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Friday, December 21, 2018

Webster private roads can now be fixed legally

BY GUS STEEVES
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Although an outside observer might have expected the several marijuana items to be town meeting's most contentious, they weren't. Instead, what sparked the most debate and closest votes was a single article to create a bylaw covering how the town handles repairing private roads.

After voting on several amendments, the voters ultimately approved the plan 78-43. Under it (Chapter 573 of the bylaws), private road residents can now petition the selectmen and town meeting to do minor and major repairs.

The former – in the sense of basic grading, pothole-filling and plowing – is already being done for public safety reasons, while the latter – major repaving, widening and all drainage work – can now be done by what's called a betterment, in which the town fronts the cost and abutting homeowners agree to pay it back in "not more than 10 equal payments" within five years. It sets a very low figure – \$200 – for such a payment arrangement, with costs below that requiring repayment within six months.

The most debatable issue was who could request them. Ultimately, town meeting approved an amendment that changed the original proposal's 50% of the road's abutters to the more restrictive two-thirds of those with "primary linear frontage." It applied the same change to who pays for it, saying assessments would be "in proportion to the primary linear frontage."

The idea came from resident Bob Gordon, who objected to paying to fix a private road on which he said he has 700

feet of frontage but no access, since his driveway is on another street.

According to Highway Superintendent Ken Pizzetti, the changes were necessary to bring town bylaws into accord with state law, otherwise the state doesn't allow public funds to be spent on private roads with some exceptions. He said the town was "looking to continue to help" those residents with winter plowing and related acts.

Town Administrator Doug Willardson said the abutters decide how much work they want done, petition the selectmen, go through a public hearing, then need town meeting approval. Minor repairs are generally recommended by Pizzetti, and the town will fund them without seeking repayment. Major work can have two goals: bringing it up to town standards (about \$140-180 per foot) and seeking town acceptance (after which the town maintains it), and lesser repairs (\$100-130 per foot), after which the residents continue to maintain it.

Much of the debate sur-

Turn To **ROADS** page **A3**

Courtesy photo
Pictured in the photo (Left to Right): Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar, Officer James Annese, Volunteer from UMass Medical School, Mr. Patrick Lowe, and Officer David Carpenter.

Good turn out for turning in

The Dudley Police Department participated in the 17th annual Goods for Guns Buyback Program on Saturday, Dec. 15.

This program was sponsored by the UMass Memorial Medical Center's Injury Prevention Center and the Worcester County District Attorney's Office. Several communities in Central Mass participated in this effort to prevent injury or death from unwanted or unsafe guns in local homes. People who anonymously turned in guns were eligible to receive gift cards to Dudley Park N Shop. Residents turned in nine weapons. These were subsequently turned over for destruction.

District challenges funding formula

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – Surprising no one, but making a statement that's gone unheard for years, the School Committee unanimously approved send the state a resolution requesting full funding of the public school system.

Specifically, they argued on behalf of filling the shortfall of about \$1 billion per year in Chapter 70 funds, with Chairman David Horton noting that is "required by the state constitution," yet has not happened since Education Reform was implemented back in 1993.

"There was movement in both the House budget and the Senate budget [earlier this year], then, mysteriously, they [went] into conference committee and the cowards came out, in my opinion, with nothing," he said. He noted there's a need for "a grassroots effort that includes the parents" to put pressure on the Legislature to fix this issue, otherwise the Legislature could "act in a cowardly fashion again."

Later, Superintendent Ruthann Goguen noted there's been recent talk among bigger cities about suing the state to force such additional funding, although she's not sure whether that's actually going to happen. Horton noted a similar lawsuit is what forced the 1993 changes.

"It's really a social justice issue, to be honest with you,"

Goguen said. "We're not funding education and the results of MCAS are showing us that. We're leaving particular groups of kids behind."

Business Manager Monique Pierangeli pointed to the specific figures. This year alone, she said, the state's foundation budget formula calls for Webster to spend \$2.07 million on employee benefits, but it actually spends \$4.9 million. Regarding special education, the formula calls for \$2.1 million in spending, but the district's actual cost is \$6.4 million before the "circuit breaker" reimbursement and minus benefits. Elsewhere, she said, the district spends less than it should (for example, on profes-

Turn To **FUNDING** page **A10**

Town OKs pot rules

BY GUS STEEVES
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – A huge majority of Town Meeting voters approved a long list of warrant articles designed to locate and regulate recreational marijuana last week.

The closest of the seven relevant votes was 116-34 on Article 10, the most debated of the group. That item formally created two "overlay" districts covering the Kmart Plaza and Town Forest Road in the industrial park in which retail recreational pot facilities can locate. It specifies eight available par-

cels; gives the Planning Board special permit granting authority; prohibits delivery services, on-site consumption, and use of a building also housing residential units; sets traffic and customer "queueing" restrictions; and requires the site's shipping areas be separate from any others the complex may hold, among other things. Many of the new bylaw's requirements echo those in state law.

One voter, however, sought to expand the zones where such shops could go to include the town's B4 and B5 business dis-

Turn To **POT** page **A2**

Dudley police chief responds to ethics complaint

BY JASON BLEAU
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Police Chief Steve Wojnar is responding to a recent ethics complaint concerning his continued involvement with Nichols College beyond his duties within the Dudley Police Department.

Chief Wojnar appeared before the Board of Selectmen in early December to clear the air about a recent complaint filed against him about teaching classes at Nichols College. The chief has been teaching a class on campus since 2009

Turn To **CHIEF** page **A5**

DONATING TO A CAUSE

Courtesy photo

Knowing the importance of helping families in need, the All Saints Academy National Junior Honor Society students organized and accomplished a very successful school-wide non-perishable food drive. On Dec. 6, the members donated 1,537 items to the Saint Vincent De Paul Society beating their goal of 1,000 items!

A STORY OF CHRISTMAS PAST

BY ED NEAL

It all started on December 1, 1917 in the midst of World War I. The ship, the Mont Blanc, left New York for Halifax, Nova Scotia with a cargo of 2,989 tons (almost six million pounds) of munitions on its way to join a convoy of ships headed to Boudreaux, France, delivering war supplies to troops.

In the early hours of Dec. 6, the Mont Blanc collided with a Belgian Relief ship, the Imo, in Halifax harbor. While the Imo was able to make way, the Mont Blanc caught fire.

Captain Aime Le Medec gave the order to abandon ship. It was at 9:04 that morning that the Mont Blanc exploded in what, to this date, remains the world's largest man made non-nuclear

explosion.

1,600 men, women and children died instantly. 9,000 were wounded. 12,000 homes were flattened or made uninhabitable. Water surrounding the ship vaporized, causing a 20 foot tidal wave to cause further devastation. Windows as far as 50 miles away were shattered by the blast.

Word of the disaster reached Boston by telegraph at 10 that morning. That day the city dispatched by train 13 doctors and surgeons, nurses, food, water and medical supplies the 750 miles to Halifax.

Slowed by a blizzard, the train did not arrive until Dec. 8.

"Boston was one of the first responders, a real lifesaver."

The medical personnel were immediately put to work, coordinating with doctors on hand, performing life/death surgeries, amputations and eye removals.

Following a tradition started in 1941, the Province of Nova Scotia sent Boston a Christmas tree, decorated by the city and displayed on Boston Common. In 1971, the government enacted legislation which provided that each and every year a tree would be taken from anywhere in the Provence and sent to Boston. Each tree is 40 to 50 feet tall and chosen for color and shape.

Homeowners consider it a privilege to have a tree chosen from their property. The tree cutting is attended by town and government officials, the

town crier, the Royal Mounted Police, townspeople, schoolchildren, a choir and Santa Claus.

"The whole Provence gets excited about the tree. It is a big deal."

In Boston, the tree lighting ceremony is televised and is typically attended by up to 20,000 people each year.

A friend's help in need makes a friend forever. One year's truck driver, David McFarland, said it best.

"It means a lot to all the Nova Scotia people what Boston did for us in our time of need when the explosion happened."

A Merry Christmas, and its spirit to follow us in the New Year to come.

TIME CAPSULES

Pork Roast Dinner--Dudley

The First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Rd. is having a pork roast dinner on Saturday Jan. 19. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors. The menu will include: pork roast, applesauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, and tossed salad. Dessert will be golden gingerbread with real whipped cream. Servings will be at 5:00pm AND 6:15pm. Adults: \$12; Preteens: \$6. Children 5 and under FREE. Handicapped Accessible. For Reservations Call (508) 943-7320. When prompted press *2. Leave the time of the seating you want, your name, telephone #, and the number in your party. Call

backs will only be made if there is a question about your reservation. We look forward to seeing you!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

OXFORD, OH — Dudley resident Nicole Kuchеров has been applying the tools of science, education and conservation to become a leader in the conservation community. In mid-December 2018, Kuchеров is expected to conclude her master's course of study earning a Master of Arts in biology from Miami University through Project Dragonfly. Since joining the Global Field Program master's in 2016, Kuchеров has traveled to Baja, Mongolia and Australia and has conducted projects that have made a difference in the Dudley area. Kuchеров is a science teacher at Beacon Charter High School for the Arts.

DWC MEETING

On January10 the Dudley Woman's Club will hold

its monthly meeting at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center at The Dudley Municipal Complex, West Main St. Dudley. Join us for "Making Scents for the New Year"! Julie St. Francis will introduce us to aromatherapy and healing oils. For our giving project, please consider bringing local business gift cards to help restock the tornado ravaged shelves of the Blessed Backpack Brigade. The Dudley Woman's Club is open to all women from Dudley and surrounding towns, and we welcome your attendance. Join us for this learning experience. Be our guest and discover what our Woman's Club is all about. For more information please send an email to DudleyWomansClub@gmail.com, contact Andrea at 508-868-7110 or visit our website: <http://DudleyWomansClub.org>.

Webster area services

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 23
Zion Lutheran Church, 70 Main Street, Oxford One service at 10:00AM

A PUPPET SHOW adaptation of The Nativity Story will be performed by the Sunday school children and their parents. The choir will sing Bethlehem Rhapsody, an adaptation of Bohemian Rhapsody made famous by the rock group, Queen, in the 1970s. The song will musically support the puppet show. All are welcome to attend our Music Ministry's most ADVENT-urous undertaking!

St. Andrew Bobola, Dudley
Christmas Masses will be held as follows:

Monday, December 24: 4 pm in English; Midnight Mass in Polish and English

Tuesday, December 25: 9 am in Polish; 10:30 am in English

POT

continued from page 1

tricts, which are largely downtown. After consulting with the town attorney, acting Moderator Andrew Jolda ruled the request "out of order" because it hasn't yet had a public hearing as state law requires for zoning changes.

Town Administrator Doug Willardson said the selectmen are already planning to hold a public hearing in January to look at expanding the available areas. One of the issues with current zoning is that the Kmart Plaza is now under a mortgage, and the bank won't allow pot facilities to lease there.

That in itself sparked some debate, with a resident wondering why the town was bringing this forward now if it wasn't complete.

Willardson responded by saying that since the October town meeting did not extend the current moratorium, it will expire on Dec 31, and town officials wanted to be sure something was on the books before then. Without it, he said, "a retail dispensary could open anywhere in town."

Some of those present noted that wasn't quite so, since any proponent still has to get a Host Community Agreement with

the selectmen, and none would be complete before the January meeting. Resident Robin Craver noted the selectmen could easily tell applicants they want to wait until then to take any action.

"It will not be a free-for-all," Willardson agreed.

In the Planning Board's report from their Dec. 6 public hearing on the pot articles, Vice Chair Michael Dostoler wrote, "Several members of the audience were opposed to the proposed overlay district locations for a variety of reasons including site-specific problems with traffic congestion and volume, other uses in an area that would exacerbate truck traffic, security (crime, vandalism), and a retaining wall issue specific to the Worcester Road location."

But none of those were raised at town meeting, and the board recommended approval of all articles as written.

One of the other items, Article 7, rezoned the site of Curaleaf's existing growing facility at 30 Worcester Road to "industrial" as a precursor to Article 8's expanding that zone to include pot research facilities by special permit. Company CEO Patrik Jonsson said they wish to test "very very small amounts" of cannabis in various formulas for injection into their edible products. In response to an audience

question, he noted they have "absolutely no testing on animals."

Regarding research facilities, Willardson said "there is a potential" other firms might seek to locate in town as well, but they'd "have to enter a host agreement." The town can recruit such firms, but they aren't covered by the state's 3% local-option tax (which covers only retail sales, and which voters approved in Article 5), so the town would negotiate some other kind of payment, he added.

By approving Article 6, voters also set a maximum of two retailers in town, and gave the selectmen authority to license all pot-related businesses annually. Under that section, selectmen must vote on any application within three meetings, can charge fines for violations, and can suspend or revoke licenses for violations after a public hearing. In that sense, it's much like the way the town deals with alcohol licenses.

Town meeting also approved all of the warrant's other articles, including several transfers and a new private road bylaw (see related story).

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

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\$291,000, 70 Boston Post Rd, Quaboag Valley Prop Mgmt, to Andrews, Mark.

\$215,000, 210 East Rd, Bailey, Virginia E, and Lajoie, Christopher T, to Brothers, Karen A.

\$185,000, 38 Keyes St, Johnson, Vernon C, and Johnson, Mary A, to Estores, Kristel.

\$80,000, 457 Washington St, Couture, David B, to Kupstas, Elizabeth, and Hanley, John.

DUDLEY

\$424,900, 2 Lindsey Ln, Baczek, Arthur J, and Baczek, Aileen, to Brimmer, Kelly A, and Brimmer, Jayson R.

\$387,000, 21 Camelot Cir, Stevens, Michael P, and Stevens, April L, to Sullivan, Robert N, and Sullivan, Kristen R.

\$320,000, 48 Alton Dr, 4 Lots Dudley RT, and Katsikis, Haralambos, to Choinski, Keith, and Choinski, Victoria.

OXFORD

\$350,000, 33 Joe Jenny Rd, Brimmer, Jayson, and Lahair, Kelly, to Miceli, Melissa M, and Miceli, Michael D.

\$245,000, 87 Larned Rd, Manzi, William J, and Manzi, Vera J, to Aniolowski, Lauren, and Aniolowski, Christian.

\$130,000, 36 Walnut St, Goodney Janice C Est, and Proctor, Charles F, to Abrahamson, William F, and Abrahamson, Sheri A.

\$70,000, Monument Dr #29, Lobisser Building Corp, to Claro Construction Corp.

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Dudley planning administrator hiring process

BY JASON BLEAU
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — With the recent announcement Town Administrator Greg Balukonis will be retiring in 2019, the Board of Selectmen is looking to get a jump start on finding the right successor for the job, with Balukonis' help.

Earlier this month Balukonis discussed the succession plan with the Board of Selectmen to ensure there is, in fact, a calendar or deadlines to ensure interviews are done, hiring is made official and a new town administrator is in place before he leaves the post on May 31. Balukonis has dedicated himself to assisting selectmen in any way possible with the transition and thus has taken the role of advisor to the board for the hiring process.

Balukonis explained he feels the job description needs updating in order to reflect the duties of the position and how they have changed since he came

on board four years ago. More importantly, Balukonis said the job description needs to reflect the provisions of a new bylaw adopted at the fall annual town meeting. Selectmen were willing to allow Balukonis control over updating the job description as they credited Balukonis for knowing the position, its responsibilities and how it has evolved.

This led to the main topic of discussion, a calendar for the succession plan. Balukonis already had a plan of action worked up for selectmen to consider, and presented it, working backwards from the expected hiring of June 1, 2019.

"I did it with the idea that (the town) didn't need to have someone brought in as an interim administrator. So, the thought was I kind of worked around the fact that the key date would be the start in June of 2019 and I like to work backwards. By the end of April, the board would want to vote on the appointment of the new administrator,"

Balukonis said.

The calendar further laid out deadlines for contract negotiations and interviews. To stay on schedule selectmen would need to perform preliminary interviews in February and March and final interviews in April. However, Balukonis said advertising for the position should take place right at the start of the new year in January to coincide with the Massachusetts Municipal Association's annual conference in Jan. 18.

"We don't have to do that, but I think it's kind of nice to have that out there, because everyone is thinking about positions and jobs and things like that and it's nice to be able to have that information out there. I think it's important," Balukonis said.

As of now that's as far as selectmen have gone in determining who will help lead the town from the town administrators chair in six months. Although he

WEBSTER TIMES

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may be leaving the position Balukonis called himself "high on Dudley," and promised to be an advocate for the community as they seek a worthy successor.

Selectmen called the calendar "aggressive" and "doable" and said their only hope right now is that they get a competitive pool of qualified candidates as they did in the past.

Boys and Girls Club among GWCF grant recipients

BY JASON BLEAU
STONEBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The Boys and Girls Club of Dudley-Webster was one of numerous agencies and organizations to receive generous grant awards from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

The foundation announced \$1.7 million and 159 grant awards earlier this month spread among 139 non-profit organizations to help build health communities across the region. In a press release Ann T. Lisi, the president and CEO of The Greater Worcester Community Foundation spoke about the importance of helping support these organizations and groups in their individual missions.

"We are honored to be a part of a strong and thoughtful network of strategic donors that are committed to making positive change in Greater

Worcester. I am especially excited that of the over \$1.7M granted, over \$400,000 went specifically towards early childhood projects, a Foundation priority," said Lisi. "Our Community Grant program is the largest funding cycle we have, and annually provides meaningful support towards the better of the community. We look forward to seeing the impact, especially for our community's children, in the year ahead."

The only local awardee is the Boys and Girls Club of Dudley-Webster which received \$5,000 to support their Junior Staff Development Program. Executive director of the club Lamel Moore called it a fantastic opportunity to help that program grow.

"We're able to provide summer jobs and programs and training to local high school teenagers who would like their

first jobs. It's a great opportunity for them to partake in what is called our career launch program," Moore said. "It's an opportunity for local high school students to get their first job and in a ironic way even learn if they're able to work with kids."

Director of programs Madeline Collins spoke about how the Junior Staff Development Program allows local students preparing to enter the workforce an opportunity to grow and to broaden their horizons as they look to their futures.

"It's great to see how much the kids grow over the summer when they're in the program and it's amazing to see how much they mature," Collins said. "We see the changes in their staff reviews and how they develop relationships with the kids. I think the most rewarding part for me is at the

end of the summer we hear about how they have great experiences and even some who tell us they're considering going to school to pursue child development. Funding like this is vital to the continuation of this program. I think to be able to have the funding allows us to provide more positions to those high school students and further our reach and our impact."

Moore offered thanks to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation for their support and explained that any funding and assistance is always welcome. It's because of grants like this the Boys and Girls Club can do what it does in supporting the growth and maturing of youth in the local community, even those as old as high school age.

"It's obviously a

ROADS
continued from page 1


rounded a proposal to eliminate the ability to have major repairs by betterment. The amendment's proponent, an Indian Point Road resident, said he was concerned that "some of those roads may be a mile long, so it would be very, very costly for the Highway Department to repair those roads."

An opponent to that amendment said his private road "has major problems with rain," developing a 200-foot-long "pond" every summer. But road residents "haven't been able to come to a solution," so he liked the option of a betterment.

Willardson said approving the amendment would have made all such repairs payable in advance by the road's residents, and wouldn't have given them any authority to make opposing abutters help pay the bill if most others want it. Under the betterment process as town meeting passed it, if at least 66 percent of them approve it and it goes through the town's 10-step process to achieve Town Meeting approval, those recalcitrant property owners would have to pay their share.

Willardson said a "fast track" project would probably take about six months for approval.

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



THE CHAMPIONS!

Courtesy photo

The 2018 Flag Football Boys & Girls Club Champions From left to right Hazael, Lee, Kam, Angelo. Not pictured Noah.

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Hot antiques and collectibles for 2019

In 2015, I wrote a top 10 list of some of the antiques and collectibles you may have in your home that are bringing great prices at auction. As 2019 approaches, I have a slightly modified list. I have also included some other things that didn't make the top 10 but are also selling very well. Here is the list for 2019, with number one being the most desirable, in my opinion.

10. Arts and crafts and art deco design furnishings
9. Mid-20th century Scandinavian and other modern design art and furnishings
8. Advertising signs, posters and displays
7. 1960s comic books, toys and other collectibles
6. 1960s and earlier baseball and other sports memorabilia
5. Gold coins and jewelry: silver coins, flatware and hollow ware
4. Important historical memorabilia
3. Antique paintings and other artwork by listed artists



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& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

2. Antique and classic automobiles and motorcycles
1. Early Chinese and other Asian antiques

These items continue to sell well, but there are plenty of rare antiques and collectibles that didn't make the list. Here are some examples of rare finds that have made their way to auction.

A circa 1880 ten point stag copper patinated (showing natural wear and oxidation) weathervane that came from a Massachusetts estate sold well at auction. It brought \$60,000 in 2012.

A rare "The Manila" 5¢ trade stimulator was named to honor Admiral Dewey. The quarter sawn oak base held a bubble top dome. A pistol would shoot the players coin into different slots that held different prizes. It sold for \$70,000.

According to askart.com, John Brewster Jr. was a deaf-mute itinerant artist. He traveled along the New England

coast advertising in local newspapers to paint portraits for \$15 and miniatures for \$5. One of his portraits identified as "Louella J. Bartlett" sold for \$77,500 in 2016.

The only known example of a Frankenstein insert poster from 1931 was auctioned in 2013. Larger posters had been found, but this was the only to have been found in this size. It fetched \$220,000.

A rare Marblehead vase recently sold at auction, according to the Antiques and Arts Weekly. It was one of four known examples designed by Annie Aldrich, decorated by Sarah Tutt and made by John Swallow. A 19 year old picker found it at a yard sale. It sold for \$307,500.

A map considered by many as the most important in American cartography sold for auction in 2017. The first edition, first issue of the 1755 Mitchell Map depicts the French and British Dominions in North America. 21 versions of the map were printed between 1755 and 1781. It brought \$400,000 at auction in 2017. Hopefully you find a rare map or other treasures in your



home that can help chart your way to a great 2019.

It was nice meeting readers of this column who attended the appraisal event at the Shrewsbury Historical Society on December 12th. Our winter live auction date will now be February 28th. My next "Evaluating your Antiques" class will be held on March 12th at the Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. The last classes sold out, so sign up early. See

www.centralmassauctions.com for details on these and other upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111), info@centralmassauctions.com

December Real Estate Market Update

According to Bankrate.com as of 12/16/2018 the rate on a 30 year fixed loan was 4.57%. Which is lower than it has been the last couple months. The market is still extremely strong but all the numbers are showing us going

towards or more stabilized market.

Today we have 1642 single family homes for sale in Worcester County which down from 6 months ago where we



REALTOR'S
REPORT

JAMES
BLACK

had 1785 single homes for sale. 12 months ago we had 1488 homes for sale which shows a more than 10.3% increase in inventory compared to the same day 12 months ago. Every month lately has

average days on market is currently 117 days which is creeping higher every month however last year at this time it was at 132 days. If we look at homes sold over past 12 months compared to the same time for the previous year there is a small decrease in sales of 2.2% and a 5.9% increase in average sales price while it is taking 13.3% less time to sell

the homes this year than last year in Worcester County. The big difference I noticed this month is that the amount of sales has decreased while our active inventory has increased from last year. Again this is a sign of stabilization in the market.

I would not recommend making a buying or selling decision based on these changes in the market. However, if you are thinking of moving soon I would suggest you meet with a Realtor that is familiar with your area and the economics of Real Estate to guide you on where you market is and where it will most likely be going. It is never too early to consult with a professional to understand the market and your steps to getting your home on the market.

Metacomet Land Trust meets 30th Anniversary fundraising goal

Metacomet Land Trust raised more than \$30,000 in donations and grants to reach its 30th anniversary fundraising goal in 2018.

"We are pleased to be celebrating our 30 year milestone as a regional land trust serving 15 communities," stated the organization's president Lisa Mosczynski, "We started out 30 years ago with three towns and as more communities saw the need to partner with a land trust to preserve and protect their valuable open space we have expanded to help them. Today we own 473 acres of conservation land and hold conservation restrictions that restrict development on an additional 343 acres. Among other partners, the trust works with individual owners, municipalities and the Commonwealth to preserve critical open space in the region."

In 2018 the trust finalized the acquisition of another 32 acres through landowner donations including:

Mendon: 17 acres were generously donated by George and Joan Ford to preserve and protect beautiful uplands and rich wetlands off of Hartford Avenue West.

"The Fords patiently worked with us through title searches going back to the original farmland in the 1800s," Mendon board representative Patrice Murphy recalled. "This section of "sprouts and saplings" will now be permanently conserved."

Sutton: 11 acres were generously donated by Sutton Development Trust. This parcel abuts the 38 acres donated to the land trust in 2017. Both parcels preserve and protect the shoreline of Stevens Pond in the village of Manchaug. The land trust is currently working with the Sutton Conservation Commission to place a conservation restriction on the parcels to further protect the property in perpetuity.

Upton: three acres donated by the Naze family.

"The generosity of the Naze family created the Blue Conservation Area on Crockett Road with frontage on the Mill River," Upton board representative Mike Penko explained. "The town of Upton also holds a conservation restriction on the property and Metacomet is currently working with the town to place a conservation restriction on Upton's Heritage Park."

The new year will be a busy one for the land trust with numerous ongoing projects in several of the communities it serves. Land owners and municipalities are urged to contact the trust to discuss a variety of "tools" that are available to help preserve and protect critical open space and trails for future generations.

Metacomet Land Trust is an all-volunteer, membership-based organization and is always ready to welcome new members and friends who want to work

with us. We are motivated by our motto: "Because we love where we live!" and we work to keep open space and recreation available to everyone.

We are currently looking for an assistant treasurer, help with coordinating our social media outreach, volunteers to help with outreach and fundraising and outdoor enthusiasts to help us with new stewardship projects like the creation and maintenance of trails. We also have an open position on our 15 member Board of Directors.

"Preserving and protecting land comes at a cost, most of which is shouldered by our members and donors" said treasurer Susan Speers of Franklin. "We truly depend on the public's support for conservation close to home."

Learn more about the trust at MetacometLandTrust.org, call us at 508-271-7131 or email us at info@metacometlandtrust.org.

Metacomet Land Trust is a 501(c)3 profit organization working on land conservation in 15 communities across southern Worcester County and Norfolk County including Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Norfolk, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, and Wrentham. Metacomet Land Trust owns 473 acres of conservation land and holds conservation restrictions on an additional 343 acres.

Show support with this special 'Hoyt' plate

HOLLAND – After several years of supporting the local father-son racing duo of Dick and Rick Hoyt, Massachusetts residents now have the opportunity to show their Team Hoyt support each time they get behind the wheel.

The Hoyt Foundation has been working with the Registry of Motor Vehicles to produce a new specialty license plate for Massachusetts motorists. The license plate design depicts Holland's Dick Hoyt pushing his son, Rick Hoyt, in his familiar running chair. Despite his quadriplegia and cerebral palsy, Rick hasn't let anything hold him back, accomplishing his dreams with his father always at his side.

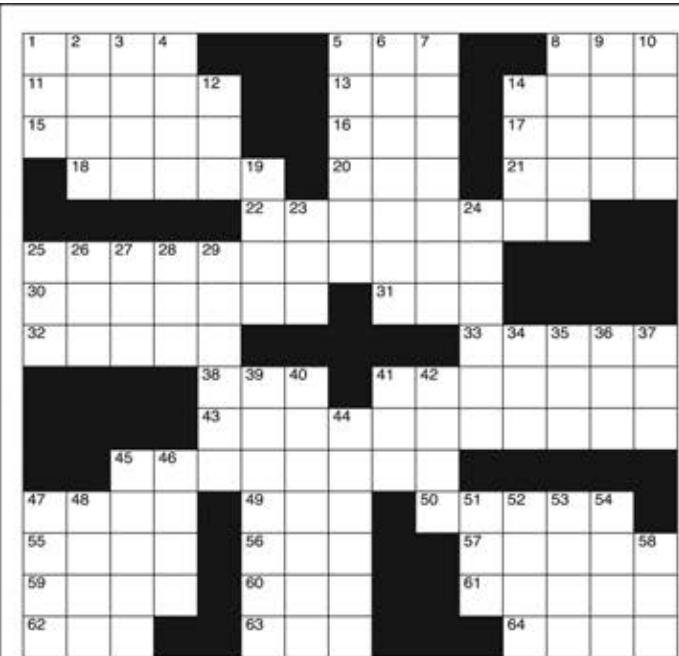
The Hoyts have become well-known for their annual involvement in local road races and the Boston Marathon. Their journey began back in 1977, when Rick Hoyt told his father he wanted to participate in a 5-mile benefit run for a local athlete who had been paralyzed in an accident.

Since then, the duo has completed more than 1,100 races together – including duathlons and triathlons – and they participated in their final Boston Marathon together in 2014 after 32 years.

Throughout their decades of lacing up and giving back, the Hoyts have always relied on support from area communities. Now they're hoping to see more of that same support for the license plate initiative.

The cost of each plate is \$40, with \$28 going to the Hoyt Foundation and \$12 going to the RMV for manufacturing costs. Upon renewal of each plate, the Hoyt Foundation will get the full \$40.

Pre-orders for license plates are currently being collected. If you're interested in applying for a plate, send an email to TeamHoytMAPlate@gmail.com. Additional information can be obtained on the Hoyt Foundation website: www.TeamHoyt.com.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Thick piece of something

5. Engine additive

8. Anticipated arrival time

11. French commune

13. Cigarette (slang)

14. Nobleman

15. Ghana capital

16. Adam's wife

17. Most popular student

18. Where you currently are

20. Increase motor speed

21. Queen of Sparta

22. North, South and Central

25. Churchgoer

30. Russian empress

31. Female daredevils organization

32. Relating to music

33. Female body part
38. Tyrion Lannister

41. Honored

43. Argentine footballer

45. Novices

47. Wings

49. Doctors' group

50. Packers' QB

55. Qatar capital

56. Unpleasant noise

57. Lovable elephant

59. Sleeping

60. Lute

61. Weight of a liter of hydrogen

62. Crimson

63. Returned material

64. Employee plan authorization (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Helps little firms

2. Type of curtain

3. Online stock exchange

4. Irish castle

5. Audio-system

6. Places to grab a drink

7. What's coming

8. Designed chairs

9. Stepped on

10. Genus of birds

12. Consume

14. Ancient Syrian city

19. Australian brewery

23. Not present

24. Necktie

25. What part of (abbr.)

26. Type of compound

27. Jogged quickly

28. Roth is one type

29. Mineral
34. Purpose

35. Financial term (abbr.)

36. Orange is the New Black character

37. Used to cut and shape wood

39. Bullfighter

40. Top of the line

41. Hill

42. Greek mountain

44. Angola's capital

45. Expressed pleasure

46. Fermented honey beverage

47. Month in the Jewish calendar

48. Frontal is one type

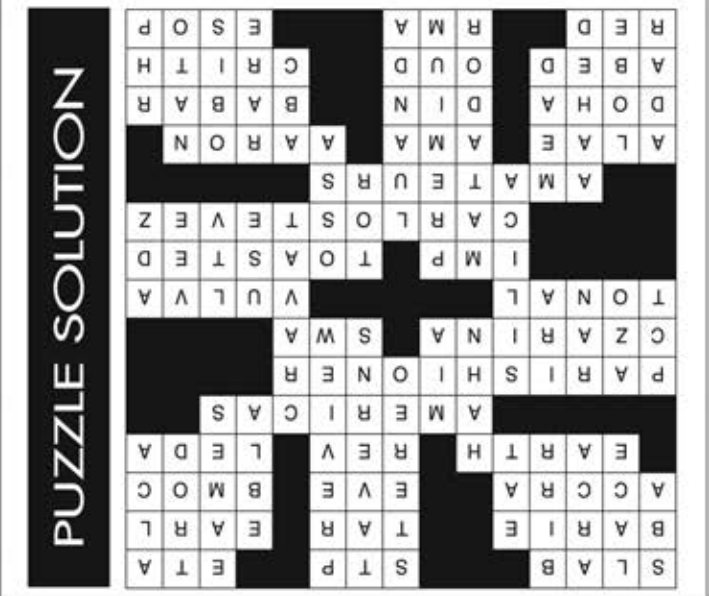
51. Basics

52. Uncommon

53. Broad kimono sashes

54. European defense organization

58. Box score term



Area fire departments honor fallen firefighter



Courtesy photo
Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy lost his life while battling a Dec. 9 blaze.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

Fire officials from throughout the area came together last week to honor fallen Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy.

On Dec. 9, the 36-year-old Shrewsbury resident became trapped while bat-

tling an early morning five-alarm fire at a Lowell Street apartment complex. Roy belonged to Ladder 4, Group 3 at the city's Webster Square Fire Station.

"Fire crews were heroic in their efforts to rescue their colleagues under extreme conditions," said Worcester Fire Chief Michael Lavoie. "Every person on the fire-ground gave 110 percent to try to rescue the firefighters who were in danger."

Conditions in the burning building rapidly declined, fire officials said, with heavy flames forcing several firefighters on the second floor to evacuate. With the assistance of additional crews, five firefighters escaped the building on ladders.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Hundreds of firefighters attended services and programs leading up to Roy's funeral on Dec. 15. For local officials, it was important to show their support for Roy's family and the Worcester Fire Department. December has been a tragic month for the department over the years, beginning in 1999 when six firefighters lost their lives battling a blaze at the abandoned Worcester Cold

Storage and Warehouse Co. building.

On Dec. 8, 2011, Worcester Firefighter Jon Davies died while responding to an apartment fire.

"This is unfathomable. The [memorial anniversary] services for Jon Davies were held the day before, and the very next day Firefighter Roy lost his life," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons. "December has been a cruel month for the Worcester Fire Department. We want to do whatever we can to show our support."

Local fire departments collaborated with the area's fire district to arrange for coverage of their towns during services for Roy. In neighboring Auburn, firefighters took part in many activities to show solidarity with Worcester.

"No matter how much you prepare, you can never be fully prepared for every situation you might encounter," said Auburn Fire Chief Stephen Coleman. "Like Worcester, we train every day to make sure we operate as safely as possible in adverse conditions. But even when you're doing everything right, the job is inherently dangerous."

A memorial fund was created to sup-

port Roy's family. He had been a member of the Worcester Fire Department for nearly three years.

Meanwhile, support poured in over social media and at memorial events throughout the week. Locally, December has repeatedly brought tragic reminders to all departments of the dangerousness of the job.

"This has been very hard for everyone in our department. When it happens this close to home, it really hits you hard," Parsons said.

In a tradition reserved for all fallen firefighters, Roy's body was transported past his station enroute to Alfred Roy and Sons Funeral Home. Funeral services took place at St. John's Catholic Church following a private family procession. Roy was laid to rest at Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester.

A memorial fund has been established by the Worcester Firefighters IAFF chapter in the name of Roy's daughter, Ava Roy. Checks should be made payable to the Ava Roy Fund and mailed to the Worcester Fire Department Credit Union, 34 Glennie St., Worcester, MA 01605.

St. Joseph fields Legos team and earns Judges Award



Courtesy photo
Members of the St. Joseph Lego Robotics Team, the Metallic Meteorites

On Dec. 1st, the St. Joseph School first LEGO League Robotics team known as the Metallic Meteorites competed at the Worcester Qualifier held at WPI. Qualifier events are the culmination of several months' work and the chance for teams to shine!

This season's theme was Into Orbit. Teams were tasked with identifying a physical or social problem that could occur during extended space travel. After selecting a problem, teams had to find out about the solutions that already exist; think of a new solution or a way to improve a current solution through research; meet with experts; and, share their results. In addition, teams had to design, build, and program an autonomous robot capable of completing missions in a designated playing field. Most importantly, teams were expected to demonstrate Gracious Professionalism and

treat all people with respect and kindness.

St. Joseph School is proud to announce that the Metallic Meteorites were awarded the Judges Award for their research project. In addition, due to their overall scores in robot performance, robot design judging, and core values judging, the Metallic Meteorites were invited to compete in the State Tournament at WPI on Dec. 15th.

Team members include: Grade 5 – Paul Mankarios; Grade 6 – Dale Boudreau, William Colebourn, and Lauren Gingo; Grade 7 – Tessa McCabe, Noalani Perez, and Dominic Pigeon; Grade 8 – Patrick Mahler, Remonda Mankarios, and Olivia Montione. Alternate – Zane Ferri, Grade 6.

The team is sponsored by Leonard Montione and Nordic Shield and coached by Beth & Joey Boudreau and Mariusz Macko.

CHIEF
continued from page 1

and noted this is the first time such a complaint has come forward.

With that in mind, he wanted to address it as soon as possible and make sure that any concerns are resolved.

"I had contacted the Ethics Commission to see if there were any conflicts or problems. They didn't seem to see anything at that particular time and so I've just been going forward with business as usual," Chief Wojnar told selectmen on Dec. 3.

"Well recently someone filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission. It's an anonymous complaint about the fact that I am teaching there."

The Ethic Commission reviewed the situation, but the chief said there was no wrongdoing found. Still, he wanted the selectmen to authorize the town administrator sign off on a disclosure agreement through the Ethics Commission which would put the issue, and any further complaints, to rest.

"Basically, in a nutshell there are still no conflicts with anything there. I went over the entire process that we

have dealing with (the college) as far as details and other things that we do. I don't do any other detail work up there are the college. So what was recommended was that I file a disclosure statement and leave it on file with the town clerk. As part of this they had said that there has to be something on the record at an official meeting that the Board of Selectmen has done this," Wojnar said referencing past meetings with the Ethics Commission on the matter.

Selectmen agreed to move forward with the disclosure statement which will be put on file in the town clerk's office for reference should future complaints arise. Selectmen also ratified the previous decisions that allows the chief of police to teach at the college based on the chief's contract. Wojnar's course at the college is only a two-day a week course taking up an hour and a half each of the two days. He said this does not impede his ability to perform his job within the department.

As for why the chief believes a complaint is coming forward now after nearly 10 years of him teaching at Nichols he simply said, "You don't always have everyone that's a fan. We'll just leave it at that."

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4 OMAHA STEAKS BURGERS

LEARNING

Chaffee School hosts a month of kindness

This year we launched a kindness program called 365z. Over the past few months, students in every class have been recognized for their kind deeds by their principal, Robert Pelczarski, dressed as Captain Kindness.

Students have also made kindness pledges, and have reached out to community members to show kindness and appreciation. The Educare program walked to the Oxford Fire Department and gifted them with donuts.

One Oxford business, Oxford Market, chose to ‘pass it on’ by providing lunch to the Chaffee staff one day.

During the month of December, Mrs. Lavigne’s kindergarten class chose to focus on kindness to animals. Each child and their family chose a project that they could work on together. Some families donated to animal shelters, others volunteered to cuddle shelter animals, and one family even made a winter refuge for stray and lost animals. As a part of this initiative,

a local veterinarian, Dr. Kelly Guay, visited the students and shared with them a variety of ways for them to demonstrate animal kindness. Dr. Kelly discussed how to interact safely with unfamiliar animals, how to read animal signals, and also how she cares for unwell animals. Dr. Kelly even gave a mock physical to the classroom lizard mascot.

Courtesy photos



Wishing you Happy Holidays
and a prosperous New Year!

artwork by Quoc Yen
Khe Nguyen '20

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Park Avenue announces its students of the month

Park Avenue Elementary School announces these students have been recognized as students of the month during September and October. CONGRATULATIONS to our Students of the Month and THANK YOU for displaying Safe, Responsible, and Respectful behavior as well as the character trait of INTEGRITY: doing the right thing even when no one is looking! You are role models at Park Avenue Elementary and we are VERY PROUD of you! Students of the Month enjoying a delicious breakfast at the awards ceremony!



Nya Kiritsis and family



Nicholas Ahern and Mom



Angela Sarfo and Mom



Lilah Soule and Dad

Dudley Middle School
announces Students of
the Month

Student of The Month

Team 5-1: Sarah Starczewski

Team 5-2: Michael Hogan

Team 5-3: Hallie Dzivasen

Team 6-1: Piotr Nemera

Team 6-2: Ava Millete

Team 6-3: Izabella Lorente

Team 7-1: Abigail Boggio

Team 7-2: Emily Grammer

Team 8-1: Mireya Ayala

Team 8-2: Daniel Vitkus

U.A.: Yarellys Acosta Bernazar



Stella LaFountain with Mom and Dad



Julia Williams and Family



Courtesy photos

Nora Lubecki, Savannah Fallas, Dominic Faraci, Anylah Gaddy, Nya Kiritsis, Kylie Ebbing, Melonie Dilbert, Rihnaya Bembridge, Aaliyah Sabara, Xander Nieves, Ruby Roman, Deven Dagnese, Aidan Carney, Hayden Clements, Jadvyne Smith, Nathan Perry, Stella LaFountain, Brayden Wilcox, Mason Fallas, Norma Elmaola, Lilah Soule, Camryn Boyd, Cecilia McKay, Claire Calnan, Bella Shepard, Bella Huard, Angela Sarfo, Natalia DosSantos, Brooke Kasprzak, Julia Williams, Keren Napoli, Nathan Drew, Brett Beltzer, Kaelyn Renaud, Daysha Collins, William Torres Alicia, Conner Karpowicz, Nicholas Ahern

Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Zoey and I love animals so much!

Zoey is a very friendly girl of Hispanic and Caucasian descent. Zoey has a strong yet bubbly personality. She likes to be social and to make new friends. She is very caring of others around her. Zoey is excelling in school and is especially great at math. In her free time, Zoey loves to listen to music, sing and dance. Zoey shows an interest in art and fashion and loves to design and do arts and crafts. Zoey has a really big heart when it comes to animals and she even volunteers at her local animal shelter. Zoey is legally freed for adoption however she will benefit from having an open adoption with visits to her biological siblings and mother. Zoey will do best in a family where there is at least one mother figure present. Zoey will do well in a family which is childless or has children who are older. Zoey will thrive in a home where she receives a lot of one on one attention and consistency.

Photo by Shana Griffin.


Zoey ~ Age 11

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."



To sponsor Friday's Child call Tia at 508-909-4110 or email tia@stonebridgepress.news



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RUTH DEAMICIS
EDITOR
THE WEBSTER TIMES

EDITORIAL

Happiest holidays

Whether you are celebrating with family, friends or enjoying a little down time alone; this coming week is an interesting one for many reasons.

It means something to a lot of people; and not much to others. But that is neither here nor there for the basis of this essay. We want to simply wish everyone a bit of peace in their lives and to say thank you.

Thank you to those who will still be working at hospitals, on ambulances, at fire stations and at police stations; working as first responders and on call in whatever capacity is needed. And thank you for your service throughout the past year. You've been there. We appreciate it. It hasn't been an easy year; we've lost good people. These jobs are hazardous.

Thank you.

Thank you to those in the service whether overseas or away from home and stationed at places not near those near and dear to them. It is not easy even if you are still stateside, but thousands of miles away on a holiday. And if you are boondocked, it is twice as hard. Thank you for your service. We have lost the urgency of the war in the myriad of other news that has taken precedence in our lives. But young Americans are still in danger and losing their lives every day. Thank you for serving. Let us please remember them.

Thank you to those who volunteer. Whether it is by running for unpaid political office in a small town or working with a church or a service group such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis or another organization; they are unsung heroes in every one of our towns. The programs they run, the shelters, the meals, the food banks, the afterschool programs, the Scout troops...the list goes on and on. We are all better for their hard work and they are often not noticed. Yet if they weren't there, if these programs were to disappear, we would all be much worse for it.

Those who put in hours and hours on committees, boards and such are equally necessary. How would the work of our towns get done without these selfless volunteers? They are often the targets of unhappy citizens, true; but they do the best they can and continue on. They often take classes on their own, attend seminars and conventions to learn more about how to do their jobs better; and often do so by taking time away from paid jobs and their families.

While we are saying thank you let's remember all those who care for our children in several capacities. Not only must we thank our school systems and their many, many hardworking teachers and staff; but let's hear it for places like Boys & Girls Clubs, Little Leagues, YMCAs, and camps of every kind.

We are certain we are missing people who deserve our thanks, we are touching the tip of an iceberg here. These people and many more keep our towns running, keep them safe, and keep them the places we love.

Happy Holidays, and thank you all.

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Johnson: how pleased with W-D Club

To the Editor:

I want to start off by saying how pleased I am with the Webster-Dudley Boys and Girls Club. Before moving to the area from Attleboro I was not familiar with the Boys and Girls Club. While preparing to make the move to Dudley I knew I needed to find a place for my daughter to go after school. I started researching different after school programs in the area and found this to be a very reasonable price. My daughter started attending back in April, but I only recently started noticing her enjoyment for attending. She was asked to join the Torch Club and she was a little reluctant but once they started doing bake sales and different work to help the homeless, she was so enthusiastic. She loves helping people and this group allows her to do something she is passionate about. I recently had to tell her that there was a day she was unable to attend due to her band performance, but she insisted she could not miss writing the letters to the homeless. I know my daughter is a kind and caring person, but seeing this group help her with what she is passionate about makes me so happy we sent her to the Boys and Girls Club.

My daughter came home last month telling me all about how she was the Student of the Month. Although this may seem minor to some it was so rewarding for her even at 11 years old. She received a card with such positive words that not only made her feel good, but also made me happy to see not only do I know she is an amazing person, but these people also see it. Hearing positive words and being rewarded for the greatness you do is so important. Even as a worker it is nice to hear or even earn a raise for doing a great job. We do not tell each other enough how well others are doing, and I really think this is a great way to do that.

Many of the benefits of the Boys and Girls Club is the affordability and the ease of the buses taking them from school to the program. These are not the only benefits though. The staff is so friendly and kind. My daughter even saw some of them at Dippin Donuts and was waving, because although they are the staff, she sees them as friends. My daughter has told me how there are days maybe her friends are not at the Boys and Girls Club, but the staff make sure to make her feel welcome and like she is not alone there. Sending my daughter here reassures me that she is safe after school and that the people she is with are taking good care of her.

While living in Attleboro my daughter wasn't overly interested in joining after school programs and now that we have moved to the area and she has joined the Boys and Girls Club. She seems so much happier and social. She has joined the color guard and cartooning club at Dudley Middle School and she has now joined the Torch Club at the Boys and Girls Club. I am so happy with this after school program and how much it has helped her blossom into this amazing person.

Thank you,

AMANDA JOHNSON
DUDLEY

Considering possibilities of being vegetarian...and why

Have you ever considered becoming a vegetarian or vegan? First, let me define what these terms mean.

A vegetarian is someone who does not eat meat. The vegetarian spectrum begins with partial vegetarians. They might not eat red meat, but they eat fish and chicken. Then there are lacto-ovo vegetarians. They don't eat meat, fish, or chicken, but they eat eggs and other dairy products. When someone says they are a vegetarian, but not a vegan, that is usually what they mean.

Finally, there are vegans (pronounced vee-gun). They don't eat meat, fish, chicken, eggs, or other dairy products. They usually don't wear any animal products such as leather. Some vegans don't even eat honey. I've heard stories of extreme vegans who go to great lengths to avoid bringing any harm to any animals including insects.

People become vegetarians and vegans for different reasons. Some do it for health reasons. Many recent books and videos have come out in favor of a Whole Foods Plant Based diet. Studies have shown that this diet slows and can even reverse heart disease. It also reduces cancer and diabetes, and other degenerative diseases. Caldwell B. Esselstyn Jr., MD, who helped save Bill Clinton's life, wrote the book, Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease. I heartily recommend this book. YouTube has countless videos on the subject as well.

Others, like me, become vegetarians or vegans for animal rights reasons. Many like me believe that activities such as hunting and fishing are barbaric and amount to animal cruelty. We believe, and scientific studies recently confirm, that animals feel pain, have emotions, bond with their families, and communicate with each other.

I first became a lacto-ovo vegetarian on Nov. 25, 1975. I was visiting my mom for Thanksgiving. I was walking up the stairs of my mom's six-floor apartment building for the exercise. I have a very sensitive nose. Suddenly, the scent of all the turkeys being cooked hit me like a cannonball. It occurred to me, "Why do all these turkeys

THE
VEGETARIAN
TROUBADOUR

.....

ANDREW
TARGOFF

have to die for Thanksgiving?"

I decided right then and there that after eating what mom cooked for me, I would no longer eat meat, fish, or chicken. A year or two later, I stopped wearing leather as well.

Two years after arriving in Massachusetts to attend Berklee College of Music, in 1987, I went on my first date with the woman who later became my wife. When I arrived at her house to pick her up, she was wearing a fur coat! I told her that I would not go on a date with her if she was wearing that. She proceeded to throw it out entirely. That's when I knew she must really like me. We are still deliriously happy together today.

Fast-forward 30 years and I discovered Facebook, when I was told through a music business course which I had purchased online, that Facebook is a great way to promote oneself. I came to find out that a second cousin of mine was a vegan. Every day she kept posting about the poor conditions for the animals at dairy farms, and how many of the males are still killed. Also, I had already read the books about the harmful effects of eating dairy products. So on June 11, 2017, I decided to go totally vegan.

One day I got a Roku, and started watching health videos on YouTube on my TV. I adopted the Whole Foods Plant Based diet, and combined it with a bit of intermittent fasting and exercise, and I dropped 40 pounds. Now I feel great at the tender age of 64.

So if you want to become a vegetarian or vegan, start with You Tube and Facebook. You can find recipes, join vegan Facebook groups, learn all about getting proper nutrition on the Whole Foods Plant Based diet, watch TED talks with the most eminent nutritionists in the world, find fellow animal rights advocates, and even find great restaurants which serve vegan food.

Beware the scammers this season

A variety of financial "scams" continue to occur. These are prevalent around this time of the year, particularly designed to take advantage of people's generosity. I was again asked to warn residents of another type of illegal activity.

Telephone, internet, and mail scams have been occurring for many years. With advances in technology, these have occurred with greater frequency. Those responsible prey on unsuspecting individuals and they obtain either quick cash or other personal data, such as bank account numbers. Armed with this information, they can commit identity theft and access your finances. The quickest and safest way to guard against this is to not provide personal information unless you are confident it is for legitimate purposes. A resident recently was contacted and told their social security number was deactivated. They would need to contact a specific number to have it re-activated. Fortunately, the person did not act on this recommendation. Should this occur, and you wish to check on your status, the Social Security Office is the best resource. The government rarely, if ever, conducts business over the phone. If you have your taxes prepared by a professional, they should also be able to assist you. You may seek assistance through your bank, credit card companies, or other agencies you do business with to determine your best course of action. Identity protection services can also help bring you peace of mind if that is the way you wish to proceed. These can play a vital role in safeguarding your identity by notifying you of attempts to access your personal information.

Be cautious if you receive unexpected checks in the mail or requests for bank or personal information. Typically, the original check is no good and the victim is out their money. Other scams promise an individual a large sum of money in exchange for the purchase of gift cards, such as Visa, Mastercard, or "iTunes." They encourage a victim to buy them and send them the pre-paid card numbers. If successful, the victim will lose everything they spent and receive nothing in return.

The important thing to remember is do not conduct business transactions unless you are sure of the people and places you are dealing with. This is especially important at this time of the year when people are buying several items on line. If you are not expecting something (money or other items), there is a strong likelihood that the offer is not legitimate. Be very cognizant of these occurrences and report these immediately to the police and or your bank. Be very protective of your personal information. When in doubt, ask a question of the proper authorities and avoid becoming a victim.

On behalf of everyone at the Dudley Police Department, I wish you and yours a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

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

Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

What's smarter – paying off debts or investing?

It probably doesn't happen as much as you'd like, but you may occasionally have some extra disposable income. For example, perhaps you have recently received, or will soon receive, a year-end bonus. Or maybe you will get a sizable tax refund in just a few months. Wherever this money comes from, you will want to put it to good use. Should you use the cash to pay down debts or should you invest it instead?

There's no simple answer, and everyone's situation is different, but here are a few suggestions for helping you make a good choice:

Evaluate your cash flow. If you already have enough cash to meet your daily living expenses, you might lean toward investing the money, but if you are just getting by, possibly due to heavy debt payments, then you might be better off using your newfound funds to reduce your debt load. Another way of possibly reducing your debt load is to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Once you have such a fund, you could use it, instead of going into debt, to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.

Evaluate your debts. Some of your debts are actually more "expensive" to you than others. This expense level doesn't necessarily refer to the size of the debt, however. You might have a large mortgage, for instance, but because your interest payments are typically tax deductible, your "after-tax" interest rate may be relatively modest. Therefore, you might consider using your excess cash for investments, rather than paying down your mortgage. But if you have consumer loans or credit cards that carry a high interest rate

and whose interest payments are not deductible, you might be better off paying down this debt.

Evaluate your investment opportunities. You may have heard that one season or another is a "better" time to invest – but there's really no strong evidence to support this claim. However, now that we are nearing the end of the calendar year, and only a few months away from the tax-filing deadline on April 15, you may want to take advantage of at least one time-related investment opportunity.

Specifically, you could use whatever extra money you have to fully fund your IRA, if you haven't done so already. For

Turn To **FINANCIAL FOCUS** page **A9**

Picking, preserving and perfecting the holiday evergreen

A holiday tree is the center of the yuletide celebration. Decked out in garland and adorned with ornaments, the stately Christmas tree is not only a tradition but the source of both merriment and sentiment. It's no wonder choosing a special evergreen is a task not to be taken lightly. Whether freshly cut, balled and bagged, or artificially constructed, the choices are pleasantly plentiful.

Read on for ways to ensure this year's pick is truly trim worthy!

Oh Evergreen!: Selecting a fresh Christmas tree is a fun family tradition, but getting caught up in the festivities, one can overlook the requirements of a successful pick. The first thing to remember is in a lot or on a farm, a tree can look much smaller than it will in your home. Rule number one is to always bring a tape measure to ensure a proper fit.

When choosing a freshly cut evergreen, look for nice, even coloring throughout the tree with no signs of browning. Also, beware of brittle branches, which are another sign of an old tree that may not last the season in a heated home. Look for flexibility in a bough.

To test freshness, pick a needle and bend it. A fresh fir needle will snap; a fresh pine needle will bend, but not break. The old "shake tip" really reveals a tree's freshness. Simply shake from the trunk, or wave a bough and observe how many needles fall off. If it is more than several, keep looking.

Live trees balled with the root and wrapped in burlap or containers (a.k.a. balled and bagged trees) are a great

choice if you plan on planting the tree after the holidays. The most important consideration with a balled and bagged tree is to make sure the tree species can thrive in your climate zone.

Faux Forest: If a fresh cut tree is impractical, an artificial tree can be a good investment - if you choose wisely. When evaluating artificials, buy the best you can afford as skimping on such a purchase will shorten its lifespan. Did you know a well made artificial tree can last a decade or more? Choose trees with many branch tips and multiple needles, thus creating a "fullness" that rivals the real deal.

Look for easy to set up models with hinged branches for quick and easy set up. High end trees often come equipped with an abundance of lights. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to hold a tree laden with heavy ornament and garlands. Lastly, consider a tree that can easily refold into a box or bag, for hassle free storage.

Evergreen Elixirs: Evergreen branches and boughs take center stage this season, but if you're adding sparkle with lights, you may be fretting about fire hazards. Here's a thrifty solution to make your evergreens more fire resistant: Mix together five tablespoons borax and four tablespoons Epsom salts in two quarts of water. Fill a spray bottle and spritz the tree or wreath completely, then allow to dry. Make up a double batch and spritz your tree too! Remember, this doesn't fireproof the greens, so always use standard fire prevention.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

spoon of liquid chlorine bleach in a two-gallon bucket. Fill the water reservoir with this solution.

How does it work? This mixture helps keep trees moist because fresh-cut trees, which absorb and digest corn syrup as an energy source, don't have to waste as much energy converting stored sugar. Therefore, they can focus on staying green and beautiful!

Christmas Tree Preservative: If your family loves decorating a real tree, but you hate the mess of fallen needles, and the fear of sparking branches - don't despair! And don't spend big bucks on commercial preservatives either. This recipe will save the tree, some money, and maybe even a few frayed nerves:

Ingredients: one gallon water; one cup ammonium sulphate (available

from garden supply store); two tablespoons borax (available from grocery or hardware store); a few aspirins or three tablespoons glycerin, or three tablespoons sugar.

Instructions: Mix first three ingredients together well. Pour into a spray bottle. Spritz on tree and pour the remainder into the tree stand instead of in water.

Saw off the bottom of the trunk, one to two inches and use a drill to bore a narrow hole up through the middle of the trunk. Then fill the hole with cotton, and pack tightly. Put the base in warm water as soon as possible. Warm water

Turn To TRAINOR page A10

FINANCIAL FOCUS

continued from page A8

the 2018 tax year, you can contribute \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older. (Depending on your income, you may not be able to contribute the full amount to a Roth IRA.) You've got until the April 15 deadline to fully fund your IRA, but if you have the money sooner, why wait? The quicker it's in your account, the faster it can go to work for you.

One final suggestion: If you have a company match as part of your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, consider contributing enough to get your employer's full matching contribution before you pay down debts - don't leave this "free money" on the table.

Your year-end bonus, tax refund or other source of beyond-the-paycheck money can help you make progress toward your financial goals - so evaluate your situation and options carefully before making any moves. It will be time well spent.

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



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Switching gears from hunting to ice fishing



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As the last segment of the Massachusetts deer season slowly comes to an end on Dec. 31, many sportsmen have their sights on ice fishing. Although a few small ponds had safe ice on them last week, anglers are hoping for a good freeze that would make larger bodies of water safe. My brother Ken caught a few trout on a local club pond last week, and reports of anglers fishing ponds in Milford was good news.

Jig fishing is one of my favorite forms of ice fishing, and can be extremely exciting when a school of yellow perch and other pan fish go into a feeding frenzy.

Ice fishing with tilts or fish traps as many anglers call them today with a group of friends, can also be rewarding, and can have anglers racing over the frozen ice, attempting to be the first one to the fish trap when a fellow angler shouts out “FLAG.” It is best to observe the spool of line in the water prior to picking up the trap to see if the line is being pulled from the spool. If the spool is spinning, it is a good sign that you have a nice fish on the other end. Carefully picking up the trap and grabbing the line to set the hook is the start of landing a possible lunker fish! Slowly retrieving the line and laying it on the ice, you will soon realize how big the fish may be if the line tightens and you need to allow the fish to take some line back. Allowing the line to slip back through your fingers until the fish ends his run, you will need to start all over again retrieving the line. That is why it is very important to lay the line carefully on



Captain Mel True Jr.'s daughter Lexie on one of her first ice fishing adventures with her dad.

the ice as you try to retrieve the line. If the line becomes tangled, you could lose the big fish to broken line.

Most anglers fishing with ice traps prefer to use shiners, although some prefer worms or crawlers. The latter need to be changed every half hour, as the cold water can take its toll on the live bait. Fishing for trout, some anglers prefer salmon eggs or grubs for bait which is fished close to the bottom.

Prior to setting up bait when ice fishing with fish traps, each hole should be checked for depth using a heavy weight. This will give you an idea of the depth at which you will set your bait. If no bites are realized in a half hour, try bringing the bait up a few feet. Sometimes it is necessary to move your traps 50 ft. or more trying a new location. It can make a big difference! Some of the best local ponds and lakes are Wallum Lake, Meadow Pond , Arcade Pond, Manchaug Pond , and Webster Lake.

Cape ponds can produce some real nice fish and they include Hamblin Pond that produce some real nice trout

including huge bass and yellow perch. Peters Pond, Cliff Pond and Sheep Pond are also great ice fishing spots on the Cape.

A bit North of the valley is Comet Pond that produce some impressive fish in the winter months.

Some more serious ice fishermen also use an electronic portable fish finders to locate fish. Setting the unit over the hole can show you the bottom and fish that are suspended or feeding at the proper depth. Just because you find fish with the unit it does not always produce fish. Using the proper bait and method of fishing can make a big difference. Using a fish finder can show the fish actually biting the bait, giving the angler the precise time to set the hook.

Be sure to take the family along and enjoy a great day in the outdoors. Building a fire and cooking some venison, hamburgers, and hotdogs over an open fire provides some of the best eating and family fun. Always be sure of the safe ice you are fishing on, and do not let the kids wander away from the group. Dangerous ice can be only a few feet away.



Courtesy photos

Mickey Deane with a 10 point buck taken in the Valley.

This week's picture of a 10 pt. 189 lb. buck taken in the valley by Mickey Deane, was a once in a life time deer for any sportsman, although he stated that another buck was spotted in the same area carrying a similar set of antlers. I am sure he will be hunting with his black powder gun in hopes of taking the huge buck. He still has a few days to hunt for the monster deer. The huge antlers that local deer are sporting in the valley are indeed impressive. David Stainbrook, Mass Fish & Wildlife moose and deer biologist, recently wrote a great column in the Massachusetts Wildlife magazine on the whitetail deer in

Massachusetts!

One of the most important parts of the column was the controversial issue dealing with local residents feeding deer corn to the deer that are visiting residents back yards. Deer are now feeding on their winter diet of browse and grass, and feeding corn to them at this time could prove to be fatal to the deer, as their digestive system cannot properly digest corn at this time of year! I would recommend that residents and sportsmen get a copy of Stainbrooks indepth report on the Massachusetts deer habits.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Help for home heating available

WCAC's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) fuel assistance and Energy Efficiency programs assist homeowners and renters with home heating bills, past due balances on utility bills, and in some cases receiving forgiveness credit and making monthly payments. Energy efficient weatherization, heating system repair and upgrades can help to stretch energy dollars.

LIHEAP officially opened November 1st and will accept applications through April 30th. Assistance can be applied towards home heating bills incurred anytime during that time frame. Eligibility is based

on the number of individuals who live in a household, their combined income, housing status and fuel type. Help is available whether a household heats with oil, gas, wood or propane.

All first time applications must complete a face-to-face interview. New applications can be submitted at the Worcester Office located in the Denholm Building, 484 Main St., Worcester without an appointment weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. New applications also accepted by appointment at outreach sites in Southbridge, Webster, Spencer and West Warren. Please refer to WCAC's website for details informa-

tion about required documentation to apply.

CITIES/TOWNS WCAC SERVES: Worcester, Auburn, Brookfield, Boylston, Charlton, Charlton City, Charlton Depot, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Holden, Jefferson, Leicester, Cherry Valley, Rochdale, Millbury, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, North Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Fiskdale, Sutton, Manchaug, Warren, West Warren, Webster, West Boylston, West Brookfield.

If you or someone you know is struggling with home heating bills, WCAC may be able to help!

FUNDING

continued from page 1

sional development and maintenance), but the “overall gap in spending is \$5.3 million across the district.”

“This is not just an urban problem... it affects everybody in the state of Massachusetts,” Pierangeli said. The problem was first seen as one in larger districts (cities), but it’s “the tale of 100 cities, not just the tale of four cities or our city.”

The issue has been floating around for years. Back in 2014, the Legislature voted to create a 21-member Foundation Budget Review Commission to look at the funding inequities and report back by June 2015.

Even then, the commission found vast disparities, noting statewide benefit spending “exceeds the foundation budget allotment by more than 140

percent.” That’s mostly due to health insurance costs that have risen “at a significantly higher rate than the rate of inflation used to adjust the foundation budget,” the report found.

Regarding special education, it found districts usually have more special ed students who cost more than the foundation covers. Most notable was the disparity in those being sent out of district for special services. “Districts spend far more on special education tuition for out-of-district placements than what is allocated through the foundation budget. In FY13, actual costs were 59% higher than the foundation budget rate of \$25,454.”

Among that report’s recommendations were to add retiree health insurance to the foundation budget, index insurance to the state Group Insurance Commission average, increasing the assumed percentage of special ed kids and payment for out of district costs.

At that time, meeting such goals would have required a foundation budget increase of \$800 million, a Chapter 70 aid increase of \$495.3 million, and a local contribution increase (for all districts combined) of \$47 million.

It’s available online at the Massachusetts Taxpayer Foundation’s website, although the MTF opposed funding the gap in a 2015 statement. It argued, “The Commonwealth is operating with a structural budget deficit that is the result of increases in spending outpacing recurring revenue growth. In short, current state finances do not allow for an increased state investment in Chapter 70 of hundreds of millions of dollars per year.”

To Goguen, that can’t continue. She said districts “are playing a shuffle game” in which money is used to meet the most crucial goals, “so there’s no consistency in support, and the result is the students suffer.”

Webster Educators’ Association co-president Ellen Jeffers said if the need was fully funded, it would give Webster about \$2.9 million extra annually. That money could decrease class sizes, add to professional development and support for special ed and the accelerated learners, increase the available supplies and help the district “offer school employees new affordable health care options,” she said.

Pierangeli said she doesn’t expect to see the entire shortfall filled this year, but the goal is to add \$1 billion over four years.

“It’s getting people’s attention. The Legislature and senators and everybody is listening,” but it “needs public support” to ensure something happens, she said.

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

TRAINOR

continued from page A9

will melt the sap, allowing the tree to drink more easily.

**

Tree Talk

*Want your fresh tree to last longer? The lower the temperature and the higher the humidity, the longer your tree will last.

*Placement is also important. Avoid setting up a tree near a heat source or in front of a window that gets direct sun.

*Keep in mind miniature lights, which produce lower heat, do not dry out the tree as fast as larger, hotter lights.

*Did you know? A freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!

*Want to avoid a trail of fallen needles to the back door? Before you set up your tree, place a tree disposal bag around the base of the trunk prior to placing it in the stand. At the end of the season, simply pull the bag up over the entire tree.

*Check with your local trans-

fer station or recycling center to find out if they offer a tree pick up.

*Going artificial this year? You can still mimic the fresh scent of balsam, simply by sprinkling your carpets with a pine scented carpet freshener before vacuuming. Since smell is the most potent of our senses, visitors to a house that smells like the holidays will feel doubly welcomed!

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House
Your tips can win you a great

dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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SPORTS

Pirates preserve lead to get past Auburn, 68-43



Oxford's Joel Erickson slices through Auburn's defense before hoisting up a shot.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

AUBURN — Well, you can say this about the Oxford High boys' varsity basketball team: they're quick learners.

Five days after squandering a second half lead in a double overtime loss at Millbury High, the Pirates went to Auburn High and preserved one, defeating the Rockets, 68-43, Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Pappas Gymnasium.

McAddai Owusu, Oxford's senior co-captain, scored 14 of his game-high 23 points in the first half, after which the Pirates led, 35-29. Junior Elijah Williams (17 points) drained one of his five 3-pointers in the opening minute of the second

half to push the Oxford lead to nine, 38-29.

Auburn, much like Millbury did in the previous game, called a quick timeout and regrouped. The Rockets then came out and scored seven straight points — a 3-pointer and foul line jump shot by junior Cam Bolduc (a team-high 15 points) and a layup by freshman James Whittemore — to pull within a basket, 38-36, with 5:41 remaining in the third quarter.

It was now Oxford's turn to call a timeout and head coach Dave Aldrich's message to his team was a simple one.

"Coach told us to close our eyes and take two deep breaths," Owusu said. "After that we were back to normal. We stayed focused and com-

posed and continued what we were doing."

Indeed they did, as the Pirates (1-1) finished the quarter on a 15-5 run to take a 53-41 lead into the final frame. In that fourth quarter Oxford ratcheted up its defensive effort, allowing the Rockets to score just one basket while netting 15 points of its own to account for the 68-43 final.

"The most important thing we did tonight is what we didn't do — crack under pressure," Aldrich said. "They made a little run so we called timeout and told the team to focus on what we needed to do, not what they were doing."

"From a basketball standpoint what we also did coming out of that timeout was to execute our second trap on defense; we didn't do that against Millbury," Aldrich continued. "Tonight we second-trapped and it made all the difference."

Owusu said the Pirates worked on the second trap a lot heading into the game.

"We focused on the second trap all week in practice," Owusu said. "Once they passed the ball a second time in the backcourt we would trap a second time and then we tried to steal the ball or intercept a pass coming out of the second trap."

"We stress intelligence and intensity. We always play with intensity but we don't always play with intelligence," said Aldrich, who was frustrated by his team's inability at times to see the big picture. "With two minutes to go we're up 14 and we're out at midcourt trying to steal the ball and instead we commit a foul. It's about getting smarter. But we did play much better defense tonight."

Also scoring in double figures along with Owusu and Williams was junior Alex Duval, who pumped in 19 points and canned a pair of 3-pointers.

"We're playing pretty well, but it's not our best basketball yet. The best is yet to come," said Owusu, who added that the team is starting to mesh



McAddai Owusu of Oxford soars through the air while driving toward the basket.

into a cohesive unit. "Alex and I have been playing for eight years now, so it's all good. We're just trying to build the team around us; trying to get the best chemistry going that we can and keep it going."

Junior Coleman Picard also scored in double figures for Auburn (0-3); he dropped in 10 points. Senior Nick Gonyea added seven points while junior Justin Skaparas chipped in five.

"I thought throughout the game Oxford definitely dictated the pace on offense and defense. They were clearly the more physical team and that definitely showed," Rockets' head coach Dan Koen said. "We couldn't get any offensive sets going and we struggled on

defense keeping kids out of the paint and keeping kids in front of us. All the credit goes to Oxford, they played really hard and really together."

Auburn was clearly a frustrated team in the fourth quarter.

"We need to learn to get over that mental hurdle. We make one mistake and turns into two and then two mistakes turn into three instead of just focusing on the next play and making that the best play it could possibly be," Koen continued. "We still have a relatively young team in the sense that some of the kids didn't play last year. And for the ones that did, now it's a new year with a new coach and a new system and they're adjusting."

Wolverines win 'rock fight' over Oxford, 50-42



Oxford's Gina Parmenter pushes off a 3-pointer versus Leicester.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

OXFORD — Lessons were learned when the Oxford High girls' varsity basketball team hosted Leicester High on Thursday, Dec. 13, and from both sides. For the Wolverines, who won the game (50-42) and improved to 3-0, they found out how tough they can be. For the Pirates, now an uncharacteristic

0-3, they learned that they can fight through adversity and nearly take down an undefeated team.

"This was a rock fight," explained Leicester head coach Dave Padavano. "These girls are tenacious, they are tough, they bring that to basketball. Their toughness is what carries them to tough games like this."

"I think Dave called it a 'rock fight' and we felt

the same way," added Joe Pietrzak, head coach of Oxford. "Today was really, I think, a game we can use as a catapult moving forward. The intensity that we showed today was awesome, and we need to bring that every day."

The Wolverines led at all the stops — 11-5 after one quarter, 23-18 at half-time and 31-29 through three quarters — but the game was close throughout, as it never became a double-digit gap on the scoreboard.

Leicester's scoring was nearly even — "I brought back 40 points from four starters, so it's pretty balanced," Padavano said of his returning starters from a year ago — and Emily Fontaine led the way with 13 points.

"My senior, Emily Fontaine, is priceless," said Padavano.

Sophomore Jenna Soden was the epitome of a bulldog down low, scoring 11 points and pulling down an unheard of 24 rebounds for the double-double.

"She's faster than everybody else," Padavano said of Soden, who isn't much taller than other forwards or centers in the league. "She runs the floor well and she's fast. She's as tough as they come."

Sophomore Alexa Dufries finished with 8 points and 8 rebounds, and freshman Abigail Johnson contributed 8 points and 7 rebounds. And although junior Maddie Hippert added just 3 points, she was tasked with slowing down Oxford senior Gina Parmenter, a 1,000-point scorer who achieved the accomplishment as a junior.

"The defense tonight

by Maddie Hippert, who I call Sparky, is what really kept us in the game when we couldn't make a shot," said Padavano.

Parmenter (9 rebounds) paced the Pirates with a team-best 17 points, while Pietrzak was pleased with the complementary scoring provided by senior Felicity Steiger (11 points, 11 rebounds) and junior Micaela Perry (9 points on a trio of 3-pointers).

"I thought we responded well to some adversity tonight," said Pietrzak. "We didn't hang our heads and Gina did a great job of encouraging the other kids tonight — it's her role now to do that."

Parmenter had a steal and coinciding layup early in the fourth quarter to push her team ahead, 33-31, but the Wolverines scored the next seven points to regain the lead, 38-33.

After a pair of Parmenter free throws, Fontaine buried a crucial 3-pointer to put Leicester ahead, 41-35. Then, after Steiger made a basket, Soden grabbed an offensive rebound and made the put-back on consecutive possessions as the Wolverines were now up, 45-37 with a minute to play.

Both teams then added five points apiece to finish up the scoring to account for the 50-42 final.

Padavano likes

where his team is at this season a year after reaching the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament with an 11-7 record.

"We made the Districts, we won a game and we took Millbury [who has won 67 straight league games, as of press time] right to the end. Now everyone is a year older and I've got a couple more new freshmen that are contributing," he said.

Pietrzak, meanwhile, has seen growth from his club the past two games.

"I thought we grew a little bit at Hudson, going out of our league to play a Mid-Wach team, was nice for us," he said. "To get that experience was good and what we learned from that game is you have to bring 32 minutes of intensity, and we did that tonight."

Worcester Assistant District Attorneys donate to Oxford soccer program



Courtesy photo

Michael McHugh recently made a donation to the Oxford High School soccer programs on behalf of the many Worcester Assistant District Attorneys who had the privilege of working with Al Grudzinskas. Al was a former Oxford High School soccer coach who passed away in September. Michael and his colleagues wanted to honor Al and the game he loved with this gift. Pictured, from left, are girls' varsity soccer coach Colby Harvey, Worcester Assistant DA Michael McHugh, Athletic Director Kevin May and boys' varsity soccer coach Paul Frykberg.

SPORTS

Defense fuels Bay Path's offense to get past Pioneers



Bay Path's Jamie Rodriguez elevates to win the game-opening jump ball.



Bay Path's Ben LaPointe launches off the floor and into the air during an attempted layup.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

SOUTHBRIDGE — When noticing that the Bay Path Regional boys' varsity basketball team poured in 76 points versus Southbridge High on Tuesday, Dec. 11 — the Minutemen defeated the Pioneers, 76-56 — some may think that Bay Path shot exceptionally well en route to the win. But head coach Al Greenough was quick to point out that it was actually his team's defense that stood out and that's what led to easy transition baskets.

"I was really, really impressed with our team defense this evening," he said. "It's something we've been stressing to start this year. Last year we had a lot of really talented offensive players that graduated; this year we know that our defense is going to lead more to our offense. That's kind of our game plan, to play our best sound man-to-man defense that we can, create some turnovers and get into the open court."

On the other side of the court, Southbridge head coach Victor Colon wasn't pleased with his team's defense.

"Defensively we just weren't there," he said. "We got outworked, out hustled to every single ball. They were playing very aggressively and we just had to work through it. We took our time getting through it, so they got up on us."

The Minutemen led, 17-10, after the initial eight-minute quarter and, after the Pioneers had cut the deficit down to four points on two occasions in the second quarter — on baskets from Brandon Valentin and Eury Mateo — Bay Path increased the lead to 10 points at halftime, 32-22.

Greenough then preached the importance of playing more impressive defense during his halftime talk.

"We really stressed defense at halftime in the locker room. It's what we started the game with and I said the game will go one of two ways," he explained of either Southbridge mounting a comeback or the Minutemen making a run early in the half to put the game away.

The latter happened, as Bay Path scored the first 10 points of the third quarter to increase the lead to 20, 42-22. Cory Cotton drained a 3-pointer and Jamie Rodriguez provided a steal and coinciding layup during the run.

With two minutes to play in the third the Minutemen got the lead up to 30 points (56-26) following a Joe Starr layup, and they were ahead, 59-31, entering the final frame.



Joe Starr of Bay Path feeds a pass down low into the paint.

Rodriguez (22 points, 13 rebounds), Cotton (22 points) and Starr (16 points, 6 rebounds) were Bay Path's leaders.

"That was probably the best game I've seen Jamie play in his career," Greenough said of Rodriguez, a senior. "Last year he kind of played a little bit in the shadows of the other kids we had on the team, but he knows it's his turn to step up and I challenged him with that in practice. He stepped up and he attacked the basket so strong and so well — he was really the difference in the game."

"Cory, normally our high scorer, really, really struggled tonight shooting the ball... [but] he probably played the best defensive game I've ever seen him play," Greenough added of Cotton.

Southbridge then won fourth

quarter scoring, 25-17, to trim the deficit down to a 20-point loss. Mateo led the team with 16 points, while Garret Lazo chipped in 9 points and 10 rebounds.

"I had a lot of guys step up," Colon said, pointing out the play of Valentin, a freshman. "We had a lot of positives to build off of, so we'll be fine."

Southbridge dropped to 1-1 in the early season, while Bay Path improved to 2-0 as they hope to accumulate 10-plus wins and advance to the Central Mass. Division 4 Tournament.

"That's what we're aiming for," Greenough said of District play. "We're setting the tone early with defense and that's what we're going to ride all year long and hopefully that's good enough to get us to where we want to get at the end."



Cory Cotton of Bay Path follows through upon the release of a 3-point attempt.

MOHEGAN BOWL FALL LEAGUES, WEEK ENDING DEC. 16



Monday Men's Business
Single — Dan Labay 140, Jason Mahan and Jon Dufield 136
Series — Dan Labay 400, Jason Mahan 383, Jon Dufield 355
Series over average — Jason Mahan +62

Ten Pin City
Single — Robin Altiery 183, Natalie Wood 179, Edna Miranda 174
Series — Natalie Wood 508, Carol Harvard 486, Robin Altiery 484

Chet's Social
Single — Ryan Pelletier 130, Richard Girouard 127, Ben Allaire 113, Erin Van Dam 113, Dawn Horne 104, Stacey Moran and Ellen Fugatt 98

Series — Richard Girouard 347, Ryan Pelletier 343, Ben Allaire 313, Erin Van Dam 313, Dawn Horne 279, Ellen Fugatt 271
Series over average — Richard Girouard +50, Erin Van Dam +34

Wednesday Women's Industrial
Single — Marie McNally 119, Lynn Smith 116, Monique Pierangeli 112
Series — Marie McNally 336, Lynn Smith 325, Monique Pierangeli 311
Series over average — Marie McNally +42

Summit Tenpin
Single — Division 1: Donny Altiery Sr. 157, Ray Towle 148, Max Gullickson and Luis Pena 139
Division 2: Al Nichols 211, MEC Hashey 201, Philip Viens 191
Series — Division 1: Donny Altiery Sr. 436, Ray Towle 396, Luis Pena 381
Division 2: Al Nichols 596, MEC Hashey 563, Bob Hanville 538

Thursday Coffee
Single — Marsha Kallgren 115, Joan Wieczorek 105, Millie Wonoski and Ester Lesse 104
Series — Marsha Kallgren 295, Carol Montpelier and Yvette Gauthier 274
Series over average — Carol Montpelier +28

Thursday Men's Industrial
Single — Ryan Pelletier 142, Bill Ballou Jr. 139, Steve Poisant and Rick Reichel 127
Series — Ryan Pelletier 376, Steve Poisant 337, Bill Ballou Jr. 330
Series over average — Dave Carey +44

Sunday Mixed
Single — Dan Farrar 141, Brian Lavallee 127, John Dupuis 121, Carol Turner 123, Rebecca Cloutier 116, Leigh Farrar 111
Series — Dan Farrar 358, Brian Lavallee 348, John Dupuis 326, Carol Turner 332, Leigh Farrar 313, Rebecca Cloutier 276
Series over average — Earl Ratcliffe +36, Carol Turner +41

SPORTS BRIEF

Worcester State University to hold baseball clinics

Worcester State Baseball Indoor Clinics are now held in the \$52 million gymnasium and wellness center. The second floor multipurpose gym allows for live practices with plenty of storage for the six indoor mounds, bats and balls, etc. Hitters will use the double-barrel cages on the first floor. Here kids will bunt/bat off the Hack Attack pitching machines (uses real balls; speed adjusted for ages), hit close-range BP, use soft toss nets, tees, and utilize slow-motion video analysis.

There are multiple upcoming clinics to choose from. For questions, please call (508) 929-8852 or (774) 230-3872, or email dbaker1@worchester.edu. Also, please visit wsu-lancers.com/camps-clinics for more information.

SPORTS

‘Tougher’ Tantasqua gets the better of Shepherd Hill, 68-58



Jason Mckay photos
Shepherd Hill's Danny Brooks releases a 3-point attempt.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — High school boys’ basketball is, of course, about 3-point-

ers and drives to the hoop and tenacious defense and blocked shots. It’s also about heart and desire. In its 68-58 vic-

tory over Shepherd Hill Regional on Tuesday, Dec. 11, Tantasqua Regional showed — for a night anyway — they had more of both.
“For me this game was, literally, about toughness; they were tougher than we were,” Rams’ head coach Mike Byrnes said. “They earned the win tonight and we didn’t. We didn’t deserve to win. We gave them too many second chances. They killed us on the boards; they killed us on loose balls. We have a completely different team than we had last year. Last year this is a game we win, just based on toughness.”
Motivation is a big part of the game, too, and Tantasqua is an inspired group, playing hard for new head coach Scott Dion.
“What I know about Coach Dion is that he used to coach at Prouty and his teams are always tough,” Byrnes said. “They play hard and they’re gritty. When you look down the other end and see that you’re coaching against Coach Dion you know they’re going to come ready to go for 32 minutes. They played

well tonight; they’re definitely a good team and they’re going to have a great season. We’ve got to play harder.”
The fact that the Rams enjoyed a pair of lopsided wins over the Warriors last year helped in the motivation department also.
“We got smoked twice last year by these guys,” said Tantasqua senior co-captain Chase Freeland, who scored six points. “We came into this game with a chip on our shoulder. We were super motivated. We were the only ones in the building tonight that thought we had a chance to win this game.”
The defining moments of the game came late in the second quarter and early in the third period.
The Warriors (2-0) used a 12-3 run in the second quarter to turn a 23-22 lead with 4:39 to play into a 35-25 advantage with 2:29 remaining before halftime. Tantasqua, like it did all night, got balanced scoring in the run, with six different players scoring.
Shepherd Hill (1-1) scored the final 10 points of the half — sophomore Danny Brooks (11 points)

hitting six consecutive free throws in the final 1:19 of the second period — and the game was tied, 35-35, at halftime.
Following a pair of free throws by junior Brandon Dejesus (eight points), the Rams led, 40-37, with 5:04 left in the third quarter. That’s when Dion made his move.
“I took a timeout at that point and I really challenged my players,” Dion said. “I really got into them and they responded very, very well.”
Freeland said to him it was the turning point of the game.
“We were feeling a little down coming into half-time because we had just given up that big lead. But in the locker room Coach Dion was like, ‘we’re still in this; it’s only halftime,’” Freeland said. “And then he took that timeout in the third quarter and really got our fire going; he hyped us up really well. I love playing for Coach Dion.”
The Warriors outscored the Rams 15-6 in the final five minutes of the third quarter, a run that was highlighted by a buzzer-beating 3-point-er by senior co-captain Jackson Hall (12 points),

to take a 52-46 lead into the fourth period.
In the final quarter, behind the play of Hall, Freeland, senior co-captain Jeremiah Dingui (10 points) and junior Troy Lee (five points, four in the fourth quarter), Tantasqua gradually built its lead back to 10 points, the first time being 64-54 on a fast-break layup by Lee — who gathered in a crisp open-court pass from Hall and converted it — with 2:05 to play.
“This was a real good win. Everybody played well but I thought Troy Lee coming off the bench was huge, as was [junior] Griffin Polga and [sophomore] Will Pieczynski [11 points],” Dion said. “And [senior] Brad Gergoire [13 points], he kept us in the game in the first half. He probably had 8 or 10 of his points [11 actually] in the first half down around the block.”
In addition to Brooks, scoring in double figures for Shepherd Hill were seniors Jack Ryne (13 points) and David Bilis (11 points). Senior Chris Nellis added seven points, while sophomore Cam Hackett scored six.

Rockets top North Middlesex for Dana Willard Christmas Tournament title

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Editor’s Note: The accompanying photos are from Auburn’s first round victory versus Worcester, played on Wednesday, Dec. 12.
AUBURN — The Dana Willard Memorial Christmas Tournament has opened the Auburn High boys’ varsity ice hockey team’s season for 33 straight years at Horgan Arena, but it had been a long time since the Rockets last hoisted the trophy in celebration.
Auburn, with tournament titles in 1997 and 2004, had the chance to win it again this season after defeating the Worcester co-op team, 3-0, on Wednesday, Dec. 12. They advanced to the finals, played Saturday, Dec. 15, versus North Middlesex Regional. The Patriots made it to the championship by beating Agawam High.
In the title game, North Middlesex scored first but the Rockets came roaring back with a pair of second period strikes to claim a 2-1 victory.
“It means a lot because we haven’t won it since 2004,” explained Auburn head coach Glen Bombard. “It shows that we are capable of winning big games. It means a lot to these guys and it’s a good kickoff to the year, to set the tone for the season.”
As any coach would do, though, Bombard found areas of improvement

to work on going forward.
“We played a period and a half. The first period and half of the second we weren’t very good, then we got one [goal] and it kind of woke us up,” he said.
The first period was slow and sleepy, and appeared to be headed into intermission scoreless. But with 31 seconds to play until the Zamboni resurfaced the ice, Ethan Freeman of North Middlesex stole the puck in the neutral zone, broke into the Rockets’ defensive end and zipped a shot up and over the glove of goalie Mike Sosik.
Sosik then rebounded nicely in the second period when the Patriots were looking to add to their lead. There, he turned aside six tough shots in the first seven minutes of play. In all Sosik made 10 saves in the second period and finished the game with 24 stops.
“Mikey’s been solid, he always has,” Bombard said of Sosik, who through 90 minutes of play has allowed just the one goal. “He’s a little under the weather but he fought through it.”
Auburn — whose co-op team features student-athletes from Millbury High, Shepherd Hill Regional and Tantasqua Regional — finally found the back of the net with 5:02 to play in the second. Ryan Lempicki took control of the puck following an offensive zone face-off and the right-handed shot used his back-

hand to fire a shot to the near side left portion of the goal and past North Middlesex’s Thomas Kelly, who also made 24 saves.
Lempicki, a defenseman, now has three goals through two games (forward Adam Lanier scored the Rockets’ other goal in the win versus Worcester).
“We kind of give him the green light,” Bombard said of Lempicki, an offensive-minded defenseman.
Auburn then scored its second goal in 1:11 of game time with 3:51 to go in the second period. Caleb Bartlett dumped the puck down the ice and Joe Valone — a freshman — did the dirty work, winning possession of the puck along the wall. Valone then fed a centering pass to Nick Spanos, who deposited the puck past Kelly and into the net.
“He’s going to be a great hockey player — he works very hard and he has talent. He went out tonight and worked his butt off,” Bombard said of Valone.
Bombard was impressed with the play of his team’s third line, which included the four-man rotation of Valone, Spanos, Billy Erikson and Zach Schirm.
“That line, I really liked what I saw from them,” the coach said.
Auburn then held the Patriots scoreless the rest of the way, where Sosik needed to make a pair of saves in the final minute to preserve the victory.
Lempicki was awarded the tourna-



Photos courtesy Mark Seliger, www.SeligerPhotography.com
Auburn's Dillon Winkelmann takes control of the puck and moves down the ice.

ment MVP, while Worcester defeated Agawam in the consolation game for third place, 5-1.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK



Dec. 12
Tantasqua 90, Gardner 17 — A victory was had for the Warriors in a boys’ swim meet versus the Wildcats. The medley relay team of Eli Currier, Ethan Hunter-Mason, Robert Wilson and Bryce Iller took the first win, while Bryce Iller also won the 200 IM. Jonah Green won the 50 free and the diving, while other winners included Wilson (100 fly), Dan Sickenberger (500 free), the 200 free relay team (AJ Osimo, Camron Chisholm, Green and Andrew Wade), Currier (100 backstroke), Hunter-Mason (100 breaststroke) and

the 400 free relay team (Sickenberger, Currier, Osimo and Iller). Tantasqua is now 2-1.
Tantasqua 111, Gardner 68 — Much like the boys’ team, the girls from Tantasqua also won their swim meet with Gardner. The medley relay team of Alyson Locke, Erika Madden, Katie Wade Julia Obrycki won, as did Lauren Butler in the diving event. Wade was first in the 100 butterfly, while other winners were Sarah Kersting-Mumm of Oxford (100 free), the 200 free relay team (Wade, Caitlin Bilodeau, Rebecca Turley and Kersting-Mumm), and

Locke (100 backstroke). The Warriors are now a perfect 3-0.
Dec. 14
Tantasqua 94, Wachusett 72 — A victory over the Mountaineers improved the Tantasqua boys’ swim team’s record to 3-1. The medley relay team of Bryce Iller, Ethan Hunter-Mason, Robert Wilson and Andrew Wade got the Warriors started with a first place finish. Iller then won the 50 free and the breaststroke, while Zach Lavallee emerged victorious in the 100 free. Wade won the 500 free, and other winners included the 200 free relay team of AJ Osimo, Daniel Sickenberger, Hunter-Mason and Iller, and the 400 free relay team of Sickenberger, Lavallee, Jonah Green and Wade.
Wachusett 95, Tantasqua 75 — Sarah Kersting-Mumm of Oxford won the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke for the Tantasqua girls’ swim team, who dropped to 3-1 with the loss. The 400 free relay team of Alyson Locke, Kami Davis, Katie Wade and Kersting-Mumm was first also.



Nick Ethier photos
On Wednesday, Dec. 12, the Tantasqua Regional boys’ and girls’ swimming teams hosted and defeated Gardner High.

POLICE LOGS

Webster Police Department

Editor's Note: The information contained in this police log was obtained through public documents kept by the police department, and is considered to be the account of the police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domestic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimimized through indirect identification.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9

12:09 a.m.: MV stop (Thompson Road) arrest: Larry A. Franklin, age 27 of 17 Starr Road, Thompson: OUI-liquor; negligent operation of MV; marked lanes violation.

1:56 a.m.: MV crash (Joyce Street) arrest: Thomas JC Longtin age 22 of 16 Carey Lane, Oxford: OUI-liquor; negligent operation of MV; carry dangerous weapon; failure to use care or caution when starting, stopping or turning.

MONDAY DECEMBER 10

12:55 a.m.: MV stop (Negus Street) arrest: Michael D. Aggas age 30 of 61 Myrtle Ave. #3, Webster: warrant; possession class B drug; operating MV with license suspended.

4:36 p.m.: EMS request (Main Street)

arrest: Edmund J. Noga, age 57 homeless in Webster: warrant.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 11

6:26 p.m.: attempt to serve (Maynard Avenue) arrest: Jeremy M. Lavallee age 23 of 7 Maynard Ave., Webster: warrant.

6:42 p.m.: attempt to serve (Main Street) arrest: Eric James Hardy age 28 of 61 Poland St., Webster: warrant.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12

1:25 p.m.: attempt to serve (Main Street) arrest: Richard E. Donnelly Jr. age 61 of 7 Fifth Ave. #1, Webster: warrant.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14

12:01 a.m.: MV stop (Thompson Road) arrest: Jason Delage age 44 of 18 Maple St., Thompson: OUI-liquor; negligent

operation of MV; marked lanes violation.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15

12:24 p.m.: attempt to serve (North Main Street) arrest: Gregory J. Dutton age 45 of 77 North Main St., Webster: warrant.

8:11 p.m.: domestic dispute, arrest: adult male age 58 of Webster: assault on family or household member.

Dudley Police Department

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12

11:10 a.m.: attempt to serve (Alton Drive) arrest: Joel E. Griffith age 43 of 30 Alton Drive, Dudley: four out of agency warrants.



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And that starts the minute you leave the florist or garden center. Always protect your gift plants from the harsh outdoors. Professional florists and garden center staff will provide a care tag and wrap your plants in a plastic or paper sleeve.

Remove the wrap as soon as you arrive home. This is especially important when caring for poinsettias. The upturned leaves emit ethylene, a ripening hormone, that can shorten the longevity of your poinsettia's colorful display.

Rewrap your holiday plant anytime you move it outdoors and never leave it sitting in a cold car while running errands. A chilled plant looks fine until it thaws. By the next day, the plant turns grayish-green, wilts and may die. Not such a nice gift after all.

Once your plant arrives home, place it in a cool, brightly lit location. The cool temperatures and indirect light help the blooms last longer. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. These can dry or chill the plant, resulting in leaf and blossom drop. Fold down the foil wrap to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves.

Keep the soil moist, like a damp sponge, but not wet. A quick touch of the top inch or two of soil will let you know when it is time to water. Water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist.

Pour out any water that collects in the foil, basket, decorative pot or saucer. Or place pebbles in the bottom of the container or saucer to ele-

vate the plant above any sitting water.

Plant your amaryllis bulb in a container that is slightly larger than the bulb and has drainage holes. Set the bulb in a well-drained potting mix with 1/3 of the pointed end exposed. Water the potting mix thoroughly and place the container in a cool sunny location. Continue to water thoroughly, but only often enough to keep the soil barely moist.

Or go soilless. Place several inches of pebbles in the bottom of a glass vase or watertight container. Cover the pebbles with water. Set the bulb on top of the pebbles, adding more stones around the bulb to hold it in place. Leave the top one third of the bulb exposed. Add water as needed to maintain the water level just below the bulb.

Now relax and wait the month or more needed for your amaryllis bulb to wake up and start growing. Water more often once sprouts appear.

Keep your floral display looking its best by removing spent flowers from azaleas, Christmas cactus, cyclamen and kalanchoes. This keeps



Photo credit Melinda Myers, LLC

Poinsettia and other holiday plants should be kept in a cool, brightly lit location.

the plant looking fresh and often encourages more blooms. Remove the true flowers, those yellow knobs in the center of the colorful leaves of the poinsettia. This extends the longevity and beauty of the poinsettia plant.

And once the holidays are past, keep enjoying these plants through the gray days of winter. Move the plants to a

sunny window, fertilize with a dilute solution of complete or flowering plant fertilizer and water as needed.

Add some artificial berries, cut flowers in water picks or silk blooms to replace the faded flowers. Use colorful stakes or natural twigs for added beauty and to support floppy leaves and stems.

Be sure to add a few holiday plants to this

year's gift list. They're guaranteed to brighten everyone's holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books and is the host of The Great Courses' How to Grow Anything DVD series. Her website, www.MelindaMyers.com, offers gardening tips and videos.

Tri-Valley joins Meals on Wheels America and Subaru in Sharing the Love

11TH ANNUAL SUBARU EVENT WILL HELP DELIVER NUTRITIOUS MEALS

Tri-Valley's nutrition program is proud to announce it will be participating in the annual Subaru Share the Love Event as a member of Meals on Wheels America — one of four national Share the Love charitable partners for the 11th year running. From Nov.15 to Jan. 2, Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to the customer's choice of participating charity.

Participating Meals on Wheels America members, like Tri-Valley's nutrition program, will receive a share of the revenue raised by Subaru in their state. Tri-Valley has partnered with Long Subaru in Webster to raise awareness for the popular year-end sales and giving event, and drive support for Meals on Wheels through a number of community activities that included: a kick-off event at Tri-Valley's office in Dudley and publicity events at area senior centers.

Kristin McCarthy, nutrition program director, said, "The people at Long

Subaru are very cooperative and genuine in wanting to give back to the community. They were eager to work with us again this year and to help us make the Share the Love event a success."

"Meals on Wheels America is thrilled to partner with Subaru of America for the Subaru Share the Love Event for the eleventh year in a row," said Ellie Hollander, president and CEO, Meals on Wheels America. "Since 2008, the Subaru Share the Love Event has helped local Meals on Wheels programs deliver nearly two million meals to vulnerable seniors nationwide. We remain proud and grateful to have the generous support of Subaru in helping us ensure that homebound seniors receive the daily nutrition and companionship they need to thrive."

Over the last 10 years, Subaru of America and its participating retailers have donated more than \$118 million to its charity partners. This year's Subaru Share the Love Event is on track to bring that total to over \$140 million,

proving there's no limit to the amount of love we can all share.

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

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

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

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

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Blackstone Valley

Call Tia (508)909-4110
if your business is in
Webster or Auburn

The Valley Bean

Breakfast & Lunch

Daily
Specials

Quality food, Hometown service

Thank you to our customers for a terrific 2018

Happy Holidays!

Now through the end of 2018,
enjoy 5% off your order, when you
bring in a non-perishable donation
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God Bless the United States
of America!

OBITUARIES

Joseph (Red) A. Gadbois, 89



WEBSTER- Joseph (Red) A. Gadbois age 89 died Monday, December 10, 2018 at the Sandelwood in Oxford. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Carolyn F. (Cimichowski) Gadbois. He also leaves four sons, Dennis Gadbois of Webster, William Gadbois and his wife Laurie of Brooklyn, CT, Thomas Gadbois and his wife Donna of Oxford and Joseph Gadbois of Webster. He also leaves grandchildren, Thomas, Billy, Jacob, Sera, Joshua, Jamie, Julia, Tasha and Cassia and many great grandchildren. He had a grandson that predeceased him, Jeremy. He was born in Webster son of the late Joseph J. Gadbois and Amelia (Gravelin) Gadbois and lived here all

his life. He was a WWII Army Veteran. Joe was a member of the Webster Police Dept. for twelve years. He also worked for Anchor Glass in Dayville, CT. Joe enjoyed gathering with his friends for coffee at Dunkin Donuts or McDonalds. He was a collector of old things. There are no calling hours. A graveside service was held with military honors Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.



Anna Dubois, 92

WEBSTER – Anna (Werner) Dubois, 92, died Wednesday, December 12, 2018 in the Life Care Center of Auburn after a period of declining health. Her husband Lucien Dubois died in 1983.

She leaves 2 nephews, Wlodzimierz Orlowski and his wife Janina of Webster, with whom she lived, and Janusz Orlowski of Warsaw, Poland. She resided in Worcester for many years before moving to Webster in 2011. She was born in Wrzesnia, Poland, the daughter of Stanislaw and Stefania Werner. She was a high school graduate. She worked as an inspector at

Sprague Electric in Worcester for many years. The family would like to thank the staff at Tri-Valley in Dudley and at the Life Care Center of Auburn for their kindness to Anna during her illness. The funeral was held Saturday, December 15, at 10:00 AM in St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley. Entombment was in Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester. Calling hours were private. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski & Malboeuf Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. www.sitkowski-malboeuf.com

Chester J. ‘Chet’ Przybylek, 90



WEBSTER - Chester J. ‘Chet’ Przybylek, age 90, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 13, 2018 after a period of declining health. He is survived by his devoted wife of 64 years, Patricia (Guenther) Przybylek, two sons; David and his wife Sara of Shrewsbury, Robert and his wife Cathy of Webster, and one daughter; Joanne Twiss and her husband Ray of Holden,. He also leaves four grandsons; Jason, Paul, Grant and Stephen Przybylek and one grand-daughter, Stephanie Twiss. He also leaves a sister-in-law Theresa Guenther of Dudley, brother-in-law, Louis Guenther, Jr., of Webster, several nieces & nephews . Chet was born in Webster, youngest son of Thaddeus and Mary (Niemiec) Przybylek and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1946. He served in the U.S. Army occupied forces in Japan after WWII. He was predeceased by two brothers; Paul and John, and two sisters, Anna Jankot and Mary Eggers. Chester was a lifelong resident of Webster and a parishioner of St. Joseph Basilica. He worked for several years at Sjogren Tool & Machine in Auburn

and later worked in the Webster School Department until his retirement in 1993 and was a Life Member of the Polish American Veterans. He was an avid reader and an expert crossword puzzle solver. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather whose greatest joy was his family and his love for them was infinite. His love will remain in our hearts forever. Chester’s Funeral Mass was Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 10 AM in St. Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb St., followed by burial with Military Honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council at St. Joseph Garden of Peace Cemetery, Webster. Calling Hours were Monday, December 17, 2018 from 6-8PM at the ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School St., Webster. Memorial Contributions may be made to: St. Joseph Gym and Parish Center, 53 Whitcomb St., Webster, MA. 01570. To leave a message of condolence or to Share a Memory of Chet, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net



Donald O.Malo, 74

DOUGLAS- Donald O.Malo, 74, of Gilboa St. died Wed. Dec. 12, 2018 at Milford Hospital after an illness. His wife Janina E.(Demboski) Malo died in 1979. He is survived by 2 children; his son, Donald D. Malo and his wife Linda Goodwin of Douglas; a daughter, Josie M. Malo of Douglas, with whom he lived; 2 grandchildren, Shayne E. Carey and Jaxon N. Malo; and his longtime girlfriend Donna Arnett of Webster. Born in Northbridge on Jan. 24 1944 he was son of the late Emily Malo and grew up in Rockdale. He has lived in Douglas for the past 46 years. Mr. Malo worked as a Maintenance Foreman for NENSCO in Millbury for 30 years, retiring in 2008. He served

in the MA National Guard and was a Volunteer Firefighter in Northbridge for 10 years. He enjoyed NASCAR, gardening, cooking ,attending antique engine shows and making maple syrup in his own sugar shack. He will be remembered as a strong willed,determined and hard working man. His private graveside service will be held in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Providence Rd., Whitinsville. There are no calling hours.To leave a condolence message for his family please visit: <http://www.jackmanfuneral-homes.com>



Isidro S. (Ed) Acenas, 91



WEBSTER- Isidro S. (Ed) Acenas age 91 died at Christopher Heights, Webster, MA, Tuesday, December 11, 2018, surrounded by his beloved family. He was the loving husband of the late Marion E. (Ryan) Acenas who passed away in 1990. He leaves two sons, Richard Bofill of Winthrop, MA and Keith Acenas of Watertown, MA, four daughters, Donna Dunnell and her husband Jeff of Port Orange, FL, Ronda Chipman and her husband Bob of Attleboro, MA, Charlene Maniates and her husband Nick of Pomfret Center, CT and Kim Stewart and her husband John of Upton, MA. He was the adoring grandfather of twelve grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He also leaves a brother Tuton Acenas & another

brother and three sisters that predeceased him. He was born in Mindanao, Phillipines son of the late Librado Acenas and Matilda (Sabal) Acenas. Ed became a US citizen over 60 years ago. He served in the US Army and US Navy. He was a long time resident of Cambridge MA until retiring to West Palm Beach, FL with his companion Ann Moy. Ed was a very kind, sweet, loving & thoughtful gentleman. He was a Boston sports enthusiast & also enjoyed ballroom dancing, tennis and bowling, but more than anything; time spent with his family was his greatest joy. Services will be private. Donations may be made in his memory to the Salvation Army. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle

Hazel A. Mendillo, 98

WEBSTER- Hazel A.(Piette)Mendillo age 98 passed away Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 at the Lanessa Extended Care, Webster. She was the wife of the late Frank P. Mendillo. She leaves her son Francis (Frank) M. Mendillo and his wife Patricia of Webster, three grandchildren, Gina, Julie and Nicolas, two great grandsons Nathyn and Xander. Hazel was predeceased by two brothers Arthur and Louis also three sisters, Louise, Elaine and Esther. She was born in Woodstock, CT son of the late Arthur Piette and Pauline (Stoll) Piette and lived here most of

her life. She was retired from the American Optical Company. One of her joys was sewing. The funeral was held Wednesday, December 19, 2018 with a graveside service at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster. Please omit flowers and donations may be made to the St. Louis Endowment Fund, Lake St., Webster, MA. 01570. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Bernice Alger



SOUTHBRIDGE- Bernice Lillian Alger 81, also known as “Bernie” passed away peacefully on Monday December 10, 2018 at the Quaboug Rehabilitation and skilled care center in West Brookfield, MA. Bernie was predeceased by her husband Frank Alger, one sister Barbara Belanger, one brother Alan Kovaleski and her aunt Doris Dumas. She will be greatly missed by her sons Paul Alger of Sturbridge, Steven Alger of Sturbridge, one sister Patricia Schellhammer of Fiskdale, two grandsons, Sean Alger of Webster, and Rockee Alger of Worcester, her cousin Nancy Reusch of West Warren, her good friend Pauline Baker of West Brookfield, and many

nieces and nephews. Bernie was born and raised in Southbridge MA to her loving parents Irene and Edward Kovaleski. She was a wonderful mother to her children and a great friend. She enjoyed playing cards, bowling, going to the casino, watching her patriots and she especially loved spending time with her family. Bernie worked at Russell Harrington Cutlery and the American Optical for 30 years. Her family would like to thank the staff at Quaboug Skilled Nursing and rehab for loving her and taking great care of her. Burial is private. Belanger-Bullard funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge is directing arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Donald F. Farrand, 77



WEBSTER / NORTHBRIDGE- Donald F. Farrand, 77, of Webster, passed away peacefully in his home on December 14, 2018, with his loving family by his side. He was the beloved husband of 29 years to Carol A. (Smith) Farrand. Donald was born in Portland, ME, a son to the late Robert and Lillian (Philbrook) Farrand. He attended Northbridge Public Schools and spent much of his adult life in the Northbridge area prior to relocating to Webster with Carol. Donald worked 42 years at COZ Chemical, Inc of Northbridge, many of which he served as production foreman. He enjoyed taking Carol on spontaneous road trips to Maine or stopping along roadside yard sales they happened upon while driving. Card games with his sisters were a favored pastime and Donald looked forward to his daily Pitch game at the Webster Senior Center. Dining out, most especially their “Wednesday date nights” with his beloved granddaughter Jenn and husband Ron, brought pleasure to Donald. Above all, Donald cherished the time spent with his family. Fighting numerous health battles earned Donald the title of “Miracle Man” and having “Nine Lives”. He was a strong man, one not afraid to take on each challenge he faced. Donald looked forward to proving his doctors wrong and was so proud to have graduated off of hospice.

Donald will be lovingly remembered and missed by his wife; four daughters, Lisa Farrand of St. Petersburg, FL, Donna Verrier and husband Larry of Whitinsville, Pamela Laferriere of Cranston, RI, and Denise Skowronski and husband Rob of Douglas; five stepdaughters, Brenda Starr and husband Dan, Holly Laflamme and husband Eric, Bonnie Peoples and husband Don, Lyn Meszaro and husband Timothy, and Dawn Blanchette. He also is survived by 26 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; four sisters, Barbara Karagosian of Whitinsville, Patricia Zizileuskas of Delaware, Beverly Labrecque of Florida and Debra True and husband Kenneth of Whitinsville. Donald was preceded in death by his twin brother, Ronald, and two stepsons, Michael and Barry Anderson. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, December 20th, from 6-8pm, at Carr Funeral Home, 24 Hill Street, Whitinsville. A memorial service for Don will be on Friday, December 21st, at 2pm at the United Church of Christ, 4 Church Street, Webster. The Farrand family extends their heartfelt appreciation to the doctors, nurses, and caring staff of Reliant Medical Group, St. Vincent Hospital, and the Salmon Hospice Team. They also respectfully ask that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to St. Jude’s or the American Heart Association. To leave a condolence please visit www.Carrfuneralhome.com.

Elaine Olga Theodorou, 61

WORCESTER- Elaine Olga (Patramanis) Theodorou age 61 died Monday Dec. 10, 2018 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Resident, Worcester. She leaves her sons, George G. Theodorou and his wife Renee of Merrimac, MA. and Mario Theodorou of West Barnstable, MA, two grandchildren, George and Mary. She also leaves a brother Perry Patramanis of Worcester. She was born in Montreal, Canada daughter of the late Constantine Patramanis and Marie (Pathier)

Patramanis living in Worcester most of her life. There are no calling hours. All services are private. Please omit flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Dana Farber Cancer Research Institute, 44 Binney St. # 1234. Boston, MA 02115. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Mildred Emond, 93



OXFORD – Mildred (Cyr) Emond, 93, of Hudson Road, died Thursday, December 6, 2018, at Worcester Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Lewis J. Emond of Oxford who died in 2009. She is survived by three children, Elaine M. Monsen of Oxford, Arlene D. Hibbard of Webster, and Ronald G. Emond of Oxford; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one step great-grandson, and several nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by a son, Gary Emond of Fernley, NV, who died in 2017; a granddaughter,

Christina L. Beaudry who died in 2018; and seven brothers and sisters. She was born in St. David, Maine, daughter of the late Robert and Elise (Clarette) Cyr, and lived most of her life in Oxford. Mrs. Emond worked for Sears for 18 years, retiring as manager in 1988. She was an active member and greeter at St. Roch’s Church, and also baked for the bereavement committee. She was dedicated to service and delivered meals for the Senior Center in Oxford. Services and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Compassus Hospice, 15 Midstate Dr., Suite 215, Auburn, MA 01501. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements. paradisfuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
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to jean@stonebridgepress.news

OBITUARIES

Eric B. Beauregard, 51



SOUTHBRIDGE-Eric B. Beauregard, 51, of Worcester St., passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 11th, in the Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after a brief illness.

He leaves his former wife and love of his life, Wendy (Leduc) Beauregard of Webster; his parents, Bernard M. and Theresa R. (Boudreau) Beauregard of Southbridge; his brother, Brandon Beauregard and his wife Melanie of Barre; his three sisters, Deborah Ferron and her husband Karl of Southridge; Cindy Sanchez of Ellisville, MO and Jennifer Lotter and her husband Ken of Oxford; his close niece and Goddaughter, Madison Beauregard and close nephew Michael Beauregard along with several other nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. He also leaves his beloved cat, Riley. He was born in Southbridge on Sept. 27, 1967 and was a graduate

of Southbridge High School.

Eric served proudly as a Lance Corporal in the US Marines. He later worked as an industrial painter till recent illness. He loved deep sea fishing. He was also known as a funny guy who always loved to joke around. Eric enjoyed working with his hands and building dioramas.

At Eric's request his funeral services and burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Gift Processing Administrator, 18251 Quantico Gateway Dr., Triangle, VA 22172 or online at toysfortots.org/donate.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Eustachio Sinni, 92



SOUTHBRIDGE-Eustachio Sinni, 92, of High St., passed away on Friday, Dec. 14th, in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge.

His wife of 63 years, Yolanda (Croce) Sinni, passed away in 2012. He leaves his two sons, Paolo Sinni and his wife Evelyn of Dudley and Roberto J. Sinni of Dudley; a daughter, Mary J. Brooks and her husband Charles of Dudley; his three brothers, Emilio Sinni, Elino Sinni and Mario Sinni all of Melbourne, Australia; his sister, Nerina Fasci of Milan, Italy; six grandchildren, Angela Marshall and her husband Justin, Steven Sinni and his wife Amy, Erica Sinni, Anthony Brooks, Alex Sinni and Robert Brooks; six great grandchildren, Luca Sinni, Antonio Sinni, Maria Sinni, Cooper Marshall, Dylan Marshall and Gianna Sinni; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Tonino Sinni. He was born in Tocco Da Casauria, Italy, the son of Paolo and Maria (DiDonato) Sinni and moved to the United States with his wife on Oct. 3, 1955.

Eustachio worked at Southbridge

Sheet Metal for 34 years before retiring many years ago. In his younger years he was a very good semi-pro soccer player in Italy and was a well-known player in his region of Italy. He was a lifelong member of the Italian American Club in Southbridge where he was an avid bocce player. After his wife passed away, he became a very good cook and loved to invite his family over to share his meals. He loved to travel. Eustachio and his wife traveled to Italy for 37 consecutive years, traveling to Australia, Singapore, Hawaii, and Fiji, along with many other destinations. In 2015 he traveled to visit his family in Australia.

His funeral was held on Thursday, Dec. 20th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Wednesday, Dec. 19th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Southbridge Italian Club Scholarship Fund, 20 North St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Marion F. Labonte, 87



U X B R I D G E -Marion F. (Philbrook) Labonte, 87, passed away Thurs. Dec. 13, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer. Her husband Norman Labonte died March 18, 1980.

She is survived by her 4 children, Christine A. Couture and her husband Robert of Uxbridge, Kathryn M. Couture and her husband Michael of Manchaug, Peter N. Labonte and his wife Linda, and D. Brian Labonte and his wife Dede of Webster; 3 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her son Keith Labonte who died in 2012. Born in Whitinsville on March 20, 1931 she was the daughter of Milton and Emma (Bazinet) Philbrook and grew up in Whitinsville before moving to Linwood in 1981.

She also lived on Cape Cod for 15 years where she worked for Linda's Original Craft Shop. Previously working at Dave's Restaurant in Linwood,

and Labonte's Market for many years with her husband. Marion was a very self-sufficient woman, who was extremely generous and very thoughtful of other people. She was very outgoing and genuine, a good listener, and her family was her life. She enjoyed visiting the Cape, and before her husband's passing they liked to go out and dance the Polka. Marion was also a woman of great faith, praying daily, and was a longtime member of Good Shepherd Parish.

Her funeral will be held on Sat. Dec. 22 from Tancrell-Jackman Funeral Home, 35 Snowling Rd., Uxbridge with a Mass at 11am in Good Shepherd Church, 121 Linwood St., Linwood. Calling hours at the funeral home will be held from 8:30-10:30 am prior to Mass. In lieu of flowers, donations in Marion's memory may be made to: St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to: the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701. To leave a condolence message for her family please visit: <http://www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com>

CALENDAR

Saturday January 12

MEAT RAFFLE: TSKK holds its monthly meat raffle beginning at 2 p.m. at TSKK, 21 Harris St., Webster.

Saturday January 19

Pork Roast Dinner—Dudley: The First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Rd. is having a pork roast dinner on Saturday Jan. 19. Servings will be at 5:00pm AND 6:15pm. Adults: \$12; Preteens: \$6. Children 5 and under FREE. Handicapped Accessible. For Reservations Call (508) 943-7320. When prompted press *2. Leave the time of the seating you want, your name, telephone #, and the number in your party. Call backs will only be made if there is a question about your reservation. We look forward to seeing you!

Saturday January 26

GRAND TASTING: On Saturday, Jan. 26 a GRAND TASTING at the VFW on 20 Federal Hill Road, Oxford, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Wine, Beer, Spirits, Food and Raffles! Tickets are \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door. This is a 21 and over event. All proceeds benefit Oxford High School Operation Graduation 2019. To purchase tickets, please text or call: Michelle Parmenter at 774-276-0606 or Donna Caissie at 774-641-3325.

Saturday February 9

MEAT RAFFLE: TSKK holds its monthly meat raffle beginning at 2 p.m. at TSKK, 21 Harris St., Webster.

ONGOING EVENTS & INFORMATION

COMMUNITY MEALS: Blessed Backpack Brigade Community Fellowship Meal served from 5-6 p.m. American Legion Hall, 9 Houghton St, Webster. Please note there is no handicapped access, but we will have volunteers to provide you with assistance. Free hot meals to anyone in need. Everyone is welcome. Join us for great food, fellowship, and fun! For more information, or to donate or sponsor a meal, call Lauri Joseph 774-230-8988. Blessed Backpack Brigade Community Fellowship Meals are served the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the American Legion on Houghton Street, Webster.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT: The Webster Alzheimer's Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at Webster Manor, 745 School St., from 6-8 p.m. Anyone in the area who feels they are in need of help, doesn't know what to do, or is a caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's, is invited to attend and express their concerns regarding the care for their loved one. The members of the group will discuss the ways, means, and the help you will need as your loved one progresses in this disease.

NUMISMATICS: Looking for a new hobby? Come learn about the hobby of Coin Collecting. Or maybe you are an old time collector. Our club, the Nipmuc Coin Club, has both. We learn from each other through our monthly guest speakers, show and tell presentations, monthly coin auctions and free attendance prizes. Our group loves to share

their knowledge with each other. Each month we have a simple dinner with dessert and refreshments just prior to our meeting, which allows us time to socialize too. Fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Oxford Senior Center located at 323 Main St., the building directly behind Oxford Town Hall. For information contact Dick Lisi at (508) 410-1332 or lisirichard15@yahoo.com.

HELP FOR HELPERS: Do you have a family member struggling with addiction or alcoholism? You are not alone. Join Families Helping Families Support Group. Meetings at Dudley Senior Center every first and third Monday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. We spend so much time with our addicted loved one, that we become victims ourselves. Join us. It's informal, confidential, with tough love advice from the heart, sharing of resources, hope and hugs.

HOLISTIC HEALTH: Chair Yoga and so much more every Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at The First Congregational Church, 135 Center Road, Dudley (please park and enter through the right side basement entrance). Class Fee: \$5/ class voluntary contribution (Cancer patients always free). Proceeds donated to the First Congregational Church of Dudley. Instructor: Joanne LaLiberte, Holistic Health practitioner..

KNOWING KNITTERS: Come join the Drop In Knitting Group from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library, Schofield Avenue, Dudley. All ages and levels, from beginner to expert, are welcome. For more information, call Mary Kunkel at (508) 943-8107 or Jacqueline Vassar at (508) 892-4754.

GOT FOOD? The Bread of Life Food Pantry, Calvary Assembly of God, located at 105 Southbridge Road, is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. They are closed on holidays. They can be reached at 508-949-3711.

SUPPORT: The Cancer Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the second Monday of every month in the Boardroom on the 4th floor at Harrington Hospital, 100 South Street, Southbridge. Call (508) 764-2400 for more information.

SUPPORT: Overeaters Anonymous group meeting every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Come to Room RHF-1 at Day Kimball Hospital, 320 Pomfret St., Putnam, CT. We will welcome you! For more information, contact Kathryn at (508) 949-0819.

Norma P. Langlois, 81

NORTH GROSVENORDALE - Norma P. Langlois, 81, of Riverside Dr., died Monday, December 17, 2018, at Day Kimball Hospital. She was the loving wife of Joseph A. Langlois.

Mrs. Langlois worked as an office worker at the former Paul Revere Insurance Company.

Norma is survived by her husband, a son David Langlois of Los Alamos, New Mexico; two sisters, Joan Bennett

of Dudley, Massachusetts and Eleanor Burdick of Springfield, Massachusetts; and a granddaughter Marie Langlois.

Funeral Arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Pauline L. Deary, 72



W E B S T E R / DUDLEY - Pauline L. Deary, 72, passed away peacefully in her home November 12, 2018. She was preceded by her parents Edward J. and Rital L. (Perry) Deary of Webster. She is survived by her brothers, Edward and his wife June of Webster and Paul of Thompson, CT, along with her niece

Kim Wigglesworth and husband Scott of North Grosvenordale, CT.

Pauline was born in Webster, graduated from Bartlett High School and later moved to Marstons Mills, MA, where she worked for the Yarmouth Highway Dept. until retiring. Pauline eventually moved to her latest home in Safety Harbor, FL. She loved her family, friends, gardening and always stayed active with local charity events.

John F. Ostrowski, 93



WEBSTER - John F. Ostrowski, 93, of Webster died December 9, 2018 in Lanessa Extended Care after a brief illness. His wife of 67 years, Alice M. (LeBlanc) Ostrowski, died in 2016.

He leaves 4 children, John E. & his wife Muriel Ostrowski of Burlington, Patricia L. Lane of Thompson, CT, Dr. Edward S. & his wife Susan Ostrowski of Aberdeen, NC, and Diane J. & her husband Arthur Nawrocki of Sutton; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister, Sandra Markiewicz; several nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his infant sister Florence Ostrowski, his brother Stanley Ostrowski, his sister Jean Marshalkowski and by his son-in-law Paul Lane.

He was born and raised in Mayfield, PA, a son of Stanley and Pauline (Bilski) Ostrowski. He moved to Webster in 1942.

He was a veteran of World War II serving in the 1411th Army Air Force Base Unit from 1943 - 1946.

Mr. Ostrowski first worked at Anglo Fabrics in Webster. He later worked as a machinist with several companies in Worcester and finally with Gould & Eberhardt in Webster for several years, retiring in 1987.

As devout members of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus Catholic parish in Webster, Mr. Ostrowski and his wife Alice regularly attended Mass with their children as a family and they provided their children with an early Catholic education and training by attendance at St. Anne School – the parish private school. A devoted family man, he enjoyed many vacations with his family at the beaches in Maine, Charlestown Beach in Rhode Island, Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia, North Carolina and pool parties in Connecticut. He was an avid fan of the Red Sox, and enjoyed watching football games. He also played the keyboard for enjoyment. He loved to recount events from his life with great detail and flourish. He was also a handy man and fostered a love of sweets. His greatest joy came from the time he spent with his family.

Mr. Ostrowski's funeral was held Friday, December 14, from Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Visiting hours were held on Friday, December 14, before the funeral, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home.

www.scanlonfs.com





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508-461-5070

ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM
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CADY'S TAVERN
2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI
401-568-4102

TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS
7:00 p.m. register

7:30 p.m. start up
HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA
508-892-9822

TRIVIA Night

WISE GUYS TEAM TRIVIA
Every Tuesday, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
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TROUT UNLIMITED meets the first Monday of every month from September through May. We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities, our annual High

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Happy Holidays & Thank You All!

BROOKFIELD: Office with 3 Bay Garage on Rt 9! Currently used as a Body Shop! Call me for details! \$149,000	\$39,000	\$84,900
	WARREN: 2 mobile homes in family park and 1 manufactured home in 55 and older park. Mobile home park is a co-op with a one-time fee of \$100.00. Call Today! Manufactured home on double lot with 2 car garage! Call me for more info!	\$119,000
LOTS FOR SALE	2 affordable buildable lots for sale: West Brookfield \$18,900 New Braintree \$35,500	

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Webster Lake: Water-front! 3.5 baths, CATHEDRAL CEILINGS, 3-4 bedrooms, town services
 16 Pattison Rd ~ \$700's
Dudley: Investors! 10 units. Great Cash Flow. Business location. Call Jo-Ann for details
 \$439,900
Webster: 4 Car Garage! New roof shingles, all units renovated. Great location
 9 Towe St ~ \$299,900

A Place To Call Home...

JUST LISTED

KILLINGLY-This cape style home features 2 bedrooms & 1 bathroom and is a Bungalow style home on corner lot with tons of character. The walk-up attic is a great bonus with two partially finished rooms that could easily be converted into living space if more space is needed. The home has a newer/updated kitchen with nice stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, and a nice open floor plan from the kitchen thru the dining area to the spacious living room. There is a great little mudroom off the side entry door and the enclosed front porch makes great extra living space. One car detached garage.
\$159,900

JUST LISTED

THOMPSON - 2 family on the Thompson/Putnam line, additional .20 of Putnam land included. First floor offers 3 bedrooms with new carpet, 1 bath, living room and spacious kitchen and dining area with newer laminate flooring; 2nd floor is a 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit with updated bathroom. All new baseboard heat installed 2018, replacement windows, siding and windows approx. 17 years old. Only one heating system and one electrical service rent should include heat & electric. Putnam provides the sewer service. Private well with new well pump 2017.
\$138,000

PUTNAM-1922- President Harding might have been listening to the first radio at the White House while local builder, Mr. Wheaton was constructing this elegant "Roaring 20's" home. This Vintage home features a large front parlor & a dining room that leads to the summer porch. Also enjoy the den with a fireplace, kitchen with newer appliances, pantry and half bath on first floor. Pristine oak woodwork and stairway lead you to the upper level which offers a full bath and 3 spacious bedrooms. Venture to the top floor with a 4th bedroom and 2 smaller rms. You will find 9' ceilings, hardwood flooring, moldings and trim, French doors & original hardware. A MUST SEE! Nashua wood stove, updated electrical, new roof, newer furnace, fenced in yard and 2 car garage all on .24 acres. Just minutes to experience Putnam's Downtown, to amenities and Interstate 395. All this for **\$219,900**

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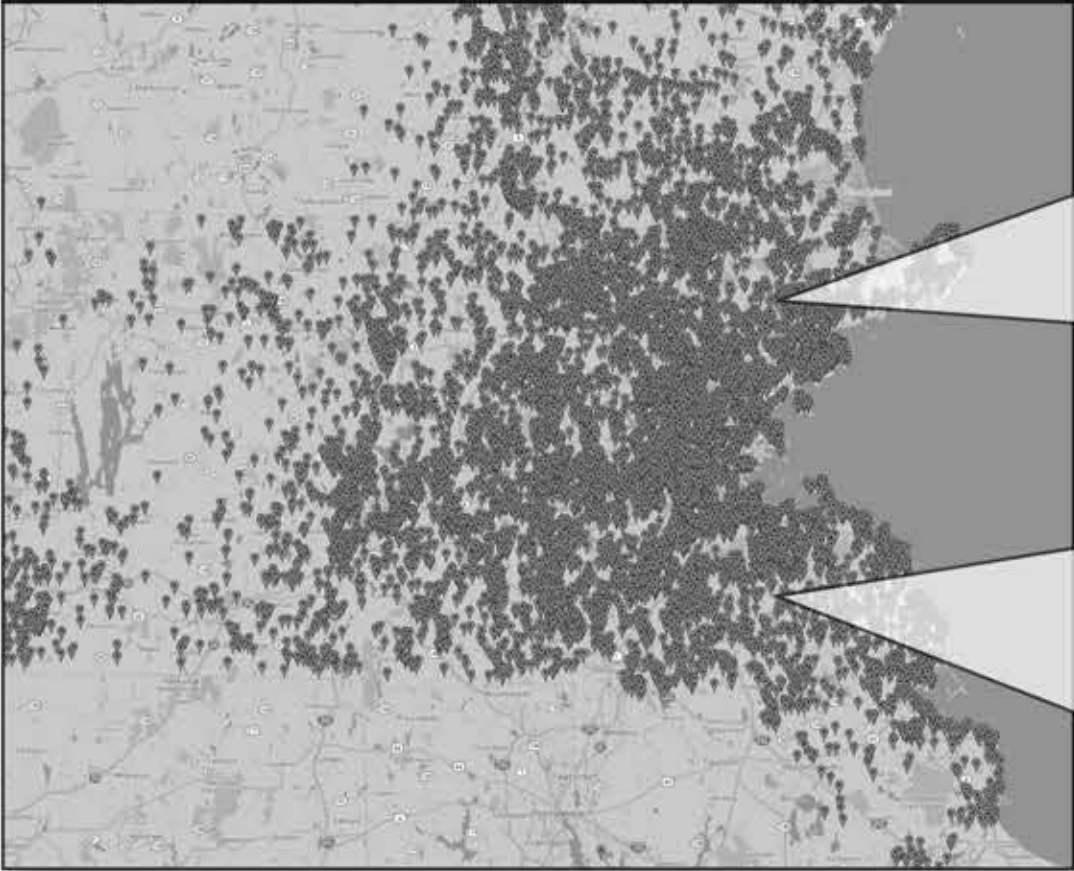
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 1/6/2019. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each patio door and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 11/24/2018 and 1/6/2019. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2019 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details. Renewal by Andersen received the highest score in the product segment of the J.D. Power 2018 Windows and Patio Doors Satisfaction Study of customers' satisfaction with their windows and patio doors. Visit jdpower.com/awards.



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ANSWER: GIVING GIFTS

Crossword Puzzle

1					2			3
5		6						
8								
9								

ACROSS

1. Special occasions
4. Sports group
5. Have fun
9. Gifts

DOWN

1. Place to live
2. Task or job
3. Small parts to try
6. Gets a laugh
7. Move fast
8. Not down

Answers:
Across
1. Holidays 4. Team 5. Enjoy 9. Presents
Down
1. Home 2. Duty 3. Samples 6. Joke 7. Run 8. Up

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

• **1787:** NEW JERSEY BECOMES THE THIRD STATE TO RATIFY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

• **1939:** THE BATTLE OF HELIGOLAND BIGHT OCCURS. IT IS THE FIRST MAJOR AIR BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II.

• **2015:** KELLINGLEY COLLIERY, THE LAST DEEP COAL MINE IN GREAT BRITAIN, CLOSES.

present a gift or honor

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Grandfather
SPANISH: Regalo
ITALIAN: Regalo
FRENCH: Cadeau
GERMAN: Geschenk

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WILL SPEND AROUND \$900 ON HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COWORKERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PRESENT

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael P. McCarthy and Christina L. McCarthy to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for "Lender"; Advanced Financial Services, Inc. and its successors and assigns dated July 15, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 36812, Page 164, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated December 15, 2010 and recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 47834, Page 204, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 12:00 PM, on January 11, 2019**, on the premises known as **1 Minuteman Lane, Oxford, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit:

Certain parcel of land shown as Lot 1 as shown on a plan entitled, "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land for Liberty Heights in Oxford, Mass." Dated May 4, 2001, said plan recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 779, Plan 40 together with the fee in Minuteman Lane as shown on said plan to which reference is made for a more particular description of said parcels.

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash

or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within thirty (30) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale.

Dated: December 12, 2018
Present holder of said mortgage
The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate Holders CWALT, Inc. Alternative Loan Trust 2005-48T1 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-48T1 by its Attorneys
Guaetta and Benson, LLC
Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire
P.O. Box 519
Chelmsford, MA 01824
December 21, 2018
December 28, 2018
January 4, 2019

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
17SM005751
ORDER OF NOTICE:**

Joan M. Lucier and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 et seq.: PHH Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 82 Slater Street, given by Joan M. Lucier to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for ERA Mortgage Corporation, dated July 31, 2013, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 51294, Page 41, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Service-

ineer for ERA Mortgage Corporation, dated July 31, 2013, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 51294, Page 41, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before January 28, 2019 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on December 11, 2018.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
17-029583
December 21, 2018

SEAL

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
18 SM 006040
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: The Heirs, Devisees or Legal Representatives of the Estate of George F. Hoar, Jr., Alana F. Hoar and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq.: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 10 Chris Road, given by George F. Hoar, Jr. to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated November 24, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40245, Page 328, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Service-

members Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before January 14, 2019 or you may be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on December 6, 2018.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
December 21, 2018

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO18P3867EA
Estate of:
Jean P. Vezina
Also Known As:
Jean P. Colp Vezina
Date Of Death: October 21, 2018
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Cathleen Salapare of Silver Spring MD** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Cathleen Salapare of Silver Spring MD 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 21, 2018

LEGALS

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by William F. Lavigne and Stacey N. Lavigne F/K/A Stacey N. McBow to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated August 21, 2009 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 44765, Page 333 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on May 1, 2015 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 53665, Page 352 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 11, 2019 at 1 Dalessandro Avenue, Dudley, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, on the westerly side of D'Alessandro Avenue extending northerly from Dudley Hill Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pin on the westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue 143.09 feet from the northerly line of Dudley Hill Road; THENCE North 60° 44' West by land now or formerly of Nicola D'Alessandro one hundred twenty-five (125) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Kozlowski; THENCE North 8° 12' East by said Kozlowski land sixty-two hundredths (62.02) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Leroy B. Starbuck, et al; THENCE South 82° 32' East by said Starbuck land one hundred forty-four and eighty-eight hundredths (144.88) feet to an iron pin at the westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue; THENCE southerly by the westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue along a curve to the right having a radius of two hundred twenty-three and forty-four hundredths (223.44) feet, a distance of one hundred fourteen and seventy-one hundredths (114.71) feet to the point of beginning. REF: Bk 24355 Pg 414

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
18-005560
December 21, 2018
December 28, 2018
January 4, 2019

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

singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
Borrower(s): Kevin Dixon
Property Address: 21 Elm Street, Webster, Massachusetts 01570
A tract of land and dwelling, with buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the Town of Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the southerly side of Elm Street, so-called, being Lot #11 on a plan made by H.J Clarke for John B. Day, dated October 2, 1890, bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at a post in the Southerly bound of said Elm Street, being the corner of lot numbered #10 in said plan and now or formerly owned by one Davis;
THENCE by land now or formerly of said Davis South 16 degrees East, seven (7) rods and six (6) feet to a post at land now or formerly of one Burlesow;
THENCE by land now or formerly of said Burlesow, South 78 degrees West, four (4) rods to a post at lot numbered #12 on said plan and owned now or formerly by A.J. Bates;
THENCE by land now or formerly of said Bates seven (7) rods and four (4) feet to a post on the Southerly line of said Elm Street;
THENCE by said Elm Street four (4) rods to the place of beginning, Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor (s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 42938, Page 153.

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 May 28, 2008, and recorded in Book 42938 at Page 153 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 U.S. Bank National Association
Present Holder of the Mortgage (860) 677-2868

December 21, 2018
December 28, 2018
January 4, 2019

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Marlon F. Blandon a/k/a Marlon Blandon, Michelle Blandon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc., dated July 10, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44568, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Incorporated, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank, NA, recorded on September 29, 2017, in Book No. 57811, at Page 18 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 21, 2019, on the mortgaged premises located at 20 Central Avenue, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
The land with the buildings thereon situated in Dudley on said Worcester County, on the Westerly side of Central Avenue, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stone bound on the westerly side of said Central Avenue at land of one Gadoury; Thence northerly forty-seven and fifteen hundredths (47.15) feet by said Central Avenue to a stake at land of Noel Poulin; Thence westerly with an interior angle of 88° 49' by land of said Poulin a distance of one hundred and eight hundredths (100.08) feet to a stake at land of John McQuaid, Est. to a stone bound; Thence southerly forty-two and twenty-five hundredths (42.25) feet by land of said McQuaid Est. to a stone bound Thence easterly ninety-seven and seven tenths

(97.07) feet by land of said Gadoury to the point of beginning. For out title reference see that deed of Theresa Govina by Maureen P. Horam having POA to Pamela J. Boutiette, dated Jun e 23, 1999, and recorded with the Dudley, Worcester(S) County Registry of Deeds on June 30, 1999 at Book 21568, Page 32.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44567, Page 391.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
11445
December 14, 2018
December 21, 2018
December 28, 2018

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO18P3895GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Rommel Portante
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Maria Luz R Portante of Webster, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Rommel Portante** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Maria Luz R Portante of Webster, 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 the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **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 **01/08/2019**. 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 above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 03, 2018
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 21, 2018

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. 18P3763
Estate of:
Julia Stephanie Sedor
Date Of Death: August 27, 2018
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Susan A Sedor of Harwich, MA**

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 21, 2018

**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. WO18P3978EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Robert E Kroll
Also known as:
Robert Kroll
Date of Death: 08/10/2018**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Steven E Kroll of Dudley MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Steven E Kroll of Dudley MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an 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 01/22/2019**. 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 10, 2018
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 21, 2018

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L.c. 255, Section 39A
Notice is hereby given by: School St Towing 17-31 School St Webster MA 01570. pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that on 5 JAN 2019 at 9AM at 17-31 School St Webster MA 01570 by Private Sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle. Vehicle description: Year: 2013 Make: Toyota Model: RAV - 4-XLE Registration#/State: UnReg VIN: JTMRFFREVX88005140
Name and address of vehicle owner: Edward & Deborah Weber, 10 Main St, South Grafton, MA 01560
by: Frank A Czechowski Jr Dated: 15 Dec 2018 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A
December 21, 2018
December 28, 2018
January 4, 2019

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ARTICLES FOR SALE

010 FOR SALE

2 LAZY BOY LEATHER- swivel rocker recliners, beautiful rich mahogany color. Less than 1 year old, perfect condition. \$500 each. 774-280-2639

2008 ZODIAC and 14' CANOE, excellent condition. ACTI-V 94", electric pump/all accessories, air floor. 2009 Honda 8HP, serviced. \$2,195 Canoe: oars/ seats, no leaks. \$275 860-983-0800 Sturbridge

225 GALLON WATER STORAGE TANK - used 6 months. \$350 508-867-2523

24 FOOT POOL, ABOVE-GROUND, 4 years old, filter, motor, all supplies included (except liner) Ready to go \$950 or best offer 508-498-0166 leave message

4 SNOW TIRES -235/50 R18 101T used 2 months- paid \$800, asking best offer. 508-414-2474

ABOVE-GROUND SWIMMING POOL, 24' x 54", filter system, 1 season. \$1,000 or best offer. 508-943-8769

ACORN STAIRLIFT - 3.5 years old; like new condition. 11 feet long. Asking \$1400 or best offer. Call 508-277-6568 if interested.

ANGLE IRON CUTTER For Shelving 4W296, HK Potter 2790. Normally Sells For \$700. \$50 OBO. Call 5pm-8:30pm, (508)867-6546

Beautiful Southwestern style sectional sofa, gently used, L-shape 112" x 86" Please call to set up time to view 508-885-9862. \$150 firm.

BUNK BEDS, black (youth) with mattresses (includes like-new bedding) \$350. Other furniture also available. Call Pat 508-949-9049

COFFEE & TWO END TABLES- Cherry finish w/glass tops. Very good condition. \$125 Call 508-735-2560

Couch, 84 inches long. Dark red fabric with pillows, good condition. \$150. 508-410-5167

010 FOR SALE

CUB CADET SNOWBLOWER. 13hp Tecumseh OHV. 45 in. width, trigger steering, 6 FRWD, 2 REV, new condition. Hardly used! \$1,600.00. 508-347-3775

ELECTRICAL MATERIAL: Industrial, Commercial, Residential. Wire, Pipe, Fittings, Relays, Coils, Overloads, Fuses, Breakers, Meters, Punches, Pipe-Benders. New Recessed Troffer, Fluorescent 3-Tube T-8 277V Fixtures Enclosed \$56 Each. Call 5pm-8:30pm. (508)867-6546

FINLAND BLUE FOX JACKET: By Michael Valente Size 8, very good condition. \$100 OBO. Vintage Black American Sable Coat, sz. small \$50 OBO 508-864-4075

FLY RODS - 2 ALBRIGHT A/5 490 9 FT. #4 RODS. 2 Orvis reels Battenkill BBS II. Asking \$200 each set or best offer. 508-347-3145

FULL LENGTH MINK COAT: Size 12. New \$2,400. Asking \$300. 508-612-9263

GARAGE CLEARANCE: ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE, bush trimmer, glass top table, etc. 508-728-5559 (Spencer)

GARDEN MANURE, delivered. 4 yards, \$130. Call Prindle Hill Farm 508-320-3273 or 508-248-7335

LETTER PRESS COMMERCIAL PRINTING EQUIPMENT - all together, poster press 14"x22", job press 10"x15", Seybold paper cutter (extra blade) 25"x36", wooden type cabinet, 12 draws of type, 1 lead cutting saw, hand tool equipment, 2 steel draw cabinets. (will not sell separately) \$5,000. 508-764-4458

MOTORS: 1/2HP 230/460V 1725RPM, 56 Frame \$30. 5HP, 230/460V 1740RPM, 184T Frame/TEFC \$100. 5HP, 230/460V 3495RPM, 184T Frame/TEFC \$100. 4 Motor Speed Controls Hitachi J100, 400/460V Best Offer. Call 5pm-8:30pm 508-867-6546

MOVING - MUST SELL. 3 piece electric reclining living room set, brown. \$300 free- pedestal table w/4 chairs 508-612-6485

010 FOR SALE

NORDIC TRACK TRL625: Recumbent cycle w/stabilizing floor bar for secure balance. TREADMILL - for therapeutic fitness (walking & jogging) (for up to 400 lbs.) \$250 each both in excellent condition. 508-892-3998, 508-723-4452

REMEMBER YOUR SWEET-HEART: Collection of Victorian Era hand-painted items ALL with roses: vases, rose bowls, pitchers, chocolate pot, cake sets, planters. No reasonable offer refused. 508-237-2362 Auburn

SMALL BUREAU \$75. Printer's Antique Drawers \$20 Per. Fake Brick Fireplace With Heater \$140 Kitchen Chairs. Spare Tire P225/60r16 Eagle GA With Rim \$45 Vanity Table & Chair \$135. Car Sunroofs \$100. Per. Homemade Pine Coffee Table & 2 End Tables \$100. Antique Lamp Jug \$40. Antique Croquet Set \$40. Wood Truck Ramps 8 Foot \$100.00. Drop Leaf Cart \$50. End Table W/Drawer \$50. End Table W/Drawer \$60. Elvis Presley Silhouette \$50 (he talks!), Indian canvas painting \$60, 9 golf clubs \$100, Call 1-508-764-4458 or 1-774-452-3514

SNOW PLOW, Myers, 612' all controls and lights, great condition. Can be seen at Old Cider Mill, Rt. 9, West Brookfield or call 774-232-9382

SNOW TIRES, PIRELLI 245/45R19/102V M+S, 250 miles, \$1000, 508-564-3556

TOOL SHEDS Made of Texture 1-11: 8x8 \$1075 8x10 \$1260; 8x12 \$1350; 8x16 \$1675 Delivered, Built On-Site. Other Sizes Available. CALL (413) 324-1117

TREES/FIELDSTONE: Trees- Evergreens, Excellent Privacy Border. Hemlocks- Spruces-Pines (3'-4' Tall) 5 for \$99. Colorado Blue Spruce (18"-22" Tall) 10 for \$99. New England Fieldstone Round/Flat, Excellent Retaining Wallstone. \$28/Ton (508) 278-5762 Evening

TWO USED RECLINERS, \$75 each. Dishwasher, bought new, never used, \$225 or best offer. 508-764-3567 please leave message

010 FOR SALE

VIKING RANGE, PROFESSIONAL SERIES, propane gas, 6-sealed burner, 36" infrared broiler, as new, never lit, still in original packaging. w/ tags. Model VCGSC-5366BSS, trades considered. \$4,600 508-865-7470

WE'VE MOVED! Husqvarna lawn tractor, misc. home furnishings, king, queen, twin beds, lamps, etc. priced to sell! No reasonable offer refused. Call 413-896-7047 Sturbridge area.

WHITE OUTDOOR PRODUCTS SNOWBLOWER. 10hp Tecumseh, two stage, 30 in. width. Electric start, well maintained! \$600.00. 508-347-3775

100 GENERAL

105 BULLETIN BOARD

VOLUNTEER NEEDED to shovel sidewalk & back porch for elderly person in Leicester during the winter. 508-868-5953, please leave message.

107 Misc. FREE

FREE TWIN BED MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING, Uxbridge. Good condition. call 508-278-6447

130 YARD SALES

DEADLINE FOR YARD SALE SUBMISSIONS IS NOON MONDAY FOR ALL MASS. WEEKLY PAPERS
Deadline subject to change due to holidays
Call for more info

200 GEN. BUSINESS

205 BOATS

14' GREAT CANADIAN CANOE includes 2 clamp-on chair seats, 2 paddles, 2 life-vests. Excellent condition. \$425 508-885-3017

CANOE - 17' GRUMMAN ALUMINUM, flat bottom. Ideal for fishing and family fun. \$850. Call Sue 860-412-9632

225 INSTRUCTIONS

Inexpensive guitar lessons in North Brookfield. \$5.00 for kids and \$10.00 adults. My lessons are 1/2 hour long on weekdays or weekends. Call or text 1-774-200-0955 or email groutbilly@yahoo.com.

265 FUEL/WOOD

CORD WOOD - Seasoned, cut, split, delivered. \$250 a cord. 508-826-3312, 508-344-9214

FIREWOOD: Cut, Split & Delivered. Green Wood Lots Wanted. Call Paul (508) 769-2351

283 PETS

TEDDY BEAR SHICHON PUPPIES - 3 males, 2 females. Born 8-26-18. Vet checked, available 11-4-18 \$800. 401-678-9166 or 401-419-5889 or 860-315-9945

284 Lost & Found PETS

*Did you find your pet?
Or find a home for one?*



LET US KNOW!!!

Please call us so that we can take your ad out of the paper...

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287 FEED

HAY FOR SALE - \$4 a bale off wagon (pick up only), cash 508-826-3312

298 WANTED TO BUY

ROUTE 169 ANTIQUES: 884 Worcester St., Southbridge MA. Looking To Purchase Antiques And Collectibles Single Items Or Entire Estates. We Buy It All And Also Do On-Site Estate Sales And Estate Auction. We are now accepting dealers for our multi-dealer group shop. Call Mike Anytime (774)230-1662.

298 WANTED TO BUY

LEE'S COINS & JEWELRY \$ BUY & SELL \$ ALL GOLD & SILVER ITEMS Specializing in NUMISMATIC COINS, Bullion Items, gold & silver of any form! Qualified with over 30 years experience & a following of many satisfied customers. We also sell a nice selection of fine jewelry, antiques & collectibles. Bring in your items & see what they're worth. You won't leave disappointed. Honesty and fairness are our best policies! Lee's Coins & Jewelry, 239 West Main Street, East Brookfield (Route 9 - Panda Garden Plaza) (508) 637-1236 or (508)341-6355 (cell)

WANTED: 24' Pontoon Boat & trailer (used). Webster area. 617-750-0969

WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIRS WANTED: WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING! Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc. Over 30 Years Experience. Call David 1-(508)688-0847. It Come To YOU!

300 HELP WANTED

310 GENERAL HELP WANTED

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED: Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support. Generous Reimbursement. \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details. Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769

Devereux
ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Medical Billing/ Data Entry - We have a full-time and part-time opening at a small medical billing company. Lytec medical billing software being used. Knowledge of CPT and ICD-9 a plus. Fax resumes to (508)347-7347

311 PART-TIME HELP WANTED

DRIVERS WANTED We are looking for non-emergency medical drivers to work in the Boston/Lowell area. We have hours available all day Monday through Sunday. Please come in and fill out an application M-F, 10-3pm @ 217 Main St., Oxford, MA

325 PROFESSIONAL HELP WANTED

BASED IN North Brookfield: Home Every Night. Class A Driver And/Or General Mechanic For 18-Wheel Trailer Trucks

Contact H.R. Salem Transport, LLC.(800) 262-9081

400 SERVICES

433 CLEANING

HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE Reasonable rates. Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly times available. Bonded- Call Wendy for a FREE estimate at: 774-262-9166

LINDA'S CLEANING SERVICE Professional cleaning with a personal touch! Over 20 years of cleaning experience. Call Linda 508-341-7025

442 LICENSED DAY CARE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services requires that all ads placed in the newspaper for child care (daycare) in your home include your license number

454 HOME IMPROVEMENT

FURNITURE DOCTOR: Have your furniture Professionally restored at Reasonable rates. Furniture face lifting, painting, striping to Refinishing, caning and repairs. ANTIQUE DOCTOR, Daniel Ross (508)248-9225 or (860)382-5410. 30 years in business

500 REAL ESTATE

510 COMMERCIAL/ BUSINESSES

COMMERCIAL, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL & STORAGE SPACE: 1,000 to 10,000 sq. ft. facility located in Pomfret, CT. Call Rose Construction 860-928-4072 or email rose.construction.snet.net

546 CEMETERY LOTS

Pine Grove Cemetery, Whitinsville. Double plot for sale, lower than the going price. Yew Avenue. Call owner 774-602-8211

WORCESTER COUNTY MEMORIAL PARK: Garden of Faith, Paxton, MA. 2 LOTS FOR SALE. BUY ONE FOR \$2,500. GET 2nd LOT FOR FREE!! Call Dick 508-612-9263

Local Heroes



FOUND HERE!

576 VACATION RESOURCES

CAPE COD TIME SHARE FOR SALE: Edgewater Beach Resort, 95 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639 On the water, Studio (Unit 706). Permanent Week 33 (August). Deeded Rights. You'll own it for a lifetime & can be passed down to your children and grandchildren. REDUCED \$3500. (508) 347-3145

TIMESHARE FOR SALE full-flex week at The Manhattan Club in New York located across from Carnegie Hall. Great buy; illness forces this sale. Asking \$7,000. For details 508-248-5123

Automotive



700 AUTOMOTIVE

725 AUTOMOBILES

1971 Chevy Impala Convertible 400 2 barrel carb with 89,000 miles, 1 owner, runs smooth, new top in 2012, asking \$8,000 or best offer 508-885-6878

1987 BMW 325i Convertible, red with black leather interior, 153,000 miles and in good condition, no rust, newest top, needs a tune-up. \$4100 or B/O, Adam 508-735-4413

1988 Mercury Topaz, 73K miles, one owner, always garaged, showroom condition, white, 2 door, 4 cyl., auto, FWD, PS, PB snows on, driven daily, best offer. 774-232-0920 or 508-892-1462

725 AUTOMOBILES

1998 Mercedes Benz SL500 convertible and removable hard-top. Red to keep you young! Perfect condition. \$14,000 508-885-6988

2001 CAD EL DORADO TC 72,000 miles. Must see! \$11,000 7 Hartley Street, Webster, Mass.

2002 BMW 525IA. \$3995. Call Ray for more details. 508-450-5241

2007 TOYOTA COROLLA S \$3995. Call Ray for more info. 508-450-5241

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Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photos, news and announcements!
The Webster Senior Center will close at 12:30 pm on Monday, December 24th and will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.
The Senior Center will close at 12:30 pm on Monday, December 31st and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1st in observance of New Year’s Day.

Tri-Valley Lunches: Served Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48 hours in advance to reserve your meal or to cancel a reserved meal.

FREE Blood Pressure Screening on the second Thursday of every month at 10:30 am. Sponsored by Webster Manor.

The Webster Senior Center offers a SHINE Counselor. Dates and times may vary. Please call The Webster Senior Center (508) 949-3845 to make an appointment.

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Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts at 1:00 pm promptly. Please plan to arrive by 12:45 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Our bingo group is looking for volunteers to call bingo. Stop by the front desk or call (508) 949-3845 for more information.

Wednesday:
Progressive Pitch: Every Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 pm. No need to commit to a league, come and play when you can make it. NEW! – Mahjongg. Wednesdays from 1-3pm. Please call 508-949-3845 if you are interested or stop by the Senior Center.

Thursday:
13-Card Pitch: Every Thursday at 1:00 pm

Friday:
9-Card Pitch: Every Friday at 1:00 pm
NEW...CRIBBAGE GROUP! Fridays at 1:00 pm.

Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo 10-11 a.m.; Move While U Groove (dance fitness) 11:30-12:30 \$3 per class.

S.C.M. Elderbus Inc. Passengers: Please note that you need to call 1-800-321-0243 at least 48 business hours (2 days) in advance to schedule a ride.
House Number Signs: Worcester County Sheriff's Office offers a free service to anyone who may be interested in having a number sign made for his or her house. Please inquire at Senior Center Office.

Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 or stop in and pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of additional activities and upcoming events.

Season's Greetings

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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00AM-5:30PM



HOME

Get your home fall- and winter-ready with 5 simple projects

(MS) — If boots, a warm hat and a tuned-up snow blower are the only items on your winter preparation list, your home maintenance plan may need a makeover. These simple home maintenance projects can help lower your energy bills, prevent more costly repairs and/or increase the lifespan of your home.

1. Heating & Ventilation — Examine your fireplace and chimney system to ensure that no soot or creosote has collected. Any cracks or voids could potentially cause a fire. Before you turn the furnace or boiler on, replace the air filter and hire a professional to inspect the unit more thoroughly. These steps will improve the efficiency and life of your furnace and will ensure stable indoor air quality.

2. Seal Windows and Doors — If not properly sealed, windows and doors can be a major culprit for heat loss. To keep the warm air inside, inspect the weather-stripping around your home's windows and doors for leaks, rot or decay.



Repair or replace structural framing, and caulk inside and out, if necessary.

3. Insulate well — One of the easiest and most effective defenses against heat loss is proper insulation. Prevent cold drafts

from entering and the loss of heated air through basement headers, which, when left exposed, can make your furnace work harder. Look for a moisture-resistant product offering high thermal performance, such

as Roxul Comfortbatt insulation. This type of mineral wool insulation makes installation simple. All that's needed is a serrated blade or bread knife. Cut the batt to fit the cavity and press into place. The insulation will

help improve energy efficiency as soon as it's in place and provide savings over the lifetime of your home. Comfortbatt can also be used to top or replace old attic insulation. Aim for an R-50 or a depth of 16 inches.

4. Backyard Care — Save your property from potential damage by trimming overgrown trees and shrubs to prevent ice-laden branches from thrashing against electrical wires and your home's exterior. Drain/shut off any exterior faucets and sprinkler systems to prevent freezing. Ensure rain or snow drains away from the house to avoid foundation problems.

5. Roof and Gutters — Inspect your roof for shingles that are warped, damaged or even missing to prevent a future leak. Use roofing cement and a caulking gun to seal joints where water could penetrate, such as around the chimney, skylights or vent pipes. Make sure that your gutters and downspouts are securely fastened. Downspouts should extend at least five feet away from the home to prevent flooding.

When it comes to preventative maintenance, a little time and effort can save thousands in energy costs and repair bills over the lifetime of your home.

Keep on going green this winter

Each season presents its own unique set of challenges. From summer heat waves to spring rainstorms to snowfall in winter, the planet throws a lot at its inhabitants.

Living an eco-friendly lifestyle is often simple. But sometimes the weather can make it hard to maintain a commitment to going green. Winter weather can be particularly challenging, as it can be hard to sacrifice convenience and comfort in the face of harsh weather. But there are ways to stay true to your eco-friendly roots even when winter weather is at its most unpleasant.

- Save your fireplace ashes. If your home has a fireplace that you like to cozy up next to in winter, you can make great use of the ashes left behind when the fire goes out. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, ashes from wood-burning fireplaces can be added to compost heaps. Once added, these ashes help to create a soil amendment that can deliver valuable nutrients to your garden. After each fire, collect the ashes rather than sweeping them up and discarding them. Then add the collected ashes to your compost pile when the weather permits.

- Install a programmable thermostat. If you don't already have one, install a programmable thermostat in your home. The Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy notes that homeowners can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs by turning their thermostats back 7° to 10° F for eight hours per day. Set the thermostat to drop 10°F when the family leaves for work and/or school in the morning, programming it to return to a more comfortable level when the family returns home at night. This saves you from sitting in a cold home

while also saving you money by making sure you are not paying to heat an empty house.

- Have your home heating system inspected before winter hits full swing. Home heating systems, including boilers and furnaces, should be inspected by a professional each year, ideally before the arrival of winter. Heating systems that are not operating at peak efficiency will cost homeowners money and waste energy. If you notice yourself frequently increasing the temperature on your thermostat just to keep your home warm and comfortable, call a local HVAC professional to inspect the system. Scheduling such an appointment prior to the arrival of winter can save you the cost and discomfort of living with an inefficient system.

- Choose an electric snowblower. Many homeowners now use snowblowers instead of shovels to remove snow from their properties. While snow shovels are the most eco-friendly snow removal tool, even the most eco-conscious homeowners recognize how snowblowers make snow removal easy and more efficient. But gas-powered snowblowers consume substantial amounts of fuel. If you must use a snowblower, choose an electric one instead of one powered by gas. Even though electric snowblowers consume electricity, the EPA notes that such products leave a smaller carbon footprint than gas-powered snowblowers because they do not emit greenhouse gases.

Harsh winter weather can make it challenging to live in an eco-friendly way. But there are many ways to withstand winter and do so in a way that does not hurt the planet.

Seeing green: How to help your lawn bounce back from winter



Winter weather, including snow, can damage lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

Lawns are exposed to the elements throughout the year, and each season brings its own unique set of challenges. Summer heat waves can make it hard for lawns to maintain their lush green appeal, while the falling leaves of autumn can threaten root systems if not handled properly. Winter frost and snow also can pose a threat to lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

Spring is a season of revival, and that spirit of rejuvenation extends to lawns. When the last vestiges of winter begin to disappear, homeowners can dust off their gardening gloves and start taking steps to revitalize their lawns for the months ahead.

- Look for signs of damage. Winter can be hard on lawns, so it's important for homeowners to look for signs of damage before they begin planning any spring-time landscaping projects. Salt damage can occur in areas that received heavy snowfall over the winter. Many communities use rock salt to de-ice snow- and ice-covered roads, and that rock salt is largely made up of sodium chloride, which can draw moisture from grass and cause it to brown. Salt trucks used during winter storms often spit salt out onto lawns, so don't be surprised if you notice brown spots on your grass, especially in those areas closest to the road. Winter lawn damage may also be caused by voles, burrowing mouse-like rodents that make paths beneath the snow to hide from predators and feed on grass blades and roots. Lawns with distinctly matted areas may also have been damaged by snow mold that can weaken turf.

- Consult a professional landscaper. Homeowners with considerable experience tending to damaged lawns can no doubt identify and address problems on

their own. That's because many problems are a result of the weather, which tends to be similar and produce similar problems from one year to the next. But inexperienced homeowners should consult professional landscapers before attempting to address problems on their own. Winter lawn damage may be caused by a variety of factors that can produce similar symptoms, and professional landscapers can identify the culprits behind such damage and provide the most effective solutions to restore the lawn.

- Remove debris. A light raking can help remove any debris that accumulated over the winter. Such debris, which may include fallen branches and fallen leaves left behind from the final days of fall, can prevent lawns from getting the sun and water they need to thrive. Remove this debris, but make sure the grass is not frozen when you do, as walking on frozen grass can cause further damage.

- Let the grass grow. Mowing the lawn is a chore that's reserved for spring, summer and maybe early fall, but it's important that homeowners don't jump the gun and mow too early after winter. A patient approach allows the grass to reestablish itself, so let it grow a little higher than you normally would before the first cut. When the grass is roughly 4.5 inches high, you can cut it down to three inches and then maintain your normal mowing routine throughout the rest of spring and summer.

Revitalizing lawns in springtime is a priority for many homeowners, who should always consult landscaping professionals if they feel uncertain about addressing any damage they discover during their post-winter lawn inspections.





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