mask, handwashing and cleaning techniques. Following the orientation and before children returned to school, all St. Joseph School families were required to complete a brief questionnaire confirming their knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 training and new school procedures.

The re-opening, which was staggered across several days, allowed the St. Joseph School community to adjust to returning to school and their new routines. There are many ways in which things look different from years past: desks are spaced apart, teachers need to maintain physical distancing, students are asked to socialize from a distance, and masks must be worn. Despite these changes, teachers arrived full of optimism and children entered the school excited to see their friends and resume their classwork. In addition, parents and guardians played a major role in setting the tone for the upcoming year. Their positive attitudes contributed to a successful start.

On Friday, Sept. 11, the entire school came together in prayer to celebrate their return, as well as honor the memory of those who were lost during the 2001 terrorist attacks. Typically, the school would gather in the Basilica. However, due to social distancing requirements, students came together in the schoolyard. Headmaster,

Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski, and Mrs. Karen Lefebvre's Seventh Grade Class led the school in prayer, while Fifth Grade Instructor, Ms. Kelly Bailey sang beautiful renditions of "I'm Proud to be an American" and "America the Beautiful." The morning culminated with a school-wide cookout. Best wishes to the St. Joseph School community as well as students throughout the area as they begin their 2020-2021 academic year!

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Friday's Child



Bryson and Cayden
Age 10 and 13

Hi! Our names are Bryson and Cayden and we are ready to find a family we can call our own!

Bryson and Cayden are an outgoing sibling group! Older brother Bryson is of African American and Caucasian descent. Some of Bryson's favorite activities include playing outside, playing video games and football, drawing, and making storybooks. Bryson is known to be a kind, caring, friendly child who enjoys socializing with his peers. He is also considered a protector as he enjoys taking care of pets and younger children.

Cayden is a kind and caring boy of African American and Caucasian descent. Like his brother, Cayden is very considerate of others. Cayden loves to draw, read, play outside, and ride his bicycle. He also likes to play

with Legos and build different types of structures with them. They boys have an older teenage brother whom they are close to and will need to maintain contact with on the South Shore of Massachusetts.

Bryson and Cayden look forward to being placed together in a loving, permanent home. Their social worker is open to exploring one or two-parent families with or without other children. They are legally freed for adoption and will need to maintain contact with members of their birth family once their placement is identified.

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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 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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REAL ESTATE

- Dudley**
\$640,000, 56 Baker Pond Rd, Perrin, Louis J, and Vazquez-Perrin, Maria, to Cairns, Mathew, and Cairns, David.
\$436,500, 90 Old Southbridge Rd, Vitkus, David A, and Vitkus, Aimee D, to Diaz, Robin, and Diaz, Giancarlo.
\$400,000, 14 Joseph St, Anavrin Financial Inc, to Dzivasen, Chester.
\$335,000, 48 Eagle Dr, Amico, James R, and Amico, Johnna A, to Mitchell, Amy L.
\$319,900, 71 Mason Rd, Sellig-Slap, Linda J, to Oliveri, Nicholas.
\$310,000, 26 Hall Rd, Graves, Jeremy, and Fafard, Tara, to Mackowiak, Jacob, and Mackowiak, Danielle O.
\$293,000, 10 Leonard Ave, Lyons, Joshua, to Saucier, Kevin M, and Smith, Erica J.
\$285,000, 98 Schofield Ave, Diaz, Robin J, and Diaz, Giancarlo, to Fournier, Richard, and Fournier, Melissa.
\$238,000, 6 6th Ave, Dzivasen, Chester W, and Dzivasen, Marissa, to Geres, Rafaat A, and Foad-Fenhas, Marian L.
\$140,000, 6 Warsaw Ave #5, Bragg, William E, and Perez, Joshua, to Russell, Shari.

- Oxford**
\$405,000, 7 Founders Ct, Campana, Ronald J, and Campana, Luanne, to Esper, Britney L, and Caldwell, Ronald J.
\$315,000, 10 Laurelwood Dr, Odonoghue RT, and Kelly, Jennifer L, to Mcguigan, James S, and Mcguigan, Kristy.
\$295,000, 20 Wayne Ave, Melendy, Philip J, to Troio, Kayla C.
\$249,900, 7 Bartlett St, Dufresne, Maryann, to Rebello, David M.

- Webster**
\$690,000, 92 Lakeside Ave, Dunn, Steven M, and Mowry, Robyn S, to Campbell, Christopher E, and Campbell, Lisa C.
\$535,000, 62 W Point Rd, Sharpe Vallorie J Est, and Harrison, Jason A, to Moreland, Erin.
\$500,000, 1306 Treasure Island Rd #1306, White, Robert L, and White, April S, to Walker, Lynn R.
\$407,000, 25 Oakwood Dr, Oakwood Drive LLC, to Dornelas, Herbert R, and Dornelas, Monick C.
\$379,900, 16 Wakefield Ave, JD&D Construction Inc, to Correia, Duvall A, and Correia, Malea D.
\$302,300, 1 Rawson Rd, Morani, Michele, to Prior, Christopher, and Corbin, Danielle.
\$292,000, 119-A Thompson Rd, Perkins, David W, to Gonzalez, Raymond W, and Barahona, Angela M.
\$292,000, 119-B Thompson Rd, Perkins, David W, to Mulbah, Tenishia, and Mulbah, Uteanway D.
\$290,000, 6 Boyden St, Vangos, John E, to Gonzalez, Brenda L, and Gonzalez, Luis A.
\$255,000, 4 Jeffrey St, Valentin, Rafael, and Valentin, Aurea R, to Landry, Samantha A, and Dobbert, Theodore J.
\$210,000, 548 School St, Nadeau, Janine M, to Villegas, Angel.
\$186,000, 724 School St, Allain, Alexandra M, and Allain, Ronald, to Moulton, Andrew J, and Moulton, Katelynn A.
\$110,933, 6 Highcrest Park #6, Deutsche Bk Natl T Co Tr, to Richardson, Cedric.

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Local author discusses new book

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – Over the years, she's been a physical therapist, Kristine Fontaine has come to see one major fact, which she turned into the title of her new book: "Only the Lucky Grow Old."

During a casual book-signing event at Booklovers' Gourmet (the store's first since Covid-19 began), Fontaine said she got the phrase from an instructor years ago and now uses it all the time when talking to her elder clients.

"People stop and realize the alternative is not growing old," she said. "... Don't take aging for granted, and you're never to old to do anything. Just don't stop moving."

She expressed it this way in the text itself, writing, "None of us knows what the future has in store for us. Will we be one of the lucky ones to be granted the gift of growing old like the



Kristine Fontaine

amazing people in this book?"

The book, comprising more than 400 pages of interviews with more than 20 area residents who have seen at least their 90th birthday, was the outgrowth of 32 years at Harrington Hospital's Hubbard campus. She noted she treated many of them at some point, and later spent a lot of time recording their recollections of life over the last century. While their personalities ranged like any other group of people, Fontaine was particularly struck by the way the accepted their lives and how many of them had parents who lived similarly long lives.

Unlike some younger people today, she said, the seniors in general "were just very humble and accepting of their upbringing." Some of them admitted they didn't really have childhoods in the sense we do today, because they had to work in the mills or fields to help support their families from a very young age.

"Their personalities were really different, so they were really fun to spend time with," Fontaine said. "... I want you to feel about them like I feel about them. When I think of them, I automatically smile."

Attendee Jane Polletta of Oxford said she knows some of the people Fontaine wrote about, and looked forward to reading the text to see what insights she might be able to glean about life from them.

"I was happy they're in it," she said. "My mind knows them as trusted people, and I'm sure they'll have something to say that I can integrate into my

thought and maybe show the path I need to be on."

Polletta said the title is "what got me."

"My twin sister has no problem with age," she said. "But I'm having a really hard time placing my face to who I am. ... I don't know what I expected from being out in the sun all those years."

She's referring to the fact she spent many years running a Nautilus exercise facility before retiring about a year ago. She and her husband now run a card shop in Oxford.

Fontaine saw similar doubt during the project, noting she was often unsure of finishing it but would often run into people visiting 90-year-old relatives who kept her going. She said that a couple times, but also notes it in the text this way "If I had a nickel for every time, especially early on, that I thought this was a dumb idea, I would have a hell of a lot of nickels!"

Part of that frustration was the publishing process. Fontaine said she was particularly concerned that the book's presentation be right, including the cover layout, but isn't a computer-oriented person herself. She tapped a friend to help with the details and proof-reading after toying with the idea of self-publishing, taking a Bay Path class on the concept, and seeing a Dudley Women's Club speaker on it.

"It's overwhelming, the amount of sites and people and avenues you could go and packages you could buy," Fontaine said. "I didn't know who to trust and who not to trust."

In the end, though, she said she's "really happy about the work." She didn't use all of her interviews for various reasons, and hasn't yet decided whether to do a second book, but is happy to take a break for now.

"Everyone has a story to tell and everyone deserves to be treated like they matter, are important and have value," Fontaine wrote.

Booklover's Gourmet's next author event will be this Saturday, Sept 19 at 1 p.m. with David Whitmyer. He'll be talking about his book Abandoned Massachusetts. It was originally slated for April, but delayed due to the pandemic.

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

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.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 4-11.

Nicole M. Murphy, age 32, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 4 for Possession of a Class B Drug and in connection with a warrant.

Joel E. Griffith, age 45, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 4 for Possession of a Class B Drug and in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Ervin Cami, age 31, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 6 in connection with a warrant.

Edward R. Beaudoin, age 45, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 7 for Resisting Arrest and in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Michael J. Bessette, Jr., age 49, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on Sept. 10 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Aug. 30 to Sept. 14.

Joshua A. Harrington, Sr., age 37, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 30 on probable cause from another agency. He was also issued a summons for Receiving Stolen Property and multiple counts of drug possession.

Krzysztof T. Furman, age 46, of Auburn was arrested on Aug. 30 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

Nicole Marie Weatherbee, age 35, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 31 in connection with a warrant.

Michelle L. Derez, age 52, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 3 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order, Assault, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

Carlos N. Diaz, age 26, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 3 in connection with a warrant.

An adult male and an adult female from Webster whose names have been withheld from publication were arrested on Sept. 4 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Anthony Jose Lebeau, age 20, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 4 in connection with a warrant.

Joel E. Griffith, age 45, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 4 for Possession of a Class B Drug and in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Gregorio Valdes, age 47, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 5 in connection with a warrant.

Linette Arroyo, age 42, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 5 for Assault & Battery.

Tia Marie Wilcox, age 30, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 6 for Possession of a Class C Drug and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol.

Ashley Nicole Whitaker, age 25, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 6 for Assault & Battery, Resisting Arrest, and Disorderly Conduct.

Frank I. Farrar, Jr., age 46, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 6 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation.

Paulino Montero Crisostomo, age 21, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 7 for Failure to Stop for Police, Speeding at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and multiple counts of drug possession.

Edward R. Beaudoin, age 45, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 7 for Resisting Arrest and in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Jeremy J. Adams, age 43, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 7 in connection with a warrant.

Paul J. Ondrasek, age 69, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 7 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, and Disturbing the Peace.

Shane Zachary Dolan, age 23, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 9 in connection with a warrant.

Miguel Angel Gonzalez, age 29, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 9 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and in connection with a warrant.

Michael J. Bessette, Jr., age 49, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 10 in connection with an out of agency warrant. He was also issued a summons for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Stop for Police.

Jai A. Hylton, age 22, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 11 in connection with a warrant.

An adult male from Worcester whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 12 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (subsequent), Threatening to Commit a Crime, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

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Adam Ide of Dudley awarded Assumption University Scholarship for Commitment to Service

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced that Adam Ide, of Dudley, has been awarded a prestigious Light the Way Scholarship, awarded to a select number of first-year students who demonstrate leadership, a commitment to service, and a desire to make a meaningful difference in their communities and the world.

Ide, Class of 2024, was recognized for his dedication to helping individuals with disabilities. Inspired by the relationship he has with Alex, an individual his family has been caring for since Alex was six years old, Adam has sought out opportunities to help kids access sports as a volunteer youth coach and peer mentor for rising high school football players; established a Best Buddies chapter at his high school and applied to be a mentor to a student with special needs; and participated in Unified Basketball, in which he competed with individuals with disabilities.

“A unique aspect of an Assumption University education is our commitment to providing a high-caliber, Catholic liberal arts education that forms students who use their knowledge and talents to better the world in which we live,” said University President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D. “Infused in many classes and co-curricular activities at Assumption are community service opportunities through which students are formed as thoughtful citizens. Students chosen as Light the Way Scholars have demonstrated a desire to serve those in the greatest of need and enact positive change in the world, a quality that will allow them to flourish at Assumption and beyond.”

This year, Assumption awarded 31 Light the Way Scholarships worth up to \$27,000 each, renewable for all four years. As part of the scholarship requirements, Light the Way scholars must continue to demonstrate a commitment to fulfilling the University’s mission to “Light the Way” for others. Scholars must also take the Perspectives on Global Humanitarian Relief course, which challenges students to think deeply about global migration and the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), one of the largest global relief aid organizations in the world. Assumption is one of just a few institutions of higher learning nationwide designated as a CRS Global Campus, a partnership that is used to generate awareness of global poverty among students on campus through fundraisers and campaigns throughout the academic year.

Learn more about the Light the Way Scholarship by visiting: <https://www.assumption.edu/admissions-financial-aid/undergraduate-admissions-and-financial-aid/scholarships-and-grants/light-way-scholarship>

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

JOHN A. PLEWA JOINS WORCESTER FUNERAL, INC. AS LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND EMBLAMER

WORCESTER — John A. Plewa of Webster, a funeral director has recently joined the firm of Worcester Funeral, Inc. dba Dirsra-Morin Funeral Home and Henry-Dirsa Funeral Service. An independently owned funeral home with more than 100 years experience serving families within the communities of Worcester County.



Plewa is a graduate of Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Chicago, Ill., and Worcester State University.

Harrington HealthCare expands access to rapid COVID-19 testing

WEBSTER — Today Harrington HealthCare System opened its second COVID-19 Rapid Testing Site to the public. The new site is located on the Harrington HealthCare at Webster campus, at 340 Thompson Rd. in Webster.

Patients can now schedule an appointment on a user-friendly online check-in form. A doctor’s order is not required to be tested; however, an appointment is required and patients must be at least five years old. In most cases, rapid testing is performed with same-day results.

The public can make an appointment to receive a drive-through test at the Webster site Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Appointments may be made online at harringtonhospital.org/rapidtesting.

Harrington HealthCare also operates a second COVID-19 Rapid Testing Site at its Urgent Care Express location at 78 Sutton Avenue in Oxford. Appointments for testing at that location are available seven days

per week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and may be made online at harringtonhospital.org/urgent/oxford.

“Anyone who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is encouraged to make an appointment at one of our rapid-testing sites as soon as possible, or if symptoms are severe, head straight to the Emergency Department,” said Ed Moore, Harrington HealthCare System President and CEO.

“As the pandemic continues, our goal is to continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve for testing and treatment. This second rapid-testing site will allow greater access to the community for testing, which is especially important as we head into the fall and winter months when an uptick in COVID-19 transmission is possible,” Moore said.

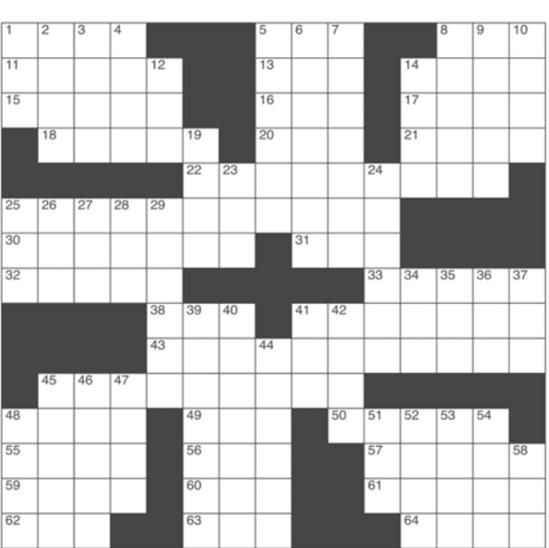
For additional information about COVID-19 treatment, resources and policies at Harrington HealthCare System, visit harringtonhospital.org/

per week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and may be made online at harringtonhospital.org/urgent/oxford.

coronavirus.

About Harrington HealthCare System

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region’s largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use. www.harringtonhospital.org



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greasy powder (abbr.)
- 5. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
- 8. Amount of time
- 11. Greeting
- 13. Form of “to be”
- 14. Israeli diplomat
- 15. Outfit
- 16. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 17. Deceptive movement
- 18. Anxious
- 20. Popular Letterman guest
- 21. Saints’ signal caller
- 22. Intoxicate
- 25. Relationship
- 30. Ask for one’s hand in marriage
- 31. Popular Will Ferrell film
- 32. Gargle
- 33. Warning sensation before migraine
- 38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 41. Erases
- 43. At ease
- 45. Small branch of an artery
- 48. Mother of Hermes
- 49. Body part
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Wellness chants
- 56. Helps little firms
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Peep
- 60. Nellie ___, journalist
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Affirmative
- 64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Popular kids’ game
- 2. Away from wind
- 3. Round water pot
- 4. Drink quickly
- 5. A simple type of jet engine
- 6. Something for nothing
- 7. Painkiller
- 8. Siskel’s pal
- 9. Strong spirit distilled in Turkey
- 10. Again
- 12. Imitate
- 14. Icelandic poems
- 19. Jacob ___, American journalist
- 23. No (Scottish)
- 24. Newborn
- 25. Credit term
- 26. Nonprofit research group in CA
- 27. Male offspring
- 28. Important baseball stat
- 29. A way to compel
- 34. Fiddler crab
- 35. Jewish equivalent of “Sir”
- 36. Every
- 37. Midway between east and southeast
- 39. Anti-slavery treaty
- 40. A friendly manner
- 41. Military figure (abbr.)
- 42. Area units
- 44. Sudden incursions
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Covered with hoarfrost
- 47. Job
- 48. Donkey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)
- 58. Criticize

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I	B	B	V	R		A	T	B	K	E	E	K			
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St. Andrew Bobola announces Drive Thru Polish Foods & Platter Sale, Big Screen TV Raffle

DUDLEY — St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley is continuing to sponsor a Polish Platter drive-thru food sale on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also from 5 to 7 p.m. Meals will be packaged for takeout. Cost is \$15 per “Plate” which will include Kielbasa, Kapusta, a golabek (stuffed cabbage), and two homemade pierogi (one cheese, one cabbage).

We are also continuing to offer Kielbasa(Smoked, Grilled or Double Smoked) for \$12 per double-link package. Frozen Golabki(stuffed cabbage) \$3 each available in 4 or 6 per package. Kapusta/Bigos is available for \$10 per jar. Small Pierogi (Kapusta, Kapusta with mushrooms, cheese or potato filled) are on sale for \$7 per dozen. Blueberry or Strawberry Pierogi on sale for \$8 per dozen. To order any time, please call the rectory at 508-943-5633.

St. Andrew Bobola Money Raffle winners announced

DUDLEY — St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley, held its annual money raffle on Aug. 22. Winners were: 1st prize: \$1,000 to Daniel Langehal (Josephine Zacek), 2nd prize: \$500 to Monica Chojnacki and 3rd prize: \$250 to Elizabeta and Stanislaw Gil. Congratulations to all the winners!

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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

It's Apple Season!

It's apple season and apple offerings are plentiful in our area. New England grown apples have been pleasing the palate since the 1700s. The area's hot summers, cool fall days, and rocky soil are credited with the production of big, red apples with a unique mix of sweet and tart flavors. Read on for a lesson on "apple-ology!"

If the various varieties of apples have you confused, the following guide identifies some of the most popular regional apples:

Native New England Apples: New England apples boast a unique blend of sweet and tart flavors, attributed to the region's long, hot summers and crisp fall days. About 40 varieties of apples are commonly grown in New England apple orchards. The most popular today are McIntosh, Cortland, New England Red Delicious, Macoun, Empire, and Rome. Other favored New England varieties include Crispin, Mutsu, Gala, Golden Delicious, IdaRed, Jersey Mac, Jonagold, and PaulaRed.

Historic Heirloom Apples: Apples have a long and vital tradition in New England. Many varieties were discovered here, or go back centuries. A commercial apple-growing region since the 1700s, New England is still known for its distinctive varieties, particularly the McIntosh, which accounts for two-thirds of the region's crop. Other classic New England varieties are the Macoun, Cortland, Empire, Eastern Red Delicious, and Rome. New England orchards are also keeping alive heirloom varieties like Northern Spy, Baldwin, Pippin, Roxbury Russet and Red Gravenstein.

Pick the Correct Apple: While all apples are delicious and refresh-

ing, some strains



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

of apples are better for cooking than others. Here's the rundown: According to expert chefs, the following apple varieties are excellent choices for baking: Cortland, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Jonagold, Jonathan, Rome. Good varieties for baking include: Braeburn, Empire, Fuji, Gala, Ginger Gold, HoneyCrisp, Newton Pippin.

Since competition for blue ribbons is fierce at annual apple pie contests, the heads up on the best baking apples may give you the edge. Here are some excellent pie apples: Cortland, Golden Delicious, Jonathan, Newton Pippin, Rome. Also good for pie baking: Braeburn, Empire, Fuji, Gala, Ginger Gold, and Jonagold.

Looking for a great applesauce apple? A general rule is any apple but Red Delicious is acceptable, but here are the top choices. Cameo, Cortland, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, HoneyCrisp, Jonagold, McIntosh, Newton Pippin, Rome. These apples also work well for applesauce: Braeburn, Empire, Fuji, Ginger Gold, Jonathan.

Perfect Picks: When buying or picking apples, choose ones that are firm and bruise free. Typically the smaller the apple, the stronger the taste, as large apples have more water content. To retain their flavor and crispness, apples should be chilled if not eaten right away. Did you know apples that are refrigerated can last

up to ten times longer than those at room temperature? And for best taste, store apples away from strong odors, which can be absorbed.

Apple Fun Facts: Did you know?

Apples are a member of the rose family. The most popular variety in the United States is the Red Delicious. Fresh apples float because 25 percent of their volume is air.

Apple trees take four to five years to produce their first fruit.

It takes the energy from 50 leaves to produce one apple.

It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.

Apples are the second most valuable fruit grown in the United States. Oranges are first.

Newton Pippin apples were the first apples exported from America in 1768, some were sent to Benjamin Franklin in London.

Archeologists have found evidence that humans have been enjoying apples since at least 6500 B.C.

There are more than 7,000 varieties of apples grown in the world.

Almost one-half of the U.S. apple crop is processed into apple products, such as apple juice, applesauce, apple pie filling, and canned apple slices.

Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were apple growers. They traded apple wood with one another for grafting purposes.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great 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 renown 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

A new season of opportunity and happiness

Today, I'm in my home working on the final column that I'll pen from this location. Next week, I'll write my first column from our new home.

We are in a season of change and transition.

I've written some part of my books or columns, from every space in this home. As I walk from room the room, the memories of children, now adults, are overwhelming. I remember our first night here and how we all ended up in one bedroom as the noises of the new home settling were a bit unsettling to our senses, but our first experiences hearing a pack of coyotes howling in our front pasture sent everyone scrambling in terror into our bedroom.

Pictures taken at our front door of our children's first day of school ... a house full of their friends scrambling in after classes to snack and unwind.

I remember every Thursday night, how our home would fill with over sixty high school students, craving mac and cheese, and chili dip. Arlene was Director for our local high schools "Campus Life / Youth for Christ" program. I remember the laughter of these wonderful students still echoing through the entire place. This home has touched many lives through these last twenty-six years.

A friend that I met on several of my book tours, as I was on his radio show, on KSFO in San Francisco, Rabbi Daniel Lapin, once said, "I believe the lives of people leave an imprint on this earth. I feel and sense them as I travel to new locations. Important events remain. You must open your heart and mind to feel them."

I know he is right. I feel the imprint of our lives together permanently imprinted onto this home and forty acres. I hope the new owners will be open to feeling the joy left behind.

A new beginning!
We'll move on Tuesday and Wednesday. As you read this, the transition from old to new will be in motion or already in place. Decisions will be made about where furniture will fit and how our new routine will flow in this unfamiliar space.

The late-great Zig Ziglar famously said, "The greatest successes in life often happen when we change locations." I agree. Old habits are broken, and we look at life through fresh eyes. A new perspective reveals new experiences and opportunities. Arlene and I are enthused about our new life prospects.

We've loved our lives here and we'll leave with a touch of sadness but enter this new season of our lives with optimism.

As the old hymn proclaims, "it is well with my soul."

What is the moral to this story? Embrace change with enthusiasm. We can't fight the aging process and the inevitable transition in our needs. Life is always shifting and evolving. Nothing stays the same. Embrace the change and be creative. Be optimistic. Believe the best is yet to come. Seek out and find the good, then enjoy the new opportunities brought on by the change. To do otherwise only brings on sadness and depression.

I choose optimism and happiness in this new season of my life.

Won't you join me?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

VIEWPOINT

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote Democrat for a livable planet

To the Editor:
 Time is over to stop debating whether climate change is real. We need to acknowledge that we are not entitled to live as if we are not endangering the lives of our grandchildren, and creating the destruction of the planet as we know it. And while each and everyone of us needs to take a closer look at how we are contributing to this problem, we must also realize that it cannot be addressed without our country uniting behind the

Green New Deal and the Paris Climate Accord. If for no other reason, a vote for the Democratic nominees Biden/Harris is essential to our only chance, if any, of minimizing this existential threat to a planet as we know it. Be proud to tell your children and grandchildren that on Nov. 3, you cared and voted as a true Democrat.

GERRY FRANK DUDLEY

Follow the arrows



CHIEF'S CORNER
 STEVE WOJNAR

Some time ago, upgrades to the traffic signal at the intersection of Routes 197 and 12 (West Main Street and Schofield Ave.) were made. The green turn arrows were activated to assist traffic pass through the intersection. They are currently staggered for east and west bound vehicles traveling West Main Street. I was asked if the turn arrows could occur at the same time?

This intersection is divided into turn lanes for both east and westbound traffic. One of the problem spots at this intersection involves traffic heading to Webster. Originally, there was no turn arrow onto Village Street. As a result, vehicles intending to turn left, had difficulties passing through safely. The addition of designated turn arrows in both directions for West Main Street, has greatly improved safety in the area.

The lights cycle in two stages for the West Main Street traffic. When drivers are headed east toward Webster, the green signal and arrow will activate first. This will stay active for approximately 10-15 seconds. The green arrow then fades out while the through traffic can proceed. Then the solid green signal for the westbound traffic starts. After several seconds, the eastbound traffic will have the red signal. When this occurs, the westbound green arrow activates, allowing traffic to turn onto Route 12 South (Schofield Ave.). The main reason they must operate at different times, is primarily due to the design of the intersection. Village Street is particularly narrow and turning vehicles must travel some distance into the intersection before they can proceed through. The concern is if both turn arrows were activated at the same time, it could cause an accident, as these vehicles would be very close to one another while turning in their respective directions. Therefore, the alternating arrows made the most sense.

This is one of the locations in town that is heavily traveled and requires a major upgrade. These signals are considered as a temporary solution until changes can occur. We are exploring long term fixes through grants, etc. In the meantime, it is important for people to pay attention to the signals and try not to block the intersection. This area is very tight for the volume of traffic and it has been the site of many crashes. The extra attention and cooperation from drivers, is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is a great deal of turmoil taking place in our state and around the country. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I continue to thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, government and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. 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.

EDITORIAL

A taste of autumn

While there are plenty of topics to discuss this week on the local and national level, we decided to keep things light, and to do our best to foster a sense of unity among our readers.

One quick note to share this week is a story of two neighbors, with opposing political signs on their yards, having a thoughtful conversation. Yes, this actually happened. The two neighbors sat side by side in their vehicles and after about 20 minutes of a calm, respectful conversation, learned that they had more in common than they didn't. Sometimes that's all it takes, is an open mind and a mature outlook. This is a story we can appreciate.

Hanging heavily on our hearts, though, is the absence of the yearly fall fairs that take place all around New England. While we understand the circumstances that led to several cancellations, it still doesn't make us miss it any less. With that said, we decided a fun idea would be to have a Fair night at home.

Who says you can't blast Tim McGraw or Garth Brooks in the back yard and have a complete meal of fair food for a night? There are simple games you can set up at home as well, including water balloon pop, pick a duck (all you need is a few rubber ducks and a bucket or pool of water), water coin drop, and the bean bag toss to name a few. Get creative with your prizes depending on who is in attendance.

There are homemade recipes for all of your fair favorites as well. Soft pretzels, fried dough, apple crisp, steak and cheese, corn dogs, nachos with melted cheese whiz, French fries with malted vinegar or ketchup and a bloomin' onion with ranch for the win.

A family fair night is one way to keep the tradition alive. If you want to go a step further, there are plenty of farm stands and pumpkin patches still in operation to get that downhome feel. In addition, a drive to a local farm for kids of all ages to see cows and horses is an easy field trip.

We decided to include recipes for our top three fair food picks.

Fried Dough:

2 cups unbleached flour
 1/2 cup nonfat dry milk powder
 3 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 4-1/2 teaspoons shortening
 2/3 to 3/4 cup water
 Oil for deep-fat frying
 Butter, honey and lemon juice, optional

Directions
 Combine flour, dry milk powder, baking powder and salt; cut in shortening until crumbly. Add water gradually, mixing to form a firm ball. Divide dough; shape into 12 balls. Let stand, covered, for 10 minutes. Roll each ball into a 6-in. circle. With a sharp knife, cut a 1/2-in.-diameter hole in center of each. In a large cast-iron skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Fry dough circles, one at a time, until puffed and golden, about 1 minute on each side. Drain on paper towels; if desired, serve warm with butter, honey and fresh lemon juice.

Caramel apples:

Ingredients
 Heavy Cream
 Light Corn Syrup
 Brown Sugar
 Butter
 Salt and Vanilla Extract

First, rinse and dry the apples. Pull out the apple's stem and insert a caramel apple stick.

For the caramel, cook the first five ingredients on the stove until the candy reaches 235°F (113°C). Reaching 235°F (113°C) should take about 15 - 20 minutes.

Remove caramel from heat, then stir in the vanilla. Allow caramel to cool for a few minutes, then dip your apples. Let the excess caramel drip off, then place on a nonstick surface such as a silicone baking mat lined baking sheet.

Once set, you can wrap the caramel apples in cellophane.

What true love looks like

I remember visiting a nursing home some time before the pandemic and telling one of our older parishioners that we had our annual Greek Festival coming up. As we talked about all the delicious food and pastries, she mentioned how she hoped that someone would bring her to the Festival. So, I asked her, "What are you looking forward to most at the Festival? Which Greek food or pastry do you really miss?"

She looked at me with these sad eyes and simply responded, "I don't miss the food. I miss being around people! It's the people I want to see!"

Wow! What a statement! "I don't miss the food. I miss being around people. It's the people I want to see!"

Her words reminded me of a poster I have hanging in our Church: "Thoughts from a Wheel Chair." It shows an older woman sitting in a wheel chair, looking out at the reader:

What is it like to be old? I can tell you, but unless you are old, you cannot understand.

I cannot explain how long the day is, waiting here in this nursing home, confined to this wheel chair or bed. Waiting for someone to come to visit me,

and no one comes. And when upon rare occasion my sons or daughters call, they always explain how busy they are, then scurry away.

I know what it is to be busy. I raised them, all five of them.

Yes, I can understand what it is to be young and busy, but you can't understand

what it is to be old with only memories to fill the empty hours.

I cannot expect you to understand my kind of loneliness. To realize that you are no longer useful. To sense that people resent your clinging to life and taking up their time.

I cannot tell you how depressed I feel, how I long to see my grandchildren, the home where I was raised, and the church which I attended.

You would not understand my fears, my longings, my anxieties. But when you are old, then you will understand.

In John 3:16-17, we hear one of the most famous

BEYOND THE PEWS

 BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
 SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

passages in the entire Bible, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn it, but that the world through Him might be saved."

I often repeat that the essence of our Orthodox Christian faith is all about God's love for the world! First and foremost, God loves us. Not because we deserve it. Not because we have done something good. It has nothing to do with what we have done, but because of who HE IS. He loves each one of us in an unconditional way. His love doesn't depend on what we do, or who we are. He created each one of us out of His divine love. So, we are children of love, created to be loved and then to love one another. Jesus' teaching today simply reminds each of us about God's true nature of love. And once we understand God's love for us, we will then understand how He created us to love - to love the One who created us, as well as to love the others around us, who are created in God's own image.

It seems so natural to love, because we all want to be loved. And yet, because we live in a fallen world, where it too often seems easier to focus on ourselves instead of the others, the evil within all of us distorts and destroys our natural tendency to love. Instead of doing what seems so normal - to love one another - our egocentric desires mislead us. First, we hold our love back against those we don't like - whether they are people who have hurt us, people who are different from us, or those we consider our enemies. It seems easy to justify not loving such people, even though our Lord concretely commands us to love even our enemies.

But what excuse do we have about not loving those who are our family members, our relatives and friends, our former parishioners, neighbors and co-workers? For example, what about those who have become old, those who have left our sight because they now live in nursing homes, in

assisted living, or even remain homebound? Why would we hold back our love from those who have loved us and been a part of our lives in the past?

Is it because we have skewed our priorities? Maybe we have fooled ourselves with equating our "busyness" with importance? Maybe we are too self-centered, that we focus only on what makes us feel good? How often I hear people say "I don't like going to the nursing homes because it makes me feel uncomfortable, it smells and I don't like seeing people that way." Maybe we don't like to face the elderly, because they remind us of our own mortality? We live in a society that tries to deny growing older, puts a superficial face on growing older and wants to reject the eventuality of death. So, in the end, we simply don't visit those in nursing homes.

When was the last time you visited an elderly person in a nursing home? What about those who are elderly who are homebound? And then many of us have our own grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, dear friends and others who may be dwelling in loneliness. And the COVID crisis has only made the situation more lonely.

I want to make God's lesson of love as concrete as possible. Ultimately, Christ's beautiful teachings are meaningless to us, if we don't allow them to take root and spur us on to concrete action. So, can we all make a decision to go and visit someone this week? Go to a nursing home, if we are allowed at this time. Visit a homebound friend and sit outside with them. Reach out to an elderly person. Make a phone call and drop a love note. Remember those who have been a part of our lives in the past and allow them to still be a part of our lives in the present! Not only will they be appreciative, but we also will feel greatly blessed. For whenever we love others, God's love only shines all the more brightly within us.

+++
 "What are you looking forward to most at the festival?" I asked my dear friend. "What Greek food or pastry to you want to have?"

"It's not the food I miss. It's the people. I miss being around people. It's the people I want to see!"

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Purpose-driven retirement needs a financial strategy

Today's retirees, and those of tomorrow, have had a sense of purpose their entire lives – and they don't intend to give it up just because they'll no longer be working full time. In fact, 55 percent of recent retirees said retirement is the time for "a new chapter in life," compared with just 22 percent who said it was "a time for rest and relaxation," according to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And the same study found that 95 percent of retirees said it was important to keep learning and growing at every age. But however they find their purpose – contributing to the community, growing intellectually, gaining

new experiences and so on – retirees will need to be financially prepared.

How can you prepare for a purposeful retirement? You may want to start by asking yourself these questions:

Will I need to prioritize some of my goals? As a retiree, you may hope to do any number of things. You might want to learn new skills through hands-on training at a local vocational school or crafts organization. You might want to take up a hobby such as collecting rare wines. You may even want to fix up old houses. And you also might want to expand your view of the world by traveling exten-



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

sively. If, like almost everyone else, you won't have unlimited financial resources during your retirement years, you may need to prioritize these goals, worthy as they may all be to your sense of purpose.

Can I still afford to retire at the age I planned? When you first calculated your ideal retirement age, you might have been counting on your investment portfolio having returned

a certain percentage. Or you might have had different goals in mind than you do now. Or you might have had a somewhat different family situation. Changes in any or all of these factors could affect the age at which you choose to retire. But

if you conclude that you may need to postpone retirement for a couple of years, your decision could offer some advantages, such as the ability to contribute more to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. In any case, it's a good idea to review your retirement plans periodically, perhaps at least once a year.

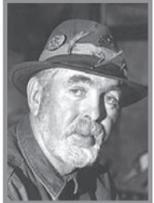
How can I incorpo-

rate philanthropy into my financial strategy? Giving back to your community may be a key element of your purpose-driven retirement. Yet, with so many educational, civic and cultural groups in existence – including many in your own area – you probably can't give as much as you'd like to all of them without affecting your own lifestyle today and the legacy you'd like to leave for your family. So, you may want to take two distinct steps. First, consider establishing a budget for how much you will give to charitable groups each year. And, second, think about including philanthropy in your estate plans. Because there are many

vehicles and techniques available, you should consult with your legal, tax and financial professionals when drawing up your estate-planning strategies.

It can be extremely rewarding to live your retirement purposefully – but you'll find it a lot easier to do when you make the right financial moves.

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.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

The California wildfires continue to burn, costing the lives of residents and wildlife in California and surrounding states. The dangerous smoke conditions are affecting air quality, and will continue to impact the planet. Loss of homes and property in the area is catastrophic, and we need to step back and take a moment to reflect on the people that have been impacted by these terrible events that seem to have no end in sight, and are being blamed on global warming. Battling the pandemic and wildfires at the same time is unimaginable.

Then my thoughts go to the loss of wildlife, and all of the horses, cattle, birds and all other living creatures that are being killed or injured due to the wildfires. I rarely hear of the states controlled burning program, that can reduce the spread of wildfires. Even in this state, we could see wildfires start to pop up in the coming weeks and months if we do not get a substantial rain fall soon. Anyone using the outdoors in the coming weeks need to be exceptionally careful with camp fires, smoking, etc.!

Nine Blackstone Valley residents recently returned from a bear hunt in Maine. Everyone harvested a bear except one hunter. That is darn good for a group of nine hunters. The only one that did not harvest a bear, never even saw one during the six-day hunt. Wait till next year!

Upstate New York Salmon River started to see King Salmon being caught

It could happen here



Photo Courtesy

This week's second picture shows a happy angler with his first King salmon of the year. Photo courtesy of Fat Nancy's Tackle shop in Pulaski, N.Y.

at the mouth of the river last week. Action should start to blow wide open this week. They to need water badly. Once the flow of water increases, and we have a few cool days to lower the water temperature, fishing on the river should be great, and will last for several weeks.

The states fall trout stocking should start as soon as the water temperature cools down. Low water in some ponds need an inch or two of rain to make

them suitable for trout stocking this year. Some Rod & Gun Clubs will also hold off on their fall trout stocking because of low water.

Reports of slow action on the Canal by some anglers last week could change any day now. A lone angler fishing the canal at night using eels reported catching some decent stripers last week at the canal. There are a good number of serious striper anglers that do their homework, whether it is on the canal,

fishing at Block Island and other hot spots in both Mass. & Rhode Island.

Very few reports of local anglers harvesting geese last week, but that will change quickly when farmers start to harvest their corn crops. The humid weather of last week also kept goose hunters away.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Trend-setting daffodils for gardens and bouquets



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Daffodils are having their day. Floral designers are opening our eyes to a world of gorgeous daffodils that extends far beyond the iconic yellow trumpets. These unexpected varieties include doubles, bi-colors and split cups, in colors such as creamy white, peach, pink, gold and orange. Plant the bulbs in fall to see these beauties emerge in your spring garden. Then enjoy how they elevate all your spring bouquets.

A benefit of planting some of these more unusual varieties is being able to stretch the daffodil season. Be sure to

include some early bloomers such as miniature Tete a Tete. Another early bloomer is Barrett Browning. This heirloom variety's orange-red cup has a yellow halo at the base, set off by bright white petals. Silver Smiles is a subtle beauty. A cluster of two or three little flowers tops each stem. Greenish-white petals surround a pale-yellow cup that fades to buff and then white.

Pink-cupped daffodils have been around for almost 100 years yet are still relatively unusual. Grow them in filtered sunlight to accentuate the color. Blushing Lady has yellow petals and a flared, salmon-pink cup. Turn up the pink even more with Pink Pride. Another early-blooming variety, it features a ruffled cup that opens apricot and gradually turns coral pink.

As early daffodils begin to fade, mid-season varieties take center stage. This is the time for split corona and double daffodils. Both types work well with the

more traditional daffodils, while adding flair to gardens and arrangements.

Instead of a trumpet, the cup of a split corona daffodil is split into sections. These split cups may be ruffled or pleated and often lay flat against the outer petals. One of the showiest split cup daffodils is Cum Laude. Its white petals frame a frilly, peachy-yellow cup with a green eye. Include other split-cup varieties such as Cassata, with a delicate ruffled yellow split cup and white petals, or Lemon Beauty with a star-like yellow cup set against white petals. Can't decide? Plant a split-cup assortment to find your favorites.

Close out the season with double daffodils. Their fluffy flowers resemble roses, and most varieties are fragrant. Delnashaugh (longfield-gardens.com) is one of the most impressive doubles. Its enormous, 4" flowers feature layers of frilly white and peach-pink petals. Tahiti is just as large, with soft yellow petals and red-orange ruffles.

Two of the latest bloomers are also two of the most fragrant: Cheerfulness and Yellow Cheerfulness. Each stem is topped with a mini bouquet of three or four little rose-like flowers, each the size of a cherry tomato. They are incredibly beautiful and extremely long-lasting.

In a vase, daffodils can essentially arrange themselves. The more flower forms and colors you include, the better. Have a little more time? Add a few stems of forsythia or curly willow and some other spring favorites such as bleeding heart, tulips and hyacinths.

The stems of freshly cut daffodils release a clear sap that can shorten the life of other flowers. Conditioning your daffodils is easy and eliminates this risk. Cut the stems to the final length and stand them in a clean container of cool water for four to six hours. After that, they can be combined with tulips and other blooms. Just remember to not recut the stems.

Nothing says spring like a yellow trumpet daffodil. But with so many other flower styles and colors to choose from, why not stretch your boundaries and discover some new favorites?



Photo Courtesy

Delnashaugh is one of the most impressive double daffodils with its frilly petals, while early blooming Pink Pride has ruffled cups that start off apricot and gradually turn coral pink.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The 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 and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Eye Catching

EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

Bloomin' onion:

Combine mayonnaise, sour cream, horseradish, ketchup, paprika, garlic powder and cayenne pepper. Chill this while you prepare the onions.

First, cut the onions. Cut a small flat spot on the none root end of the onion. Then remove any dried or damaged peels. Place the onion flat side down on a cutting board (root side up). Using a sharp knife starting about 1/2 inch from the root make a clean slice downward. Next turn the onion one quarter turn and make another clean slice downward. Follow that with two more quarter turns and two more clean slices downward. You should have four clean slices down on the onion equally spaced apart. Now cut three to four equal spaced cuts downward in each of those four sections. Then turn the onion root side down and gently fan out those sections.

First in a large bowl big enough to hold the onion whisk together the milk and eggs. Then in another large bowl combine the flour, paprika, cumin, oregano, thyme, salt, cayenne pepper, black pepper and garlic powder. Then put one of the cut onions in the flour mixture. Using your hands coat the onion with the flour mixture spreading and separating the onion to make sure that it all gets breaded. Next dunk the onion into the egg mixture. Then make sure that it all gets breaded. Use your hands to coat the onion.

Use a heavy pan like a dutch oven and heat the oil to 375 degrees. Using a skimmer ladle or tongs slowly place the onion root side up in the hot oil. Fry for about six minutes or until a deep golden brown. Next remove the onion to paper towels to drain.



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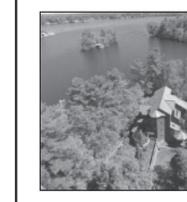
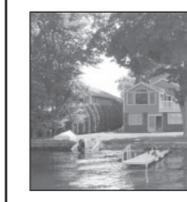


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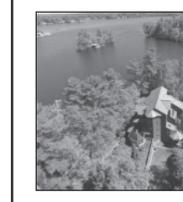
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WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT – 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplcd! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,000.00**

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\$338,000.

OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST

LAND LAND Great Opportunity for Developer! Total 8.47 +/- acres. Commuter access to several state highways. Scenic nature views.
\$89,900.

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD

NEW LISTING

Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom. 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath.
\$425,000.

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD

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Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **ON DEPOSIT! \$49,000.**

Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+- Sq Ft Loft Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**

Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. **ON DEPOSIT! \$50,000.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE

ON DEPOSIT

you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing Is Everything**
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\$1,075,000.

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND

Thompson - New 5+ Acre waterfront land listing on Little Pond! Private, pastoral setting, open field surrounded by tree line. Plan of land and septic design in hand!
\$179,900

LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD

SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st Flr. Bedroom suite w/lower and jaccuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors, oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$859,000.**

MS WALK
continued from page A1

various chemical toxins, some viruses, vitamin D deficiencies, genetic issues, smoking, and other things. It has also sometimes been confused with chronic lyme disease and several other illnesses that have similar long-term symptoms, and often coexists with them.

According to the Mayo Clinic website, MS symptoms are largely neurological, including limb or trunk numbness or weakness, typically on one side of the body at a time; "electric-shock sensations" caused my neck movements; tremors and gait problems; vision problems; slurred speech, fatigue, dizziness and other issues. In general, those occur because the body's own immune system is attacking the fatty myelin sheath that

protects nerve cells, thus disabling them.

"Most people with MS have a relapsing-remitting disease course. They experience periods of new symptoms or relapses that develop over days or weeks and usually improve partially or completely. These relapses are followed by quiet periods of disease remission that can last months or even years," the Mayo site states. "...Some people with MS experience a gradual onset and steady progression of signs and symptoms without any relapses, known as primary-progressive MS."

The MS Society website notes about 2.8 million people have the illness, with about 1 million of them in the U.S. One "serious roadblock" to finding treatments is that the disease often progresses so slowly that researchers can't tell if a potential treatment is making a

difference during clinical trials. That is spurring the search for "objective indicators that detect progression, measure treatment impact, and predict an individual's course and response to therapy," with studies currently focusing on what are termed "neurofilaments" (certain proteins that "maintain nerve cell structure." When that is damaged, fragments can be seen in blood serum, plasma and spinal fluid, potentially making it a "biomarker" for MS, the site states.

"You do an event like this, and you see mankind is still really good," Keohane said, noting it comes out in donations plus "words of encouragement and support and goodwill."

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

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OBITUARIES

Kathleen L. Boyd, 70



OXFORD – Kathleen L. Boyd, 70, of Locust Street, died Friday, September 11, 2020, at Knollwood Nursing Center in Worcester after a courageous 5-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her son, James M. Boyd of Oxford and his girlfriend Heather Mendala; her sister, Patricia A. LaFontaine and her husband Richard of Oxford; nieces Lynn Delaney and her husband Robert of Charlton, Karen Norgren of New York, NY, and Michelle Dunham and her husband Lee of Athol; great-niece Stephanie Woofter and her husband Joshua, and their three foster sons of West Virginia; three great-nephews, Michael Jones and his son Michael Jr of Athol, Dylan and Matthew Delaney of Charlton; her godchild, Amanda Perry of Worcester; and many dear cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her sister, Barbara J. Boucher who died in 1982. She was born in Webster, the youngest of three daughters to Donald and Katharine (Lieblang) Boyd, and was a lifelong resident of Oxford. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1968.

Kathy was a fixture in the jewelry department at Kmart, where she was affectionately known as “KB” and worked for 37 years before retiring in 2016. She also worked at Sears and Roebuck for 5 years. Kathy enjoyed traveling to New York for family reunions, and going on trips with her friend Gail to Disney World, the Grand Canyon, and Hampton Beach. She frequently attended her great-nephews’ baseball and basketball games, and enthusiastically cheered from the sidelines. She also enjoyed reading on her Kindle, outings to the movie theater with her friend Christine, and most importantly spending time with her family and friends.

Kathy specifically wished to thank Christine Zorn for her wonderful friendship, which spanned over 62 years.

Kathy will be greatly missed and in our hearts forever.

A memorial service will be held privately followed by burial at North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Oxford Public Library, 339 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Mary T. Campbell, 93



STERLING, CT / CHARLTON – Mary T. (Copley) Campbell, 93, of Charlton and Sterling, CT, died Monday, August 24, 2020, at the Overlook Masonic Health Center in Charlton. She was predeceased by her husband of 41 years, Raymond R. Campbell who died in 1995. She is survived by three children, Joseph Campbell and his wife Kelly of Danielson, CT, Kevin Campbell of Los Angeles, CA, and MaryBeth Campbell and her husband Charles Furgal of Oxford; three brothers, William Copley of North Attleboro, James Copley of Nashua, NH, and Robert Copley of Toms River, NJ; two sisters, Claire Piekarski of Hampton Beach, NH, and Ann Swiderski of Dracut; four grandchildren, Matthew Campbell and Ryan Campbell of Danielson, CT, Morgan Furgal of Grafton and Raymond Campbell Furgal of Oxford; and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by three brothers, Walter Copley, John Copley, and Thomas Copley; and a sister, Eileen McCarron. She was born in Dracut, daughter of the late Thomas J. and Mary A. (Morgan) Copley Sr., was raised in Lowell, and lived most of her life in Sterling, CT. She graduated from Lowell High School in 1944 and later attended Eastern Connecticut State University.

Mary was employed by the Frank Chamberlain Insurance Agency in Sterling, CT, for 20 years, retiring in 1998. Previously she held positions in the Sterling School System including President of the Parent-Teacher Association and as an Assistant to the Superintendent/Principal of Sterling Memorial School. She was a member of the Sterling Board of Education from 1983-1995, serving as Secretary and Treasurer during her tenure.

Politically active and devoted to public service, Mary was also a dedicated member of the Sterling Democratic Town Committee, Treasurer for the Salvation Army and President of the Rosary Society at St. Joseph’s Church.

Mary moved to the Overlook Community in Charlton in 2008 where she met many wonderful people and developed countless cherished friendships. In her final years she was part of the Overlook Masonic Health Center Skilled Nursing Unit where she received loving and compassionate care from CNA’s, nurses, and hospice. The family would like to thank the nursing and support staff for their kindness and care in her final years.

Mary was a devoted wife, mother, and Nana. She loved and was very proud of her family and grandchildren. They meant everything to her.

Calling hours are Friday, September 18, 2020, from 5-7 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at St. Roch’s Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. To view a live streaming of her funeral Mass please click on the link found with her obituary on the funeral home website.

A private Burial will take place at a later date at Evergreen Cemetery in Plainfield, CT.

Throughout Mary’s life she constantly preached the importance and value of an education. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution in her name to Assumption University. “The Assumption Fund” at <https://www.assumption.edu/info/alumni/support-assumption> or send a contribution to Assumption University, “The Assumption Fund” 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA. 01609

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Verna L. Freeman, 70



OXFORD / ORANGE – Verna L. Freeman, 70, of Paige Lane in Oxford and East River Street in Orange, died Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield.

She was predeceased by her husband of five years, Ernest J. Freeman who died in 1978. She is survived by two sisters, Keri Jean Porter and Glenda Hatch, both of Millbury. She was

born in Worcester, daughter of the late Norman S. and Eva M. (Gage) Porter Sr., and was a lifelong resident of Oxford. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1967.

Mrs. Freeman worked at Anchor Concrete in Oxford for over 30 years, retiring in 2015.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at North Cemetery, Main Street (Route 12), Oxford. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

paradisfuneralhome.com

Laurence “Larry” H. Cortis, 78



OXFORD – Laurence “Larry” H. Cortis, 78, of Oxford, died peacefully, Thursday, September 10th 2020, with his loving family by his side, after a long illness.

He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Diane (Adams) Cortis; his two children, Duane Cortis and his wife Dawn of Dudley, and Bonnie (Cortis) Taylor and her husband Bruce of Charlton; his granddaughter, Heather (Cortis) Manzano and her husband Nick of Dudley; two great-grandchildren, Gianna and Domenic Manzano; his brother, Harold Cortis and his wife Josephine of N. Brookfield; his sister, Betty Caplette of Oxford; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was a loving, caring husband, father, grandfather, brother, and best friend of so many, and had a special place in everyone’s heart, who were lucky enough to have known him. He always made time and enjoyed having a cold beer & laughs, with family &

friends. He was always there to help, no matter what the situation.

He was born in Webster, the son of Harold L. Cortis Sr., and Doris E. (Briggs) Cortis.

He worked with the family business, Cortis Construction, for many years throughout his life, but his true passion was restoring cars. Whether antique, late model muscle cars, or working on family & friend’s vehicles – he never ceased to amaze, with his unique/remarkable skills.

Husband – father – grandfather – brother – friend, you are deeply missed, and will always be in our hearts.

At the request of the family, services will be private. Family and friends will be invited to attend a celebration of life that will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005. Or the American Lung Association, 1200 Hosford St., Suite 101, Hudson, WI 54016-9316. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements. paradisfuneralhome.com

Thomas Edward Jerome Murphy, 62



D U D L E Y – Thomas Edward Jerome Murphy, 62, passed away on Saturday September 5, 2020 while at the Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

He is predeceased by his parents Dorothy Louise (Johnson) Murphy and Thomas Jerome Murphy.

Tom was born in Texas and traveled domestically and internationally with his military family until settling in Clinton Massachusetts. He resided for many years in Clinton, and the Hudson, Marlboro area. He attended Clinton Public Schools. Following his military family’s service, Tom served in the Army National Guard. He was a great joke and storyteller as any Irishman would be, inheriting his mother and father’s wit and humor. Tom worked as an automotive mechanic for many years. As a hobby he rebuilt cars well as well as building a race car. In later years he was a maintenance engineer at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. He loved fishing, riding motorcycles with his brother and more importantly spending time with friends and family. Tom was always willing to help lend a hand or listening ear. He was loved by all and will be remembered affectionately by those whose lives he touched.

Tom’s pride and joy were his children and stepchildren whom he loved dearly.

He leaves his wife of 17 years Cheri (Blanchard) Murphy of Dudley; mother in-law Sue Mahlert of Dudley; brother in-law Joe of Massachusetts; Father in-law Joe Blanchard and his wife Tina of Arizona; his three children: Tina, Tommy, and Crystal; his grandson AJ all of Massachusetts; stepdaughter Ashlee Burns of Massachusetts; stepson Joshua Burns and his wife, Carrie and two granddaughters, Charlotte and Daniella of Colorado; brothers Michael Murphy of Arizona, Patrick Murphy and spouse Edith of Virginia; sister Anna Hanrahan and spouse Dan of New Hampshire, and sister Susan Murphy of Massachusetts as well as several nieces and nephews along with two grandnephews and a grandniece.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to the American Diabetes Foundation in honor of Tom.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Tom.

SCHOOLS

continued from page A1

Chinese-made computer chips and the huge number of schools seeking such equipment.

“We’re at the mercy of the manufacturers,” Goguen agreed, but noted the teachers can still hold remote classes without the extra cameras. Although those cameras will help promote “live interaction,” she said they also do not want students to be “glued to their computers all day long.”

Selectman Lisa Kontois raised an issue they might see. From her experience in work settings, she said, “hybrid” sessions can have problems where participants forget the people who are attending online and focus only on those in the room. “Fully remote works really well,” she said, but hybrid meetings result in “a decline in terms of how the meeting functions.”

Indeed, Southbridge Town Council saw that,

too, choosing to revert back to full remote after a couple hybrid meetings. In that case, the primary issue was an inability of people in the room to hear those participating remotely and vice versa unless a person was right next to the internet-linked laptop.

Regarding other Covid issues, Pierangeli said the schools have been working on HVAC and air circulation. One thing they might see in winter is that when the heat’s on “two systems are going to be fighting and it’ll probably be pretty cold in some of those rooms,” particularly in the high school. But in other areas, air flow has improved and air purifiers are being installed for some places without windows.

She’s spent a lot of time juggling bus routes to account for the state’s drastically-reduced numbers per bus, the A, B and C student groupings, homeschooling students, parents who have elected to drive their kids to school, and the two pri-

vate schools Webster serves. At present, she said, she’s been able to get it to 29-31 kids per bus without needing any extra buses, but those kids will not be able to take buses to friends’ home or anywhere else but home afterschool.

“We’re still working out the logistics of those ‘what-ifs,’” she added, referring specifically to kids who refuse to wear masks on the bus and those who start getting sick during the trip.

The committee also voted unanimously to allow the district to have the fall golf, soccer and cross-country seasons, plus 10 practice sessions for cheerleaders, volleyball and football. Actual seasons for the latter sports and others are still in limbo pending state rules, Board of Health clearance, and seeing what the major leagues do.

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

5K

continued from page A1

are men as well who need this help. We want to bring more attention to this situation.”

Those interested in the Abby’s House Virtual 5K and Walk can register at

abbyshouse.org and can run or walk in Amanda’s honor by selecting Amanda’s Army from the drop-down box when asked which organization they want to represent. Participants who want to be a part of the local walk in Webster can meet at Memorial Beach on Webster Lake for a 10 a.m. start time on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news



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Grange cancels Apple Festival

DUDLEY – With Covid-19 continuing to hold sway over the nation, large public events are still a risky proposition.

Thus, for the first time in decades, the Dudley Grange has chosen to cancel its annual Apple Festival, which was slated for Oct 3. You'll have to make your own apple crisp and pie, dream up your own music, and hope for better times next year.

The Grange is, however, continuing to plan for such events, having recently been awarded the Janet Malsler grant to upgrade the appliances at their historical headquarters next to Nichols College. When 2021 comes, plans are afoot to resume public events of various kinds, including music, educational talks, the Strawberry and Apple festivals, and more that help to promote a resurgence of local agricultural skills and know-how.

For more information and to become part of the Grange, email dudleygrange163@aol.com.

News, really close to home

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