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Friday, December 24, 2021

### Local schools receive threats connected to TikTok challenge

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

REGION — A new social media trend has caught the attention of local school districts and law enforcement as schools nationwide have experienced a disturbing series of school shooting and/or bomb threats seemingly attached to a challenge on TikTok.

In recent weeks, schools across the country have experienced through phone calls or social media posts of violence at schools seemingly in an attempt to have classes canceled or to disrupt the daily activities of students. While such threats are serious, the knowledge of the TikTok challenge has forced law enforcement and school officials to approach the situation in a unique manner.

The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, for example, was the victim of several of these threats, including ones at Dudley Middle School and Charlton Middle School, prompting both police and the district superintendent to respond.

"Social media is a powerful tool often used to influence others, and

not always for the good. It is always important to remain vigilant when it involves these types of threats. Please take time to talk to your children about the influence of social media, and that we take every threat seri-Superintendent Steven Lamarche said in a statement on Dec. 16, acknowledging that the district was made aware late the night prior of a Snap Chat targeting the Dudley and Charlton Middle Schools.

"We want to say thank you to the students, par-

Turn To THREAT page A6



Courtesy

#### MAKING THE SEASON BRIGHT

Students at Bartlett High School are pictured here dropping off donations for the Webster Police Department's Toys For Tots program. Photo Courtesy of the high school's Facebook page.

## Mask debate continues in Dudley Charlton School District

BY JASON BLEAU **CORRESPONDENT** 

DUDLEY/CHARLTON Members of the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee continued to receive backlash from members of the public during their Dec. 8 meetand issued to vehicles ing, their final gather of within the highway 2021, continuing what has been a standard for their meetings since the start

of the new school year. Prior to the citizens forum segment of the meeting Superintendent Steven Lamarche commented the continued concern for COVID outbreaks in the district, especially in the wake of the holidays. The week prior to the meeting Lamarche had released correspondence to parents and the public warning of the increased numbers of COVID cases in the district and on Dec. 8 urged everyone to remain diligent as the pandemic

continues. "I still feel that the day will come when we collectively understand how COVID becomes part of our lives moving forward without complicated protocols, anxiety

provoking unknowns, ambiguous guidelines, and problematic dialogue. Unfortunately, we are still not there yet. We need to continue to work together, which we will,"

said Lamarche. He further added that as the district continues to try and return to a sense of normalcy, this may result in increased protocols to help prevent COVID exposure without cancelling pre-COVID experiences in schools.

Following Lamarche's comments, citizens were able to share their thoughts during the citizens comments portion of the meeting, where several familiar voices were heard asking for their children to be unmasked.

Timothy Paquette of Dudley has been a notable staple of school committee meetings since the return to school in August, often displaying the number of days children have been masked while he is at the table. As he has done for numerous meetings in 2021, Paquette denounced the continued masking of Dudley and Charlton stu-

"Study after study shows masks are ineffective against viruses, especially the custom-made masks people make out of cloth. In fact, even the ones you buy at the store even say 'not for medical use,' and at best only help stop bacteria. I would even say they create a false sense of safety. So, when residents suggest to me that if I want my kids to not have to wear a mask on their face all day that I should get them injected with experimental chemicals, people like that only remind me how powerful the mockingbird media is, so where's

the line," said Paquette. Shannon Dunigan, a parent from Charlton, spoke about how her kindergartener was treated after being exposed to a fellow student who was COVID positive. She felt the protocols were wrong and victimized her child, forcing her to isolate from her fellow students in school or miss class time at home despite wearing her mask. While she made a point to com-

Turn To MASKS page A6

### Dudley transitions to WEX cards for town fuel

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - Dudley's Department Highway officially moved away from using a townowned fuel supply in favor of WEX cards, a state program that allows town vehicles to fill up at private commercial gas stations eliminating requirements to the town its own aging fuel tanks annually.

The idea was proposed by Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda and Highway Superintendent Jeff Murray earlier in the fall, and is projected to save the town around a million dollars over the next decade. The cards provide a discount to two to five percent on fuel and eliminates taxes on fill une for the

vehicles. Dudley was in the situation of having to replace a 35-year-old tank, which could have cost the town upwards of \$500,000. Administrator Ruda confirmed during a meeting of the Board of Selectmen in early December that the WEX cards have been received

Turn To WEX page A6

# Water & Sewer Infrastructure Funding Committee gets to work

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - A special committee formed to explore alternative funding options to offset the cost of water and sewer infrastructure improvements in Dudley has officially begun its work.

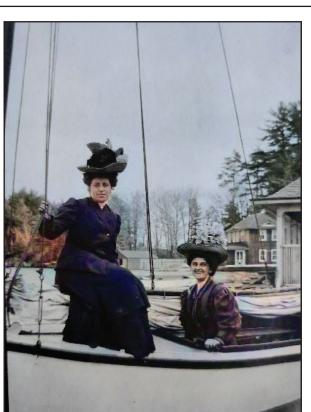
Announced in October, the Water & Sewer Infrastructure Funding Committee had its organizational meeting at the beginning of October, installing Debbie LaPlaca as chair of the committee, with Mike Mayotte as Vice Chair. The commit-

tee was conceptualized following the 2021 annual town meeting, where voters agreed to borrow up to \$13.2 million to remediate PFAS chemical contamination in Dudley's public drinking water which include eventually constructing an \$11.5 million treatment plant. The members will examine ways that Dudley could help fund the upgrades to relieve the impact of the project on taxpayers.

"The committee reaffirmed its three basic goals they were tasked with by the board of selectmen,"

Administrator Jonathan Ruda said in his update to selectmen on Dec. 7. "First, to gain an understanding of the impact and cost that the borrowing attributed to infrastructure repair and improvement regulatory requirements would have on water and sewer rate payers; second, to look for alternatives to paying for the borrowing entirely through increases to the water and sewer rates to decrease the burden currently placed entirely on the rate payers, and third

Turn To **COMMITTEE** page **A6** 



Courtesy

#### **SETTING** SAIL

Enjoying an outing on the water at Beacon Park in 1910. Photo courtesy of the Webster and **Dudley Massachusetts** Past, Present and Future Facebook page.

### **FULL AND PART-TIME** IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! Pressroom help needed

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### Worcester Children's Chorus to perform with NESO in "Festive Baroque and Beyond" concert at Mechanics Hall



WORCESTER — The Worcester Children's Chorus will appear with the New England Symphony Orchestra in a "Festive Baroque and Beyond" concert, taking place in Worcester's Mechanics Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. Tickets are available through the orches-

tra's Web site (newenglandsymphony.org) or from the Mechanics Hall box office at 508-752-0888.

The Worcester Children's Chorus is led by its Artistic Director, Pamela Mindell, along with Associate Director Philip Montgomery. The mission of the Worcester

Children's Chorus is to enrich the lives of children ages eight to 18 by providing a quality musical experience through training in choral singing. WCC's ensembles enhance young people's lives, helping them to develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, compas-

sion, and confidence in their abilities. The Children's Worcester Chorus has performed at Carnegie Hall (2015 and 2017) and has toured to New Orleans, La. (2016) and Canada (2018). Recent highlights include Bach's Saint Matthew Passion with the Worcester Chorus, Benjamin Britten's War Requiem with several choruses in Central Massachusetts, tour

Anniver: Canada, James "Passion 10thAnniversary MacMillan's to Saint MacDonald will give a

Luke" with WPI and Trinity Lutheran and collabo-Church, rations with several other area choruses and orchestras.

Also appearing with the orchestra will be soprano soloist Elaine Daiber. Mechanics Hall composer in residence Leonard Ciampa has composed a new piece especially for this concert by the NESO, Worcester Children's Chorus, and Elaine Daiber. NESO Music Director Roderick free pre-concert talk for ticket holders at 6:30 p.m.

England Symphony Orchestra continues to operate as a volunteer-led, non-profit professional symphony orchestra serving the people of New England. This season's strategic plan includes a three-concert series at Mechanics Hall, streaming performances as part of the NESO At Home series, and more. For information about volunteering or sponsorship, call 603-438-8920.

# Community Connection

Your guide to local businesses and events! To join us, please call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news.

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## DA's community outreach talks reach audience of 600,000



WORCESTER Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.'s office has officially reached more than 600,000 people with his crime prevention and community safety programming.

"We are schools, senior centers and community events across Worcester County nearly every day, presenting on topics such as bullying and cyber bullying, scams and fraud, drugs and alcohol, and texting and driving," Mr. Early said. "I've always said I'd rather prevent a crime than have to solve one. I'm proud to say we've officially reached 600,000 residents with this programming, many of them youth."

The District Attorney's Community Outreach Team, made up of 10 staff members, presents programming to schools and groups of all sizes by request. These presentations are always free and can be tailored to the specific age range or audience. Our Outreach Team also runs our intern program and manages grant implementations.

The most popular program is bullying and cyber bullying prevention. This program also helps kids understand the importance of protecting their digital footprint and imparts the knowledge that nothing on the internet is ever

deleted. There are two specific programs addressing drugs and alcohol, including "This Is (Not) About Drugs" and "If They Had Known." The office also has a display called "Hidden In Plain Sight" that shows parents potential warning signs of substance use by their children.

"Early substance use can lead to a lifetime struggle with addiction for our youth," Mr. Early said. "These evi-dence-based programs help kids understand the risks associated with all substance use, including prescription medica-

Scam and fraud education is regularly provided to seniors. New this year, the Outreach

Team is also presenting a program called "Creating A Caring Community" to senior housing facilities.

"Our seniors, who have contributed so much to our society, deserve to live without fear of losing their hardearned money or being bullied or excluded in their social life," Mr. Early said.

These presentations are coordinated with schools and community partners who share a commitment to protecting residents and preventing crime.

"This level of widespread outreach would not be possible without our dedicated staff," Mr. Early said. "Thank you to our Outreach Team: Nelson Colon, Kevin Donahue, Elisabeth Haddad, Michael Jennette, Eileen Kneeland, Kevin Lefrancois, Julie Lesure, Ellen Miller, Julie Nonni, Wooldridge and, until recently, Abigail Westerlind.'

# P.E.O. Sisterhood helps Bay Path students reach for the stars



Courtesy

#### Chapter R members at a recent social

CHARLTON — Sarah Garcia of Charlton was presented with a \$2,000 grant on Oct. 23 by members of an organization that's helping women reach for

Garcia was one of three women (and the most recent) from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy who received a grant from the Philanthropic Education Organization. P.E.O. has 6,000 chapters across the United States and Canada.

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director said she didn't know much about P.E.O., other than her students and alumni receiving grants.

"It is amazing what P.E.O. does," she said, thanking the members of Chapter R, who presented Garcia with the award. Chapter R nominated Garcia for the

Program for Continuing Education

(PCE) and helped her with the process.

The P.E.O. began as a bond of friendship among seven young women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and is now one of the oldest women's organizations in North America. According to the P.E.O. website, "since its inception in 1869, the nonprofit has helped more than 105,000 women pursue educational goals by providing more than \$321 million in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans."

"I came across information on P.E.O. back in 2018 when I was researching scholarships for my nursing students, said Bolandrina.

The P.E.O. sisterhood has brought together women in the United States and Canada who are passionate changemakers helping women's advancement through education, support, and moti-

"There are meetings and socials," said Bolandrina, who has now been

newly inducted to Chapter R. "I am very excited to participate, and there are special interest groups!" she exclaimed.

Chapters hold fundraisers throughout the year to support the organization's scholarship programs, as well as the stewardship of Cottey College, a nationally ranked, fully accredited, independent, liberal arts and sciences college in Nevada, Mo. The women's college has been owned and supported by the P.E.O. since 1927. The fundraisers are as varied as the chapters that hold them.

"I saw the beautiful dishcloths of Chapter R," said Bolandrina.

Chapter R also holds a Chocolate Sunday fundraiser. The fundraisers help support the national organization and help local women like Garcia.

Membership is by invitation only. Philanthropy is the goal of P.E.O. however, friendship is its cornerstone. The P.E.O. has a long legacy of sisterhood.

"The friendship and sisterhood brought me in," concludes Bolandrina.

#### 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.

### St. Andrew Bobola hosts ongoing Polish Food sale

DUDLEY — St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley, continues to sponsor an ongoing Polish food sale for your dining pleasure. All food is prepackaged and frozen!

We are offering homemade Cheese or Cabbage Pierogi (one dozen for \$20, half dozen for \$10), Kielbasa rings for \$12 per double-sized link package. Golabki(stuffed cabbage) at \$3 each are available in two or three per package. Kapusta/Bigos is available for \$10 per jar. Small Pierogi (limited amounts as available: 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(smaller in size, not homemade). Strudel (prune, poppyseed or cherry cheese) are available for \$10 each. Please order ahead any time by calling the rectory at 508-943-5633. Then swing by the church to pick up and enjoy some great Polish food for your Christmas festivities or anytime enjoyment and help support our small church!

### DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported only one arrest from Dec. 10-15.

Ashley Marie Allain, age 25, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 12 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation.

### Baker fast-tracks recovery funding

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently signed a \$4 billion funding plan aimed at fast-tracking recovery efforts across multiple sectors.

Priority areas for the latest round of COVID-19 recovery funding include housing; healthcare; workforce development; and infrastructure. The majority of the funding represents federal aid from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

"The pandemic has had a significant impact on Massachusetts workers, families, communities, and businesses for nearly two years, and today's signing directs billions of dollars in relief, Governor Baker said. "While this package falls far short of the investment I called for to address the housing shortage, the important investments included in this bill will help to accelerate Massachusetts's economic recovery and provide long-lasting benefits to infrastructure, healthcare, education systems, and small businesses.'

Among other goals, the latest federal aid package is intended to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts, replace lost revenue, support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address public health and economic challenges in Massachusetts cities and towns.

"The funding allocated in this bill addresses critical areas of need across the Commonwealth, from addiction services to housing availability to environmental infrastructure," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "This relief will play a crucial role in the ongoing recovery of our residents and communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and we are eager to put it to work.'

Highlights of the latest funding package include \$150 million to finance the statewide production of housing for various populations, including seniors and veterans; \$115 million for rental

housing production; \$400 million for addiction treatment and related behavioral health services; \$260 million for fiscally stressed hospitals; \$200 million for local and regional public health systems; \$50 million for workforce retention and capital improvements at nursing facilities; \$500 million to support the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund; \$500 million for premium pay for low-income essential workers; and \$107.5 million for workforce and career technical skills training.

The package also includes \$135 million to support cultural facilities and tourism assets throughout Massachusetts.

For infrastructure improvements, \$100 million will fund grants for water and sewer system upgrades. Another \$100 million will be allocated for the improvement of culverts, dams, and other environmental infrastructure.

Additional relief funds include \$50 million to help close the digital divide and increase broadband internet access; \$44.8 million to combat food insecurity; and \$105 million for a variety of educational supports, including recovery grants for state universities and com-

munity colleges. "The Commonwealth has worked diligently over the past two years to deploy billions worth of federal support to strengthen our economic recovery, support those in disproportionately impacted communities, and get people back to work," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan. "We appreciate the collaboration of our colleagues in the Legislature on this bill to invest in healthcare, housing, and the Massachusetts workforce, and we look forward to even more critical investments in 2022 with the remaining ARPA funds."

To learn more about the latest funding package, www.mass.

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## \*\* Triday's Child \*\* \*\*



Nathan Age 11

Hi! My name is Nathan and I like to give high fives!

Nathan is a curious boy who loves to smile and give high fives! He loves to draw and color and he is a very talented artist. He also loves when adult draws with him. Nathan likes playing with play-doh or putty, and gets excited when adults interact with him with these materials. He plays independently on the playground and with yoga balls in school. Nathan is the type of child that does not need much teaching to enjoy play or toys;

he is independent with most leisure activities!

Nathan is legally free for adoption and will require a family with lots of energy and some experience with children on the spectrum. A two parent family would be preferred due to the level of supervision Nathan requires. If there is a single parent with a large engaged support system and experience with children with special needs, they would be considered as well. As part of the Open Adoption Agreement, Nathan needs to maintain regular sibling visitation therefore a family in Massachusetts or the New England area will be considered.

#### Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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





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## **OBITUARIES**

#### Robert Edward Oleksiak, 85



Robert Edward Oleksiak has died at the age of 85 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Robert (Bob) was the son of the late Natalia (Sroczenski) Vincent and

Oleksiak of Webster,

Massachusetts, and brother of his late sister, Phyllis Walsh. Bob is survived by his wife, Melinda Safford Oleksiak, children Sharon, Marjorie, and Stephen, their spouses Douglas Crawford and Wendy Oleksiak, and seven grandchildren as well as his niece, Patricia Walsh. Bob graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with undergraduate and graduate degrees in Electrical Engineering in 1959. Of note, Bob worked at the Draper Lab in Cambridge, MA, formerly the Instrumentation Lab, on the early Apollo Project during the "Space Race." Bob then went to work for Sperry Rand Corporation and later started his own company with Jim Lincoln, a MIT associate. Creating and running his company, Linolex, was one of the most fulfilling and professionally rewarding periods in his life. It was a time filled

with fun and creativity during which he developed patents fundamental to computer systems. Bob enjoyed living and raising his family in Carlisle, Massachusetts for 45 years before he and Melinda retired to Orleans, MA. Bob loved sailing his Marshall Cat,  $S_a_t_u_r_d_a_y$ 's\_ \_C\_h\_i\_l\_d\_, digging for clams aboard his Boston Whaler, where he "wanted to learn to think like a mollusk," and growing vegetables to tend in his garden. Bob was a wonderful cook known for his Thanksgiving stuffing with clams. He was an engineer through and through and found joy driving his various sports cars—MGBs and a Jensen Healy. Bob also loved his dogs and living with Melinda in Orleans in the antique Cape they renovated on Ice House Pond. Bob was a creative engineer with a wicked sense of humor, and also a quiet and compassionate man. He will be missed dearly by his family. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Orleans Conservation Trust, 203 South Orleans Road, Orleans, MA 02653, or a charity of your choice. Reverend Darren Morgan of the Orleans Federated Church will officiate a private service at the Downing Cottage Funeral Chapel months to 3. in Hingham, MA.

#### 22 26 31 33 38 41 45 48 52 50 53 56 55 57 60 65 67

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chinese Muslim group 5. Alternative name
- 10. Resounds
- 12. Supporter
- 14. Furnishes anew
- 16. Beloved Hollywood alien 18. Supervises flying
- 19. Ballplayer's tool
- 20. Coarse edible red seaweed 22. Former CIA
- 23. Basketball player
- 25. Travel necessities
- 26. Honey producer
- 27. Military analysis (abbr.)
- 28. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 30. Mental sharpness and inventiveness
- 31. Popular Easter meal
- 33. Man (Spanish)
- 35. \_\_ de la \_

- 37. Counterweights 38. Made a harsh, grating noise
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. Commercials
- 42. Cool!
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 45. Expression of creative skill 48. Unit of angle
- 50. Transported
- 52. N. American people of Kansas 53. Computer game character Max
- 55. Moved swiftly
- 56. Everyone has one
- 57. Tin
- 58. A mole is one
- 63. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 65. Oppositional to 66. Monetary units
- 67. Not on time

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Hogshead (abbr.) 2. Misery resulting from affliction 32. Current unit
- 3. Defunction European group Line on a map
- 5. Becomes less intense
- 6. Back muscle
- 7. Frosted
- 8. Ethiopian town
- 9. Midway between south
- and east 10. Wipe from the record
- 11. In a continuous way
- 13. Breathe
- 15. Cleaning device 17. Male organ
- 18. Tab on a key ring
- Criminals

ZZLE SOLUTION

- 23. Taxi
- 24. Cheer of encouragement 27. Wartime American escort

- 29. Polish river
- 34. Life form
- 35. Painful contractions
- 36. Glowing
- 39. Press against lightly
- 40. Melancholic
- 43. Something you can be under
- 44. Of the mind 46. E. Indian cereal grass
- 47. Couple
- 49. Sharpshoot
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Blyton, children's author
- 59. Human gene
- 60. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 61. Examines animals
- 62. Mineral
- 64. Cools your home

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### PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

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508-949-8021 Join us for one of our

programs at the Pearle! To register go to www. crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021

Please note that there will be no storytime programming the week of December 20th.

**KNIT** & CROCHET **GROUP** 

Thursday 5:30PM 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

**POWER** PRE-K STORYTIME

Tuesdays @ 11:00AM Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time! We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

TODDLER TIME

Wednesdays @ 11:00AM Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs!

This is geared for ages 18

**BABY TIME** 

Fridays @ 11:30AM Join us for a Baby Time story time! We will be doing songs, fingerplays. and reading to our babies!

This is geared for babies 0-15 months.

**DUNGEONS** DRAGONS GROUP Mondays @5:00PM

Have you ever wanted to learn to play D&D or are you a player looking to join a group? We have an experienced DM starting a group on Monday Nights at the pearle!

If you have a Player's Handbook or dice bring them with you. We will have extras for anyone who needs them.

registration Free: required.

POKEMON CLUB

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

LEGO CHALLENGE

**CLUB** 

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

ADULT BOOK GROUP Third Thursday, 6:00PM-7:30PM - beginning January 20th!

The adult book group meets for an informal discussion of the month's title, which is available at the circulation desk a month prior to the meet-The first title will be Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett.

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

HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH THE SHEPHERD HILL SHOW CHOIR

Saturday, December 18 11:00AM-12:00AM

Members award-winning Shepherd Hill Show Choir will sing old favorites and new tunes in this family-friendly free concert.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

January Monday, 5:00PM-6:00PM

All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join. You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form).

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

Pizza and drinks will be

YOGA WITH JULIE Saturday, January 11:30AM-12:30AM

All ages are welcome at this beginner-friendly yoga class led by Julie St. Francis.

Children under 12 must

be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by

Friends of the Library. LEGO MASTER BUILDER DAN

**STEININGER** 

Monday, January 10 6:00PM-7:00PM Dan Steininger is one of only eight official LEGO Master Builders in the entire world and he wants to share what it's like to have his dream job. He

uses humor, great storytell-

ing, and hands on building

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

REDUCING

NATURALLY Thursday, January 13 6:00PM-7:45PM

Do you find yourself thinking "when will this pain end?" "why do I still have this pain?" or "how can I get rid of this pain?" Brad and Pamela Thompson will introduce some of the most recent breakthroughs in our

understanding

and introduce a powerful and natural pain-reducing

technique. Registration is recommended for this free pro-

JEWELRY JAM WITH

KIM LARKIN Thursday, February 3 6:00PM-7:45PM

Make a gift for your Valentine at this jewelry-making workshop for teens and adults and create a mixed-media necklace on colorful cording using a decoupage technique with scrapbook paper or text. Kim will bring an assortment of materials to inspire your creativity.

Free, but space is limited: registration required. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford

YOGA WITH JULIE Saturday, February 5 11:30AM-12:30AM

Endowment.

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All ages are welcome at this beginner-friendly yoga class led by Julie St.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford

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

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VALENTINE CRAFT

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

Space is limited; registration required.

**HOUSEPLANTS 101** Thursday, February 24 6:30PM-7:45PM

Join the master gardeners from Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens to learn everything you need to know to successfully grow houseplants. Learn about several kinds of houseplants, and how to identify common plant-growing problems, so you can beautify your home and purify

the air you breathe. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by

an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford

Endowment.

## First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,

With tiny lights like Heaven's stars reflecting the snow. The sight is so spectacular-please wipe away the tear,

For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus this year. I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,

But the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joys their voices bring,

For it's beyond description to hear the angels sing. I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart,

But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear, And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift for my heavenly home above, I sent you each a memory of my undying love. After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold,

It was always most important in the stories Jesus told. Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do,

For I can't count the blessing of love

he has for each of you. So have a Merry Christmas

and wipe away that tear, Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Author unknown.

Merry Christmas



### GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster 508-949-3880

**Adult Programming** Book Discussion Group - December

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

Indoor Movie Night - Third Thursday of the month, next on December 16th at 6:00PM

Join us monthly on the third Thursday of each month as we show a new release film. We'll make theatre-style popcorn for you to enjoy! The film selection changes each month, call the Library for this month's title: 508-

Armchair Travel Series - Tales of a Reluctant World Traveler - January 6th

Join us Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 6:30 PM for a performance from Randy Ross of his one-man show: Tales of a Reluctant World Traveler. "Sixteen weeks, four continents, three bungee jumps, and I couldn't come home soon enough." This is the story of how a Boston homebody turned a solo trip around the globe into a comedy novel and an acclaimed one-man show. The one-hour multimedia event includes a humorous travel slideshow, readings from his novel God Bless Cambodia and performances from his show The Chronic Single's Handbook.

Armchair Travel Series – The Wilds of Southern Belize - January 13th at

Located in Eastern Central America, Belize shares borders with Guatemala and Mexico. From the crystal blue ocean waters and inland to the nearby mountains, it is amazingly diverse. Wildlife along the Southern coast, and nearby rivers, includes magnificent tiger herons, fast flyers like

the cinnamon hummingbird and the peregrine falcon, and large swimmers like manatees and crocodiles. Traveling inland to the rainforest brings sightings of spectacular butterflies, birds, like the black headed trogon, but also mammals like the elusive jaguar and bands of coatimundi. Join us for a virtual trip to see some of the stunning wildlife of Southern Belize.

Armchair Travel Series – New Zealand: Penguins, Parrots & Pods -January 20th at 6:30PM

New Zealand is home to many rare birds and marine mammals including the comical yellow-eyed penguin. Watch and listen as the yellow-eyed penguin returns from the ocean to feed its chick and the Antipodes Island parrot demonstrates "looks, personality and talent." Not to be outdone, rare New Zealand sea lions make quite an impression as they interact on isolated South Island beaches, pods of rare Hector's dolphins frolic near coastal shores and dusky dolphins play with kayakers as they travel deep into the fiords of southern New Zealand. Join us for sights and sounds of animal personalities from this amazing country.

Armchair Travel Series - Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail - January 27th at 6:30PM

Those who attend this program will be treated to a modern day adventure. In March last year, Sam Ducharme set out on a 2,180 mile, 14 state backpacking trip from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mt. Katahdin Maine. During his six month journey he documented the rugged beauty of the Appalachian Mountains, the wildlife, the hardships encountered on the trail, as well as the people, culture and humanity at its finest. Come join him as he takes you through the trail towns, over the mountaintops and through the backcountry. The images and stories will leave you with a renewed awe of the beauty of our country and its people.

Yoga with Julie - Saturdays from January 8th through March 26th 10-11:15AM

Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves a centering of the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages and, finally, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free for Gladys Kelly Library patrons.

Before Brooklyn book discussion with Ted Reinstein - February 24th at

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

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Fall into Reading at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library - October 11th through December 20th

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

Drop in Paint Hour – Mondays from 3:30-4:30PM

It's Time to break out the paintbrushes! With a variety of paints and paper available, bring your artist of any age to join in the fun.

Masks are required for everyone in the Children's Room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be avail-

LEGO Club - Tuesdays from 3:30-

4:30PM

LEGO Club is back, and we're so excited to have you build with us again. Stop by the storytime room every Tuesday at 3:30 to freeplay with our BUCKETLOADS of LEGOs or try out our weekly challenge!

Masks are required for everyone in the Children's Room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be avail-

Songs and Stories Storytime -Wednesdays at 10AM

Join Miss Emily Wednesday mornings at 10am (starting Sept. 1st!) to read books, sing songs, and do rhyme games. Meet other children and caregivers at this community event. After stories, catch up with other community members over a simple craft. This Storytime is best for children 0-5, but all ages are

Masks are required for everyone in the children's room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be avail-

Winter Food Crafts - Thursdays in December, starting December 9th from 3:30-4:30PM

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

Noon Year's Eve - December 29th from 11AM-12PM

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

## School District considering committee to address library catalogue complaints

BY JASON BLEAU **CORRESPONDENT** 

DUDLEY/CHARLTON Following recent complaints about certain books included in the Shepherd Hill Regional High School library catalogue, Superintendent Steven Lamarche said he wouldn't mind seeing the district form a committee to review such content and make recommendations to school officials.

After hearing complaints during the November meeting of the School Committee

about the inclusion of such books as "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson and "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe, both known to have sexually explicit content, in the high school library, Lamarche commented during the December school committee gathering that he believes a District Level Review Committee would be a positive move forward. The books mentioned have stirred controversy in many states and school districts nationwide, including bans,

due to their inclusion of sex scenes and, in some cases, their portrayal of sexual orientations.

Lamarche away from expressing any opinions, of his own or the district's, concerning the specific books that have been the topic of recent citizen complaints. Instead acknowledged that as times change the acceptance of certain books also changes and those shifts should be heard and respected.

"Library collections and concerns of books that may be in the col-

lection may seem to be new to us in Dudley and Charlton, but it has a longstanding history. Libraries are filled with a broad spectrum of works and it is common for individuals and groups to identify works that sive or inappropriate. There's nothing wrong with that. What is new as far as I understand is that the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Library and the Dudley Charlton Regional School District has not had a policy in place that address-

es library media center material selection, adoption or reconsideration and isolation," Lamarche

Currently, the policy for issuing complaints directed at material from the high school library follows the same policy as voicing concerns about curriculum instructional materials. The District Level Review Committee would act as an official entity to review such complaints specific to inclusions in the library. The proposed commitwould

include the high school principal or building administrator designee, the high school librarian, two high school teachers, three parents, and one school committee member. The Assistant Superintendent would also serve as a non-voting member. The School Committee did not name an appointee from their group, nor was it made clear whether or not the committee would be officially adopted or when they would begin meeting.

### Cornerstone Bank makes donation to Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank ing service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides

with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$2,500 to Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester to support their mission to provide adults with the English language skills they need to thrive. For 48 years, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester has been providing one-toone and small group English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tutoring as well as literacy tutoring, and in recent years, adding online tutoring and independent learning.

"In the greater Worcester area, 34 percent of households speak a language other than English at home," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester are doing amazing things by providing free ESOL education to adults within our community. The leadership, vision, and dedication of the Board of Directors is key to the organization's success in serving constituents in the Worcester area. We are proud that members of our team volunteer their time for this organization and we support their goals any way we can."

In just the past year, more than 100 volunteers and 12 parttime specialized ESOL teachers dedicated their time to help 382 literacy students and more than 100 tutoring students learn to read, write, and speak the English language. These students are immigrants and refugees representing 52 different countries and speaking 38 different languages.

"The free, flexible, and individualized support students get leads them in the right direction to achieve goals beyond English language proficiency including citizenship, employment, and further education," continued Tallman. "We look forward to seeing Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester continue to create opportunities for people looking to succeed on our community."

To learn more about Cornerstone Bank and their charitable work, please visit cornerstonebank.com.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long his-

tory of supporting the community, and

providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstandthe highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156) For emergencies, call 911 OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012) Monday-Friday ...... 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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#### THREAT

continued from page **A1** 

ents community members who made us aware of the

social media posts last evening. We all have a role in keeping our students and community safe," he added.

Later that same day, Lamarche

released an updated statement saying that police from both district communities were working to investigate what was considered a "non-credible threat' to students.

We understand the uneasiness that

#### WEX

continued from page **A1** 

department fleet.

The cards have all been programmed with the corresponding vehicle information - If all goes well, we will not be ordering any additional fuel for the town fuel tanks and the remaining fuel, mostly diesel, will be used by highway, water and sewer over the winter until the tanks are empty," said Ruda.

The existing tank will be decommissioned when it is empty with Highway Superintendent Jeff Murray working on a timeline to have the tank removed by early spring of 2022. Murray provided his own update on the fuel strategy change later in the meeting explaining how retiring the tank will save Dudley money in the immediate future.

"We originally had information that we would have to do an update to some of the equipment at the highway department for the venting of the gas tanks there. That's been held off for another year by the DEP, an update we may have likely had to make just for compliance that we won't have to make and I'm currently putting together budget pricing for the decommissioning of the tanks. said Murray.

Going forward Dudley will receive statements from the state indicating the cost of fuel purchase using the WEX card which will be received by the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer to ensure payments are made when appropriate. The town also has the ability to go into a system to examine purchase trends for fuel by vehicle to determine the cost effectiveness of the program.

"It seems to be a pretty good system," Murray concluded. "It's used by maybe a couple hundred municipal and state agencies just in Massachusetts. It should work out very well."

occurred. Our incredible staff will continue to monitor their student's health, safety and well-being. We are very lucky to have a staff that cares so much about your children," said Lamarche.
"What was very difficult today was the sheer number of rumors, speculations, and untruths spread across social media throughout the school day. Administration has tried to stay in front and answer all communications that occurred today."

Both the Dudley and Charlton Police Departments released statements on social media acknowledging the situation on Dec. 16. The Charlton Police Department simply confirmed a threat to Charlton Middle School and that they believed it was part of the TikTok trend. Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar also confirmed his department is investigating the situation.

"An investigation was conducted (the night of Dec. 15) into early morning, and it appears that the threats are not credible. They appear to be part of an unfortunate social media challenge that has been circulating nationwide," the Dudley Police Department said in a statement on Facebook. "School administrators were notified and are working with the police departments to identify anybody responsible for these messages. As a precaution, we have increased police presence in all of the Dudley schools and will continue to do so. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for our communities as well as our schools."

While schools in Webster were not the subject of the threats, the Webster Police Department also posted on social media about the TikTok challenge, acknowledging they had received

reports about a potential attack for Dec. 17 that had "not specific ties to Webster" but had caught their attention all the same. As with all law enforcement, the department is taking the threats seri-

"The Webster Police will have an increased presence at our public and parochial schools at arrival and dismissal. There will be patrol checks done throughout the day as well," the department wrote on Facebook on Dec. 16. "Please be careful in what you post on social media, and keep in mind that there are things that are being posted that are, quite simply, false."

Students and parents are encouraged to report any concerns, especially involving threats to schools or any other local institutions, to their local police department.

#### **MASKS**

continued from page A1

pliment the school nurses, she eventually accused the school committee of being "liberal" and said she was "terrified" that they were in charge of the district's children.

"What is the end game for all this? How long will you be limiting our children's freedoms? You're asking too much of the least vulnerable in the population. You've crossed the line. The fact is, you're masking children because you can get away with it, because they're children. They have no idea they're freedoms are being trampled," said Dunigan. "If the math is right, I believe it's only about seven percent of the students in the district have gotten COVID all year. Let's stop with the fear. We don't need a COVID coordinator. What we need is to get back to normal."

Another speaker, David Smolsky of Charlton, wasn't as aggressive as many others with his statements, but was just as passionate when it came to not only masking children, but requiring adults to wear masks as school committee meetings as well. Seeing that the subject was another item on the agenda, he asked the committee to consider allowing masks to be optional during their meetings.

"I'm not afraid to say it — I don't believe in wearing masks in terms of a norm in a public setting or a private setting. It's just something I don't subscribe to," Smolsky said. "This is a public meeting, and other public meetings that have taken place in school facilities don't require the public to wear masks. My hope is there is support to break away from what I consider to be political science."

The mask debate was concluded with a discussion on whether or not to change the protocol for school committee meetings. Some members believed that the mask mandate should remake while others felt that participants in the meetings should be able to demask if they chose. Committee Chair Pauline Aucoin felt it wasn't proper for the committee to change its policies to contrast to the standards held in the schools

"We're part of the school department,

and I feel we should go along with what the school has been mandating, and it's been mandated to wear masks," she

Committee member Jamie Terry felt differently, noting her support for masking but also believing that those at the meeting should have the right to choose whether they want to wear a mask.

"I'm going to continue to wear my mask until my children no longer have to wear them in school because it's a personal way that I'm going to stand by my children, but I don't believe I need to tell other adults how to behave in a public setting. I believe this is a public meeting, and so I am open to the idea of allowing folks to come in if they don't feel like wearing a mask. I will respectfully request that if we have students in here that people put masks on while the students are here. We're trying to keep our students in school," said Terry.

The board voted on a motion to change the policy which resulted in a 2-2 tie result meaning there will be no changes to the mask requirements at school committee meetings until at least January of 2022.

#### COMMITTEE

continued from page A1

to present to a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the water & sewer commissioners, hopefully in March 2022, a written recommendation."

The timeline set forth would allow for any proposals to be brought to the town for the annual town meeting in May of 2021. While previously, the town's Treasurer-Collector, Richard Carmignani, was merely classified as an ex officio member of the committee, Ruda revealed that it was decided to make him a voting member as well due to his position handling finances for the town. Selectmen didn't appear to have any issue with the promotion feeling he should have a voice as he handles finances and rates for the taxpayers. The committee also includes a selectman, a water & sewer commissioner, and two citizens at large representing public and private water users. The Town Administrator is also part of the committee as a non-voting member.

# MIAA keeps mask mandate Abbigail Poplawski initiated in place for winter sports into Omicron Delta Kappa experience in at least one senting all phases of col-

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION - With COVID-19 conditions worsening again – and a new variant making headlines – high school winter sports athletes will once again have to mask up this season.

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) board of directors recently decided to keep the mask mandate in place for winter athletes. The decision reflects the indoor mask mandate still in effect statewide at public schools, per order of the Department Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

"It makes no sense to do something that contradicts what goes on during the school day," said MIAA Executive Director Robert Baldwin during a recent meeting.

All coaches and guests must also be masked while attending winter sports venues.

For many local athletes and coaches, the mask mandate is a source of frustration. The mandate even applies to fully vaccinated students, and there are no exemptions for schools that have reached

an 80-percent vaccination to have a full season." threshold, as the state allows in schools.

Since Thanksgiving, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased sharply across the state and nation. Several days during the last week-plus have topped 120,000 new cases nationwide, and MIAA officials aren't taking any chances with winter sports, especially with the emergence of the omicron variant.

Over the last three weeks, local athletic directors have met with coaches and team leaders to emphasize the importance of following the rules and maximizing safety. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every sport completes its schedule without postponed or canceled games due to COVID-19.

"Given that we didn't play basketball at all last year, we support anything that will allow us to get this season in safely, said Quaboag Regional Middle High School Athletic Director David Bouchard. "We wanted to convey to our athletes that they all have an important role to play in making sure we are able

The DESE indoor mask mandate for public schools remains in effect through at least Jan. 15. MIAA officials said a new decision on masks for winter sports athletes could come then. depending on COVID-19 conditions. First, athletic officials will wait for DESE leaders to make their evaluation and then consult with them.

"The department will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond January 15," read a statement released by DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley.

For now, local athletic directors and coaches are following the regulations and focusing on safety this winter

"If the guidance changes, we would act accordingly. Right now, we are wearing masks inside the building and making sure we are doing the right thing," Bouchard told the New Leader.

Added David Prouty High School Athletic Director Charles Fahey, "We are just following DESE regulations heading into the winter."

LEXINGTON. Va. — Abbigail Poplawski, a native of Webster, was Worcester State University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. Society welcomed more than 1,100 new initiates from 41 universities

during November 2021. Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35 percent of their class, demonstrate leadership

experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent recently initiated into of students on a campus are invited to join each vear. Omicron Delta Kappa

Society, the National Honor Leadership Society, was founded in Lexington, Va., on Dec. 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea-the concept that individuals repre-

senting all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK's mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK's leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society's national headquarters are located in Lexington,

### Local students earn Head of School Scholar honors at Pomfret School

POMFRET, Conn. — Students named to this list earned a grade point average of 4.000 and received no grade lower than an A- for the Fall 2021 Term.

Sasha Becker Webster

Audrey Bonaventura of Dudley

Kaitlyn Curley of Webster

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campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret cultivates a healthy interdependence of mind, body, and spirit in its students as it prepares them for college, and to lead and learn in a diverse and increasingly interconnected society.

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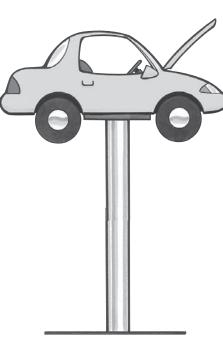




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Frank G. Chilinski STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> Brendan Berube EDITOR

#### **EDITORIAL**

# Popular toys through the years "Being there for a child is the most noble thing a toy can do." — Woody

Santa is preparing for his big night, which is just three days away. His elves are always busy working in the toy shop, year after year, and have created memorable toys, that always leave children wide eyed every Christmas morn-Some toys that children found under the tree more than 100 years ago

are still popular today.
In 1920, just a mere 101 years ago, the hot toy for Christmas was the Raggedy Ann doll, that sold for \$1. Raggedy Ann and her brother Andy were created by a political cartoonist named Johnny Gruelle. In 1921, Lincoln Logs were the hot ticket. Lincoln Logs originally cost 50 cents.

Tinker Toys were first created in 1922, a toy that was a big hit in the 1980's as well. In 1924, the Erector Set was a favorite. In 1925, the classic Teddy bear was a popular, and cost 79 cents.

Crayola Crayons date all the way back to 1926. Crayola means 'chalk and oily' in French. Noted is that the original crayons were created in 1903, and the box contained just eight colors. The Radio Flyer wagon came out in 1927 and cost \$2.99.

Yo-yo's were all the rave in 1928, and cost just five cents. This toy dates back to 500 BC. In 1929, pop-up books became popular. In 1930 the Mickey Mouse doll hit stores. Mickey was discovered in the cartoon 'Steamboat Willie' that first aired in 1928. During Christmas in 1930, demand was so high for Mickey dolls that crafty mothers ended up creating

Finger pain and sock monkeys came out in 1931 and 1932, respectively. In 1933, tin Marx wind-up toys were the

In 1935, it was the Shirley Temple doll that had little girls everywhere smiling on Christmas day. Monopoly first hit stores in 1937, inspiring decades of family meltdowns...excuse us, family fun. Some people still get excited if they land on Baltic Avenue.

The original view master that became

In 1940, the Red Ryder BB gun cost \$5.00. Everyone loves a good Golden Book and in 1942, they cost just .25. In 1943, green army men became popular. The slinky (who didn't have one?) first appeared under trees in 1945. In 1946, Lionel Trains cost \$30. Tonka trucks came out in 1947. The original Clue board game first appeared in 1949.

In 1951, Colorforms cost 25 cents. Colorforms were the invention of art students who liked to be artistic, sans the high cost of paint. In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head hit shelves for just 98 cents. Model cars became popular in 1953. In 1954, Scrabble hit stands and in 1955, Silly Putty could be found in stockings everywhere.

Play-Dough (can you ever forget that smell?) first came out in 1956. Barbie appeared in 1959. Anyone who could keep two Barbie shoes in one place for more than 24 hours was/is a special kind of person.

In 1960, the Etch A Sketch was created. A great toy if you had the patience for it. In 1961, even though it was winter, children everywhere wanted a Slip

The Easy Bake Oven first appeared in 1963 for \$15. In 1964, G.I. Joe appeared for \$1.95. Twister appeared in 1966. The Lite-Brite and all its pieces first came out in 1967 for \$10. Hot Wheels came out in 1968 and LEGOs in 1969.

In 1970, Nerf balls were being thrown about in homes everywhere. Weebles were a hoot in 1971. In 1973, Shrinky Dinks were a blast. Stretch Armstrong was popular in 1976 and a year later, in 1977, the Atari hit stores. Skiing is by far the best Atari game invented, and

In 1982, He-Man was a hit, followed by My Little Pony in 1982. In 1983, the infamous Cabbage Patch Doll appeared, complete with all of their bizarre names. Even our Editor had one named 'Merci Rhonda.' The original Nintendo Entertainment System appeared in 1986.

In 1995, Beanie Babies took over toy stores everywhere. Some rare Beanie Babies sell for thousands of dollars today. Pokemon cards appeared in 1999. In the early 2000's, it was Bratz dolls, Xbox 360's and Playstations. In 2006, the Nintendo Wii almost seemed futuristic. In 2010, the first iPad appeared, and interestingly enough, in 2021, kids old and young have the new version on their Christmas lists.

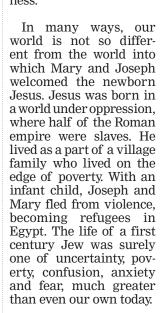
We hope you all remember this holiday season, that we're all just a bunch of big kids.

## WEEK'S newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Brendan Berube at THE Webster Times — news@stonebridgepress.news

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next

# Good news of great joy for these difficult times

We continue to face challenging times with the ongoing pandemic, with inflation and other uncertainties of the world. Every day, we watch the 24/7 news cycle and see a society filled with confusion and confused priorities. Corruption. Greed. Violence. Hatred. Divisiveness. Fear. Anxiety. The future surely seems uncertain, and yet, every generation throughout history has faced similar dark-



Maybe this doesn't seem like a great way to offer a Christmas message yet too many of us have turned Christmas a holiday for children, all about toys and presents and Santa Claus. Too many of us focus on Christmas solely as a family gathering.

Christmas is so much more! Christmas is fundamentally about God's shocking intervention in a dark and hopeless world. His coming, His Incarnation changed the world for all those who choose to follow Him! Christmas is all about "Good News of Great Joy" that a newborn Savior brings into the world!

Precisely because of this, it's OK to talk about the harsh reality in which we find ourselves today. For the Christmas Story isn't simply a cute little make-believe fairy tale about Santa and the North Pole but it is the most astonishing, earth-shattering event in history that has a profound message for any crisis we face today.

Within the gloomy darkness and uncertainty of this pandemic and all the injustice we see in the world, the angels come to the shepherds crying out, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good NEWS of great joy which will be for all people. For there is born for you this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord... Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will towards

The Jews waited for centuries for the coming of their Messiah. They waited under great oppression and terrible injustice. They waited in poverty and hunger. They waited in confusion and extreme fear. They waited for centuries, yet they never lost hope! God promised a Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One to come and usher in the reign of a new kingdom. So, they waited in faith and with hope despite the world's darkness.

The event of Christmas



THE

PEWS By Fr. Luke A. VERONIS SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,

Webster

heralded good news to all who waited. As St. Paul explained, "When the fullof time ness had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under that law, that we may receive adoption as His children!" The fullness of time had come, and decisively God acted by entering the world and inviting us to become His children!

In times of uncertainty and fear, like times of today, Christmas reminds us that God has not forgotten us, nor has He abandoned us. Actually, God has come to us and even become one of us! The incomprehensible mystery of the Christian faith is how Almighty God, the Eternal One, the Creator of heaven and earth accepted to become a defenseless little child and entered a fallen world where evil prevailed. He tasted life as a desperate refugee, as a poor villager, as a part of an oppressed people. He witnessed the suffering of the masses from the greed and vanity of a few. He faced violence, oppression, and even death itself. Our God understands the darkness and evil of our world because He experienced it. He lived it. He suffered it. Yet, He ultimately overcame it!

Christmas is about "good news of great joy" – and the good news is that Jesus not only showed us the way to live under a different reign than the kingdom of this world, but He also promised to walk with us, to be in us, and to help us live a divine path in life. While others choose to live in greed, He showed us how to live in love and charity. While others choose to live under the delusion of worldly power and temporary authority, He showed us how to live in simplicity and humility. While others choose to live under hatred and vengeance and violence, He showed us how to live with mercy and grace and forgiveness. While others choose to live under the fear of death, He showed us how to live life to its fullest, never fearing death, because He defeated death for us, and we know that death is not the end!

The "good news of great joy" that Christmas brings is nothing less than a new way of living, a new way of becoming truly human in the deepest sense of the word. The Christian path means becoming human as Jesus was human lifting humanity to a new level, the original level it was meant to be lived. Saint Athanasios the Great summed this up by saying, "God became human so that we may become godlike." God became one of us, so that we could unite with Him and live in Him!

This is the sweeping change that Christmas brings into the world. When people ask, "What difference did the coming of Jesus have on the world? After the coming of Christ, we still have violence, abuse, corruption, greed, disease, and death. The world is still full of darkness."

Well, yes, but for those who allow the newborn Messiah to be born anew in our hearts and lives, we adopt a different worldview. We aren't overwhelmed by the darkness of the world. We are filled with the light of God. Our worldview is full of joy, wonder, and love. Christmas opens up for us who truly understand it a life of divine love, of mercy and forgiveness, of humility and service, of meaning and purpose, a life filled with light and

Of course, this path of allowing Christ to dwell in our lives and following His path is not necessarily easy! It is a way that begins in a humble, dark cave in a simple manger; it continues in a life of sacrificial service to others throughout our lives; and ultimately ends with denying ourselves and dying on a Cross. Yet when we choose to walk this narrow and difficult path with Christ, we are choosing to live with the Christmas spirit of Good News of Great Joy! We choose to live a life of wonder and joy because we will miraculously be transformed by the truth that "God is with us." As Archbishop Anastasios Yannoulatos writes, "our lives will be transfigured in a joyous feast breathing and moving in the atmosphere that "God is with us.""

No matter what the internet says, and no matter what's happening in our country or in the world around us, don't be anxious or afraid. The feast of Christmas proclaims loudly that God has acted decisively in the world, and when we choose - and it's up to us – when we choose to live under His reign and in His kingdom, then we can be assured that our lives will be filled with light and hope and joy regardless of any darkness in the world!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! A blessed Christmas to you all!

# Headlight safety

The fall and winter seasons are difficult times of the year for driving. Dec.



CHIEF'S CORNER **STEVE** WOJNAR

21 marks the official start of winter. It is often dark earlier in the day, and the sun is very low in the sky during the morning and afternoon drive times. One way to add a measure of safety to driving is by using headlights. I was recently asked to remind drivers of the importance of using headlights this time of year.

The rules governing headlight use are contained in several sections of the law. Headlights (as well as taillights) are to be used on a motor vehicle "during the period from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise, and during any other period when visibility is reduced by atmospheric conditions so as to render dangerous further operation without lights being displayed." Some six years ago, Massachusetts added to Chapter 85 Section 15 of the General Law by requiring both headlights and taillights to be used when, "visibility is reduced such that persons or vehicles on the roadway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet or when the vehicle's windshield wipers are needed." Although it is important to remember to activate lights when the wipers are needed, the law covers other times of reduced visibility. A violation can result in a civil fine. The expanded use of lights can be beneficial to safe

Remember to use your lights whenever necessary. Many newer vehicles are equipped with running headlights that are always activated during operation. While this is good, if the conditions require compliance with the law, drivers will need to activate the vehicle taillights as well. Expanded headlight use, especially at this time of the year, assists drivers to see other vehicles easier when atmospheric conditions are a factor. By using lights, there is a greater likelihood of your vehicle being noticed sooner. Your cooperation can result in safer driving habits and a reduction in accidents and injuries.

On behalf of the entire Dudley Police Department, we hope the best for a Merry Christmas and Holiday Season, as well as a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year 2022.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 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.

### ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Holiday gifts for Dudley

To the Editor:

'Tis the season and many of us are in search of "the gift." I have a couple of suggestions to offer that will be easy on your wallet and might make a real difference for someone, even for you.

The first gift you can give is to obey the Speed Limit signs that the town has posted. These signs have two words "Speed Limit' and a number (i.e., 30). You have probably seen them. They warn you not to drive faster than the number posted. The idea is that if you drive faster, you are endangering drivers and pedestrians on the roadway. Your gift to the people of Dudley would be to not exceed that posted Speed Limit. Doing so might even help to keep you around for the next holiday. As a bonus, if you want a "following" in Dudley, you will not need social media. All you need do is adhere to the Speed Limit.

The second gift that you might give to the town is to hold on to your trash and dispose of it in an appropriate manner. Yes, those empty coffee cups, burger wrappers and nip bottles do accumulate and make a mess of your car or truck. You bought the burgers, donuts and beverages and the containers, like their contents, are your responsibility. The person whose property you are tossing them on might not even drink coffee or eat donuts, and they surely do not want the remains of yours.

The good news is, these gifts will not melt your Visa Card and they will truly keep on giving long past the holidays.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Safe New Year to all.

Thank you,

RICHARD CLARK DUDLEY

#### SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

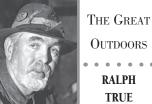


### More bad news for cod fishermen

More bad news for the fishermen that do a little cod fishing, or a lot of cod fishing. The regulatory New England Fishery Management Council is recommending a reduction of the Georges Bank cod lim-

its catch at their Dec. 10 meeting. The 2.4 million pounds allowed this year will be reduced to 540,000 pounds at the Georges Banks next year if it is approved. Georges Banks is one of the richest areas for cod & haddock to live and spawn. The Gulf of Maine is also being targeted, but will remain at their 590,000-quota next year, for now if passed. A statement from U.S.FISH & Wildlife that fishermen caught more than 100 million pounds of cod in the '80's is now down to two million pounds this year.

There are fewer adult fish that are spawning every year, and concerns of the cod stocks crashing have been echoed for years. This writer was fishing aboard a charter vessel 10 or 12 years ago, and was fishing on the cod spawning



grounds. We were among a fleet of charter boats that were hauling in huge 50- to 60-pound cod. They were loaded with eggs and never had the chance to spawn. A fish biologist was on board that day, and stated that we would not be fishing in the cods spawning grounds again for some time. He was right, as the area was off limits to any fishing the following years, and still is today. It was wrong for us to be there. Sportsmen have been restricted to one fish daily for the last few months ,but were also not allowed to catch and retain a single cod while fishing in the above two mentioned areas. Haddock stocks were in the same predicament not that long ago, but their stocks have rebounded. Over fishing by commercial draggers

will soon deplete the haddock fish stocks again, if action is not taken.

The problem with draggers is that most fish that are brought aboard a large vessel are often thrown back, but rarely survive. It is a disgrace that the same thing continues every year, not only in the gulf of Maine but, also along the Massachusetts & Rhode Island coastline. They should be keeping their bycatch which is often allowed, but many discard them and drag for a more lucrative fish. Every year, I watch draggers on the Rhode Island coast discarding fish on their way to port. One year, they were throwing half dead stripers over the side of their boat, obviously because they had to many pounds of fish. We motored over to the area that they were discarding the fish and was outraged at the waste of such a valuable resource.

This year, we observed draggers in Rhode Island discarding seabass, and we were soon surrounded by a floating mass of sea bass and stripers. Recreational anglers are annually suffering more cuts in their daily bag limit or size. The new law regarding a slot limit for stripers is outrageous, and when you see the waste by the commercial draggers it seems like a losing battle to help the species rebound. Most reports by fish biologist admit that many fish that are caught by recreational anglers and released will not survive. If they were allowed to retain one striper, they would stop fishing and head out to fish for other species. On & On it goes, but it is all about the money and politics!

The Primitive arms season seems to have started out slow this year at least in the vallev area. Many hunters are waiting for a little bit of snow to do some tracking, as they have been hunted for weeks now and are a bit skittish.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year and a Merry Christmas.

Be sure to get your vac-



This week's picture shows some of the cod that never were able to spawn again after being caught by rod and reel anglers. It did not seem wrong at the time!

cine to keep you safe from Keep Them Rods Bending. Covid.

Take A Kid Fishing &

### Classic Holiday Traditions

The Yuletide brings with it a host of traditions, many of which have been carried on for generations. From simple holiday symbols to familiar family rituals, ushering in the annual festivities is a joy of the season. This week's column highlights a few classic holiday tra-

ditions that continue to promote glad tidings each year.

The Wassail Bowl

Modern holiday parties that include a Wassail bowl toast are practicing a centuries old English tradition to celebrate the promise of health, wealth and good

Like many old rituals, the Wassail bowl boasts several origins, but the tradition traces its roots to old England. where the toast "Wes Hal," meaning "good health," was a common holiday

The practice expanded to include a Christmas Eve door to door caroling or "a wassailing" to visit friends and neighbors. Today, the tradition of Wassail continues at holiday get-togethers, where a punch bowl or wassail bowl of refreshment typically precedes a round of neighborhood caroling.

Wassail Punch

This modern recipe is easy and delicious, vet retains the essence of the traditional Wassail bowl.

Ingredients: 3 cups pineapple juice; 3 cups apple juice; 1 1/2 cups water; 3/4 cup brown sugar; 1 cinnamon stick; 1 tablespoon whole cloves; 1 tablespoon whole allspice

Directions: Mix pineapple and apple juce, water and brown sugar into the bottom of a perculator. Place all the spices into the top. Perculate accordTAKE THE

**KAREN** TRAINOR

HINT

ing to the directions of your pot.

Stovetop or Crockpot method: Simmer juices and spices over low heat. Strain and serve

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

In these modern times, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer plays a novel role in our Christmas culture. But it was in post war 1949, when cowboy crooner Gene Autry's title hit topped the music charts, and soon after merchandising of the endearing deer was in full swing with books, toys, clothing, holiday décor and more.

Perhaps it's fitting Rudolph's catapult to commercial success began as the brainstorm of an ambitious Montgomery Ward ad man. In 1939, Advertising copywriter Robert May wrote the holiday story as a promotional campaign for Montgomery Ward stores. The marketing strategy was a huge success as booklets of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer were distributed to happy little shoppers throughout several holiday seasons.

The popular story was transformed to song after World War II, when May's songwriter brother-in-law Johnny Marks penned the catchy tune and set it to music. First sung by Gene Autry, the classic song has enjoyed over six decades of popularity, recorded by such musical masters as Burl Ives, Perry Como, Ray Charles, Guy Lombardo, The Supremes and many more.

Holiday Plants: Traditional Greenery Sets Stage for the Season

Greenery has long been used to "deck the halls" for the yuletide season, and plants associated with the holidays such as Christmas Cactus, Mistletoe, and Poinsettias traditionally adorn homes at holiday time. Some plants become festive favorites because they bloom during the Christmas season; others have histories steeped in reli-

Christmas Cactus: The hardy plant is a favorite potted houseplant for its endurance and annual winter blooms. The delicate flowers on the upright weeping cacti typically make their appearance in December, just in time for the holiday season.

Legend has it long ago a boy from the Amazon jungle had asked God for a sign of his faith. He awoke on Christmas morning to find the cacti that surrounded him had come to bloom, transforming the green jungle into a floral flour-

Poinsettia: The striking rich, red leaves of the plant serve as mock "flowers", filling pots and centerpieces with a lush holiday hue of bright red and green leaves, making Poinsettias the hallmark plant of the holidays.

The plant, a native of Mexico was named after Joel R. Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico who brought the plant to America in 1828. But legend dates its history back to Christ's time. According to folklore, a Mexican child on his way to visit the Christ child, lamented he had no gift for the newborn king. Picking branches along the road, he presented a bouquet of green leaves at the holy manger. The leaves turned into beautiful red flowers, adorning each branch with the star shaped blooms.

Mistletoe: It's ironic the waxy white berries and dark evergreen leaves of Mistletoe, considered toxic in quantities, has become a holiday symbol of

Kissing under the mistletoe likely originated from the belief the plant bestows fertility. In some parts of the world mistletoe was considered a "peace plant," under which truces were made by enemies or fighting friends. In the 1700s, the English adapted the mistletoe to adorn a kissing ball. During the Christmas season a single lady who stood under the embellished ball of greens could be kissed without hesitance. Today, the ritual continues as Mistletoe is suspended in doorways and entrances and "kissing under the Mistletoe" remains a popular holiday tradition.

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

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

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

### Bring a bit of spring color indoors

GARDEN

MOMENTS

MELINDA

**MYERS** 



A container with drainage holes, potting mix, and a few spring flowering bulbs planted pointed side up is all you need to create a colorful indoor garden.

Pot them up, give them a chill and enjoy spring flowering bulbs indoors or outside on a patio, deck or porch. This is a great way to enjoy any bulbs that didn't make it into the ground this season or take advantage of late season discounts on bulbs.

Larger flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and alliums put on quite a display in your home or in a window box or container. Add some smaller bulbs like crocus, squills, and grape hyacinths to the mix for added

All you need is a container with drainage holes, potting mix, and a few bulbs. Shorter varieties work well or give taller varieties a bit of support

with twigs or decorative stakes when displaying indoors.

Cover the bottom of the container with soil. Set several bulbs, pointed side up, on top of the potting mix. Set the tallest bulbs in the center surround-

ed by shorter varieties when creating a mixed garden. Place tulips with the flat side of the bulb facing out for a better display. Cover the bulbs and fill the container with potting

Enjoy weeks of colorful flowers by selecting a variety of bulbs

that bloom from early through late spring. Layer the bulbs to maximize your planting space. Place larger bulbs on top of the soil layer at the bottom of the container. The tallest of these will go in the center skirted by shorter varieties to maximize the display.

Cover this first layer of bulbs with potting mix, leaving just the tip of the bulbs exposed. Add smaller bulbs like squills, crocus and grape hyacinth bulbs to the next level. Plant them close together between the tips of the larger bulbs. Cover this layer with soil, leaving enough space for watering.

Water the freshly planted container thoroughly, then move it to a cool location, about 35 to 45 degrees for at least 12 to 15 weeks. This cold period is needed to initiate flowering in these bulbs. A spare refrigerator or in colder regions, an unheated garage works well. Or if the ground hasn't frozen, sink the pot into a vacant space in the garden. This works for those gardening in areas where winter temperatures are

cold enough to provide the needed chill. Mulch the soil once the ground starts to freeze with evergreen boughs. This will make it easier to remove the pot in early spring.

Eliminate this step by purchasing pre-chilled bulbs. These have received the needed cold treatment and are ready to pot up and

grow indoors or outdoors in warmer regions. Check stored bulbs regularly for early

sprouting and move to a colder location if needed. Water the bulbs in storage whenever the soil is thawed and dry.

Once the cold treatment is complete, vou can move the forced bulbs to their final location where you can enjoy the spring flowers. Place the container in a cool location with bright indirect light indoors. Water thoroughly as needed and watch for flowers to appear in about four weeks. Remove one pot a week from cold storage to extend your enjoyment.

Monitor spring growing conditions before moving forced bulbs into outdoor planters. Once the weather is suitable for bulbs to sprout and grow outdoors, it is safe to move forced bulbs into the landscape.

When they are done flowering, you can compost the bulbs or for those suited to your growing conditions add them to the garden. Remove the faded flowers and water the plants like your houseplants or other container gardens. Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering plant fertilizer or apply a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer. This helps replenish the nutrients used in flowering.

Move indoor forced bulbs outdoors as soon as the danger of frost has passed. Those in containers outdoors can remain in the pots until the foliage fades or the garden is ready for planting. Or store the bulbs in a cool dark place for summer and plant in fall with other hardy bulbs. Then be patient as it can take two years for these to flower.

Forcing spring flowering bulbs is a great way to add beauty to your indoor décor, patio, balcony, or deck. They also make a great gift for gardeners of all experience levels.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and 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. Her Web site is www. melindamyers.com.





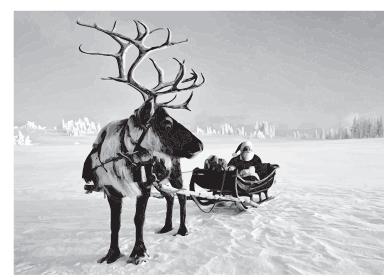
WHAT IS THE HOLIDAY DESSERT
THAT PEOPLE LOVE TO MOCK
AROUND CHRISTMASTIME?

ANSWER: FRUIT CAKE

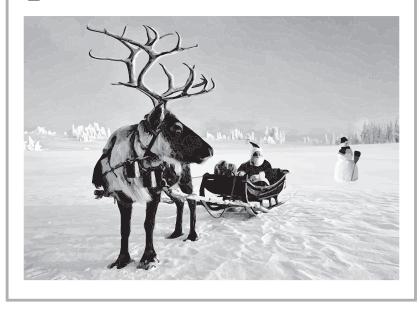
#### What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?





B



Answers: I. Missing antler 2. Extra bell on reins 3. Santa's hat 4. Snowman in background



- 1154: HENRY II OF ENGLAND IS CROWNED AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.
- 1946: WAR STARTS IN INDOCHINA WHEN HO CHI MINH ATTACKS THE FRENCH.
- 1972: THE APOLLO PROGRAM OF MANNED LUNAR LANDINGS ENDS WHEN APOLLO 17 SPLASHES DOWN IN THE PACIFIC.



**CAROL** 

a religious folk song or popular hymn



ENGLISH: Cookie

SPANISH: Galletta

**ITALIAN:** Dolcetto

FRENCH: Biscuit

GERMAN: Keks



LED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BURN
COOLER THAN INCANDESCENT
BULBS, MAKING THEM SAFER
CHOICES FOR DECORATING
CHRISTMAS TREES AND
OTHER AREAS OF A
HOME.

Answers: A. celebrate

B. harvest C. family D. tradition



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

# CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Kwanzaa.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 3 = A)

A. 5 9 12 9 8 14 3 26 9

Clue: Acknowledge a happy day

B. 17 3 14 18 9 11 26

Clue: Gathering crops

C. 21 3 6 7 12 23

Clue: Relatives

D. 26 14 3 22 7 26 7 10 20

Clue: Passing down customs

### SUDOKIA

4	2		6			9	
			3		www.	2	
							8
5			7			8	
6							300000gs
					5	3	4
9	agoooge			8			
			4	9			6
		5			3		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles?
Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	anada	ε	L	9	S	9	Þ	8
9	G	8	6	unda	Þ	2	L	ε
L	Þ	2	8	ε	9	9	- h	6
Þ	3	9	9	6	moh	L	8	S
mends	L	6	9	S	8	<b>ヤ</b>	ε	9
2	8	9	3	7	L	anah	6	9
8	9	Þ	S	L	6	ε	ç	<b>L</b>
S	S	dun	ヤ	8	ε	6	9	L
ε	6	L	1	G	9	8	S	Þ

ANSWER:

### **LEGALS**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P3928EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Corey J Naum

Corey J Naum

Date of Death: 11/15/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by

**Loni A Choquette** of **Oxford MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Loni A Choquette of Oxford MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised

administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/04/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 01, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate December 24, 2021

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

Premises: 19 Upper Gore Road, Webster, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Sean T. Madore to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., said mortgage dated January 11, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester) Registry of Deeds, in Book 59930 at Page 213 and now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by virtue of an assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., to Freedom Mortgage Corporation dated October 21, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61262, Page 357, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on January 6, 2022 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises

described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Tract I

A certain parcel of land situated on Upper Gore Road in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, shown as Parcel A on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Webster, Massachusetts" Owned by Edward J. Kus, Rae S. Young, Jayne E. Hinchliffe, Gleen C. Kuss and Rita Kus, Scale 1' = 40', prepared by Para Land Surveying, Inc., which plan is dated September 26, 2016, and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38395, Plan 115.

Being a portion of the premises conveyed to Edward J. Kus, Rae S. Young, Jayne E. Hinchliffe and Glenn C. Kuss, dated February 15, 2005 and recorded with Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38395, Page 16.

Tract II

A certain parcel of land situated on Upper Gore Road in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, shown as Parcel B on a plan entitled "Upper Grove Road Revision of Property Lines Lots 8, 8.1 & 16.1" Owned by Edward and Rita Kus", Scale 1' = 50', prepared by Robert W. Kilmartin, which plan is dated August 15, 1994, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 685, Plan 116.

Tract III

A certain parcel of land situated on Upper Gore Road in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, shown as Parcel B on a plan entitled "Plan of Land belonging to Edwin Kus, Webster, Massachusetts", Scale 1' = 20', prepared by V.F. Kubic Surveyor, which plan is dated December 11, 1959, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 250, Plan 4.

Being the same premises conveyed to herein named mortgagor(s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated January 5, 2019, and recorded in Book 59930 at Page 210 with the Worcester County (Worcester) Registry of Deeds. TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC 270 Farmington Avenue Farmington, CT 06032 Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation Present Holder of the Mortgage

(860) 677-2868 December 10, 2021

December 17, 2021 December 24, 2021

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

Premises: 28 Old Depot Road, Oxford, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Peter Chrysostom to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Encore Credit Corp., said mortgage dated August 24, 2005, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 37223 at Page 17 and now held by U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series Servicing by virtue of an assignment from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series AHP Servicing dated February 26, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65008, Page 30, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Encore Credit Corp. to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A dated April 21, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57437, Page 150 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on January 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises

described in said mortgage, to wit:
THE LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS
THEREON IN OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,
ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE
OF OLD DEPOT ROAD, BEING LOT
#8 ON PLAN OF LAND IN OXFORD,
MASS. OWNED BY MRS. RAY RUTMAN DATED JULY 3, 1950 RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT
DEEDS PLAN BOOK 194, PLAN 101,
BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS

FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST-

ERLY CORNER THEREOF AT AN IRON PIPE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF OLD DEPOT ROAD AND THE WESTERLY LINE OF WELLINGTON ROAD; THENCE WESTERLY BY LOT #9 ON SAID PLAN, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE N. 43 DEG. 10'W. SIXTY (60) FEET TO LOT #7 ON SAID PLAN; THENCE EASTERLY BY SAID LOT #7 ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FOR-

#7 ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FOR-TY-SEVEN (147) FEET TO OLD DE-POT ROAD;

THENCE S. 32 DEG. 27' E. BY SAID ROAD, NINETY (90) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

For Title See 26479/359

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated April 26, 2002, and recorded in Book 26479 at Page 359 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

(860) 677-2868

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO21P3957EA
Estate of:
William J. Doyle

Date Of Death: September 4, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Keith J. Doyle** of **Webster MA** 

**Kathleen A. Woods** of **Dudley MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Keith J. Doyle of Webster MA
Kathleen A. Woods of Dudley MA
has been informally appointed as the
Personal Representative of the estate
to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

December 24, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P4095EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
George D Gagnon

Date of Death: 10/14/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Per-

sonal Representative has been filed

Louise G Eldridge of North Scituate RI requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Louise G Eldridge of North Scituate RI be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of

the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/11/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further no-

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First

Justice of this Court.

Date: December 14, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

December 24, 2021

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO21P1061GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L.c. 190B. \$5-304

G.L.c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of: Niko V Millios
Of: Dudley, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Julie A Millios of Dudley, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Niko V Millios is in need of a Guardian requesting that George V. Milios of Dudley, MA, (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that a protective order or appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/04/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.. Date: December 09, 2021 Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate December 24, 2021

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off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining

Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck

with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet/ Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage!

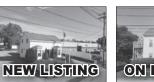






Kokocinski

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



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for Each Unit! Efficient Natural Gas Heating! Two Driveways provide Off Street Parking for up to 5 Vehicles! Dudley's Low Taxes & Desirable School System! \$349.900.00



**DUDLEY** - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131 Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w Guest Closet! SS Applianced Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Fir, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Fir & Chair Raill Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6X27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Fir Laundry! The 2nd Floor w4 Bdrms! Spacious Master wWalk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner — Pride of Ownership! **\$570,000.00** 



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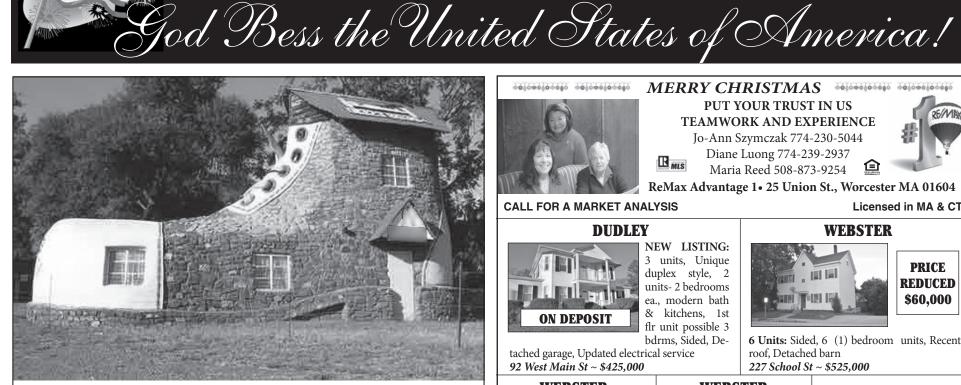


**WEBSTER LAKE** – 50 Laurelwood Drive! 90' Waterfront! Western Exposure – Beautiful Sunsets! Half Acre, 22,729', of Natural Privacy! 6 Room Custom Built Cedar Home with 2 Car Attached Garage! Dining Area and Fireplaced Living Room with Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! First Floor Master Bedroom with Full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



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WEBSTER



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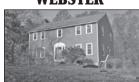
bdrms, Sided, Detached garage, Updated electrical service



**PRICE** REDUCED \$60,000

6 Units: Sided, 6 (1) bedroom units, Recent roof, Detached barn 227 School St ~ \$525,000

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1.5 acres, 26' living/dining room, Fireplace, 2 baths, 2100 sq.ft., 2 car garage 63 Klebart Avenue ~ \$429,900

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4 bedroom, 1/2 acre lot, Fireplace, Small barn or workshop

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## **SPORTS**

### Bartlett's Minarik heats up, torches Rockets in season-opening victory



Bartlett's Jamie Cuellar creates contact on an Auburn defender while driving to the basket.

BY KEN POWERS

WEBSTER — Sharpshooter Ethan Minarik had an opening-night performance for the ages.

In Bartlett High's first game of the 2021-2022 season, the junior poured in a game-high 29 points — 21 scored from behind the 3-point arc — to lead the Indians to a 55-42 victory over Auburn High in front of a frenzied and boisterous home crowd on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Ethan got hot for us real quick; he had a great game," Bartlett coach Tony Paranto said. "He's a pure shooter and, I believe, one of the prolific scorers in Central Mass. A lot of our offense revolves around him.

"As nice as it was to see Ethan get off to a good start, we're going to need other guys to step up because teams are going to start taking him away," Paranto continued. We need to have the other kids to step up and take some shots from the outside for us.'

Minarik showed he was going to be a force to be reckoned with right from the start of the game, draining his first 3-pointer 15 seconds into the contest and following that basket with two more, pushing the Indians out to a 9-2 lead, less than two minutes in.

Everybody knows Bartlett likes to



Colin Minarik of Bartlett shoots a 3-pointer in front of the reach of Auburn defender Jeremiah Murphy.

shoot the 3, but we didn't expect them to open up the way they did," Auburn coach Dan Koen said. "Bartlett's first play of the game was a one-touch pass, bang, 3-pointer. The second time they had the ball it was two passes and another 3. I blinked and they were ahead, 9-2. I don't know if we were quite ready for

"It was a great Central Mass. game; it was a great way to kick off the [local] season," Koen added. "[Minarik] came out and was just on fire, from all over the place. We tried to put a box-and-one on him with our best defender [Zeb-Alexander Baffour] on him and he still hit a pretty deep step-back 3. It's tough to win games when kids are shooting like that."

Minarik scored Bartlett's first 14 points (four treys and a foul-line jumper), leading the Indians to a 14-2 lead with 5:05 remaining in the period. The Rockets responded to the haymaker Bartlett threw in those first three minutes by finishing the quarter on a 13-4 run to trail by just three, 18-15, as play moved into the second frame.

Senior captain JB Whittemore (a team-high 19 points) led the Auburn comeback, scoring 11 of his team's 13 points on two 3-pointers, an old-fashioned three-point play and a drive to the

The Rockets (1-1) tied the game, 18-18, with 6:29 left in the first half on a left-side 3-pointer by freshman Jordan McFadden (six points on a pair of treys).

"JB played well," said Koen, who confirmed that Whittemore is his only player who has played significant varsity minutes in the past. I'm proud of my team. We fought back, we tied it up, and we kept it close. The kids played their

After a quick timeout following the McFadden trey, Bartlett began regaining control of the game, working its way out to a 28-22 lead with four minutes left in the quarter. Minarik had six points in the 10-4 run (another 3-pointer and three free throws after he was fouled attempting another shot from distance) and finished the first half with 23 points. The Indians led, 35-28, at halftime.

The third quarter was Auburn's undoing; the Rockets scored only four points in the quarter, after which they trailed, 43-32.

"In the third quarter it looked like there was a lid on the basket for us for a little bit. We missed a couple of easy shots around the basket and we missed some free throws," said Koen, whose team was 0-6 from the foul line in the third quarter and failed to convert on six field goal attempts from in close, including a pair of layups. "I think we just ran out of steam. This is a tough gym to play at, Bartlett's a basketball



Bartlett competes for the tip versus Auburn.

town, and they had a great crowd here. In the end, we just couldn't figure out those Bartlett rims."

Also scoring in double figures for Bartlett was senior Zack Dejesus, with 12 points. Senior Colin Minarik and sophomore Ayden Carlson chipped into the winning effort with seven points each.

"We saw Auburn play against Gardner [a 63-32 win for the Rockets on Friday, Dec. 10]. We knew they had some special players. The McFadden kid had a nice game against Gardner [a game-high 16 points]," Paranto said. "Our philosophy coming into this game was that we wanted to take their guards away and let our big guys control their big guys. I think we did that."

### Shepherd Hill athletes named Midland-Wachusett League All-Stars

The following Shepherd Hill Regional student-athletes were named Midland-Wachusett League fall season All-Stars: Football, Offensive — Charles Karp, Alexander Siwik

Football, Defensive — JonCarlos Estrada, Romeo Holland

Football, Academic Zach Christenson

Boys' Soccer — Ryan Davis, Dan Gronek, Cal Hopkins, Jack Levesque, Jake Luke, Gabe Roach (Academic)

Girls' Soccer — Katherine Alicea, Colleen Cummings (Academic) Volleyball — Elise Biron, Ashley

Wojcicki (Academic) Golf — Will Reece, Nicholas Veronis

Boys' Cross-Country — Bronson Dubey, Conor Fitzgerald, Andrew Trudel Girls' Cross-Country — Emery Mullen, Anna Thomas, Karlee White, Grace Bateman (Academic)



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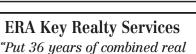


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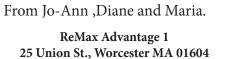
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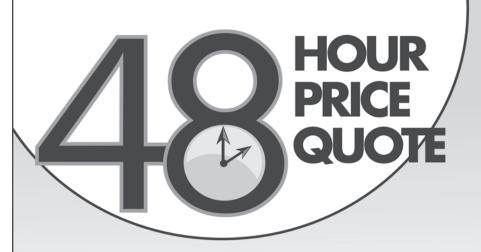


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## **SPORTS**

### Relentless defense fuels Douglas past Pirates



Nick Ethier photos

Oxford's Olivia Clarkson drives past Douglas defender Katheryn Peloquin.



Positioned at the top of the 3-point line, Myah Guivas of Oxford keeps her eyes peeled on Douglas' Morgan Berthiaume

DOUGLAS — Employed with nine smaller players on his roster, Douglas High girls' varsity basketball head coach Jerry Grudzien has decided that he will try his mightiest to not allow the opposition to wear the Tigers down inside the paint. Instead, Douglas has hopes of creating havoc before teams get too far past the midcourt.

Against Oxford High on Wednesday, Dec. 15, the Tigers' relentless defense was sharp, as they had countless steals and held the Pirates into single-digit scoring totals in all four quarters.

Douglas won the game, 39-25.

"We don't want them to come down and pick us apart. We're not a super big team, so we don't want to get into that half-court game with these bigger teams," Grudzien explained.

Morgan Berthiaume, a Tigers' senior co-captain, led the defensive charge. She finished with an impressive 11 steals.

We really cut her loose. I have her pick [the opposition] up high and say, 'pick pockets, pick pockets. If not, get back and help," said Grudzien. "She's just a competitor. She's an athlete. She could be playing badminton and I guarantee you she'll be on the floor diving."

Berthiaume filled out the stat sheet even further with 12 points and 7 rebounds. Other top contributing Tigers included senior co-captain Triniti Sughrue (13 points, 14 rebounds) and sophomore Ava Lemire (10 points).

We used everybody today. You have to develop and at the same time compete,' said Grudzien, whose team improved to 1-1 following a season-opening loss to Blackstone Valley Tech.

Oxford, meanwhile, also has a team of nine players. They are much younger, though, as they are equipped with a senior, three juniors, two sophomores, a freshman and two eighth graders.

"It's the first game in two years for us," said head coach Joe Pietrzak, as the Pirates did not play in the winter of 2020-2021 due to COVID-19, while Douglas did compete against fellow Dual Valley Conference opponents. 'We're trying to find our way.

"We started pretty good in the first quarter," added Pietrzak, as the Pirates held an 8-4 lead and trailed by just three points (11-8) after the opening frame. "And then after that, I think they just wore us down.'



Oxford's Gwen Gustafson sets her feet and fires off a 3-pointer.

Douglas led at halftime, 20-17, before winning the third (9-6) and fourth quarters (10-2) to take the game by 14 points.

'Their physical strength overwhelmed us at times. Their guards are very good and they're very strong physically," said Pietrzak.

Senior Olivia Clarkson (11 points) and junior Alexis Steiger (10 points, 9 rebounds) scored 21 of the Pirates' 25 points, with junior Angelina Steiger and freshman Sophia Cornacchioli adding baskets. Junior Carly Cornacchioli pulled down 12 rebounds.

#### Webster Little League registration now open

Webster Little League 2022 spring baseball registration is now open online at WebsterLittleLeague.com for boys and girls ages 5-14 (age on Aug. 31). Sign up now through the end of December for early bird discounts. Multiplayer discounts offered as well. Final day to register is Jan. 31.

More information is available online and during the registration process. Don't forget to sign up for coaching and volunteer opportunities when registering — especially Tee-Ball and Coach-Pitch parents! Follow us on Facebook too, at Webster Little League.

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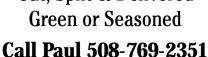


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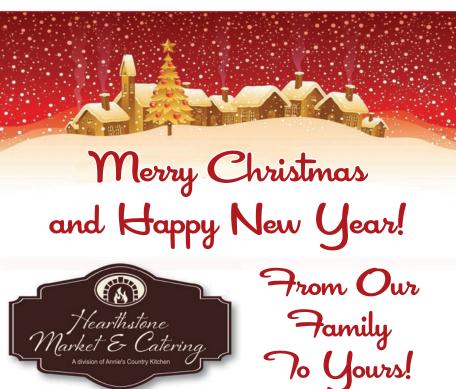


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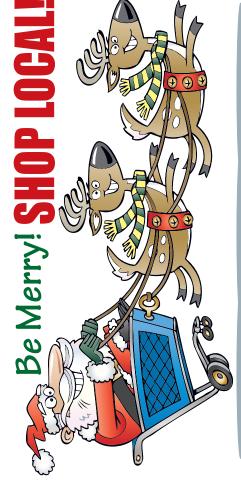






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