

WEBSTER TIMES

Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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Friday, August 13, 2021

All Saints Academy hosts successful Summer Basketball League



BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WEBSTER — There is no doubt that COVID-19 wreaked havoc on just about anything and everything imaginable, including high school basketball seasons. There were no summer leagues in 2020, and then many schools didn't offer the sport during the winter of 2020-21. So, referee Pete DelloStritto made it his duty this summer for all local teams to have a chance to pick up a basketball and play.

"Because of COVID last year, everything was squashed. This year, I was approached by a handful of coaches asking if there was going to be any basketball...a lot of schools hadn't even had [winter] seasons," said DelloStritto. "Things started to ease up, but the Auburn High School [site of the normal summer league] was still off limits. I understood that, but I reached out to the coaches that reached out to me and asked if they would be interested. I sent an email out to about 16 or 18 coaches and the vast majority of coaches said that they wanted their teams to play."

Auburn High wasn't the only school that wouldn't allow a summer league to take place. In fact, DelloStritto couldn't find a public school to host. That's where All Saints Academy of Webster stepped in.

"Because All Saints is a private catholic school, they said we could use their gymnasium," explained DelloStritto.

All Saints Athletic Director Jeff Paulhus, a fellow official along with DelloStritto and a basketball coaching staff member at Bay Path Regional, gave his location the OK for the summer league.

"I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to them because without them it wouldn't have been possible," said DelloStritto. "It's also a really nice facility."

Bartlett High, Bay Path, David Prouty Regional, Grafton High, Leicester High, Millbury High, Oxford High, Quaboag Regional, Shepherd Hill Regional,

Turn To **BASKETBALL** page **A15**

Thanks to Pete DelloStritto's effort to ensure that a boys' summer basketball league would take place this year for much of southern Worcester County, Bartlett High's team won the title over Grafton High at All Saints Academy in its hometown of Webster on Wednesday, July 28.

Nick Ethier

Willardson resigns effective Sept. 3

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — To Select Board Chair Randy Becker, "Whenever you have the town administrator show up in your driveway — he'd texted, but I didn't see the text — I knew something bad was up."

He's referring to how he learned Doug Willardson was resigning as town administrator, effective Sept. 3. It was a decision Becker described as "A bad one for the town and a good one for Doug and his family."

"I can't imagine where we'd be without your five years," he told Willardson at the Aug. 2 selectmen's meeting.

"It's been great,"

Willardson replied, praising the board for "set[ting] a good tone for the town" and the "whole [town] team for working hard" to make things happen.

Willardson proposed retired Dudley Town Administrator Greg Balukonis as "the best person" to serve as interim administrator while the town searches for a permanent replacement. Noting Balukonis was most recently interim in Blackstone and has expressed willingness to do it, he added "he's probably more familiar with our town than anybody else who'd be available."

The board seemed to agree, with Becker saying Balukonis "retired

with distinction." They appointed Andrew Jolda and Earl Gabor to negotiate with him and bring back a contract for a vote Aug 9, although Balukonis himself can't attend that night.

In some sense, that's the easy part. Willardson's letter triggers a charter-based process with specific deadlines for creating a screening committee and ultimately appointing a new administrator. Becker said this committee includes three appointees by the moderator and two each by the selectmen, school committee and finance committee, and needs to start working within 30 days

Turn To **WILLARDSON** page **A15**

Schools revise Covid protocols

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — In a 20-minute online meeting July 27, the School Committee green-lighted Covid protocols for the upcoming school year.

Noting they were "not policy; it could change at any time," Superintendent Ruthann Goguen said she was aiming to have "some distancing at lunch," with a three-foot goal and kids facing forward, and all students masked indoors, but not outside.

"We feel this is less than what we've been doing the previous year," she said, adding the administration hopes "to get back to some sense of normal."

the protocol changes are happening in light of a few things. One is the risk of the Delta variant, which a recent case

cluster in Provincetown and data from Israel show is able to infect and be transmitted by vaccinated people. A second is the fact there is still no vaccine for children under age 12, and Goguen noted they've looked at various issues regarding mixing students of various ages. A third is more bureaucratic — the state education commissioner is not allowing remote schooling to count toward "time-on-learning" requirements, so all students need to be in class, although absence for health reasons (including quarantine) won't be held against them.

Goguen also cited recommendations from the CDC and American Association of Pediatrics as part of the rationale for the changes.

Specifically, the AAP

recommends "universal masking" for all children older than two years and all staff for several reasons, including "the lack of a system to monitor vaccine status among students, teachers and staff," and "continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults." It also notes masks can protect "against other respiratory illnesses that would take time away from school."

"It is critically important to develop strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission and test positivity rate throughout the community and schools," AAP's website states, noting districts should pursue "a multi-pronged, lay-

Turn To **COVID** page **A15**

Dudley, Oxford receive dam infrastructure grants

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/OXFORD — The town of Dudley and Oxford have both been awarded grants through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Dam and Seawall Program that will be used for dam design and permitting as part of the Baker administrations focus on addressing failing dam infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

The two municipalities are receiving a share of more than \$17.3 million in grant funding announced on June 28 as Gov. Charlie Baker also highlighted a \$2.9 billion proposal to invest a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funding provided to Massachusetts to help with climate-resistant infrastructure.

"The Commonwealth's cities and towns are seeing the impacts of climate change every day, and our Administration is committed to providing needed funding to support critical resilience projects to address these issues," said Baker during an appearance at the Haskell Pond Dam in Gloucester, which will also benefit from grant funding. "These grants will help municipalities make substantial progress to maintain and repair aging dams and seawalls across Massachusetts."

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides praised Baker's commitment to helping provide resources to communities to prepare for future natural disasters.

"Since coming into office in 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has delivered over \$82.5 million in funding through the Dam and Seawall Program to improve critical infrastructure that protects our communities and businesses and makes our Commonwealth more



Courtesy

Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced dam and coastal infrastructure grants awarded to 27 towns, including Dudley and Oxford.

Turn To **GRANTS** page **A15**



Courtesy
The scene of a two-vehicle accident on Aug. 3 that resulted in injuries to an unnamed motorcyclist.

Motorcyclist injured in Dudley crash

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – A multi-vehicle accident resulted in injuries to a motorcyclist in Dudley on Tuesday, Aug. 3 with police still examining what transpired during the incident.

Dudley Police released details into the accident that occurred on Aug. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the intersection of Warsaw Ave and George Street in Dudley. Officers Ryan Daniels and Luis Pacheco were dispatched to the scene along with Dudley Fire and EMS. When the arrived responder discovered a male operator, whose name had not been released as of press time, injured as a result of the two-vehicle collision.

According to police the male operator was riding his motorcycle traveling east on George Street. A second vehicle, identified as a black Dodge Dart, traveling in the opposite direction turned left onto Warsaw Avenue. The vehicles collided resulting in damage to the passenger side front end of the Dodge, significant damage to the motorcycle and reported injuries to the motorcyclist. Responders found the motorcyclist alert and conscious but appearing to have suffered serious injuries. On-site aid was given before Dudley EMS transported the individual to UMass Memorial Hospital on Worcester reporting that he was in stable condition upon leaving the scene.

Police assigned Dudley Detective James Annese and members of the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council Accident Reconstruction Team to investigate the cause and circumstances of the accident. The name of the operator of the Dodge Dart was also not released by police as the investigation is deemed ongoing with no charges filed as of this report.

Poetry at Roseland Park Series continues Sunday



WOODSTOCK, Conn. — Several Massachusetts poets/authors will read at the next free poetry reading to be held on Sunday, Aug. 15 at Roseland Park, 205 Roseland Park Rd. in Woodstock, Conn., in the beautiful outdoor amphitheater (barn or boat house if rain). The event will run from 2-4 p.m., and is for people ages 14 and up. Books will be available for purchase. Folding chairs or camp chairs are recommended for a more comfortable time if in amphitheater. Besides featured readers there will be an open mic segment as time allows; strict five - minute limit.

Featured poets on the 15th will be Massachusetts authors Gerald Yelle, David Wyman, and author and Professor Emerita, UMass, Janine Roberts, along with Connecticut author and organizer of Quiet Corner Poets, Christine Kalafus. The featured open mic reader will be Tianna Mercier. National Beat Poet Laureate for 2020, Paul Richmond, and Montreal International Poetry Contest finalist Karen Warinsky will also perform in the open mic.

This event is being sponsored in part by Sharpe Hill Winery, Linemaster Switch Corporation, Brunarhans, Inc., CR Premier Properties, Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, the Woodstock Airport, Ashford's Xtra Mart, Bank Hometown, Charter Oak Credit Union, The Rusty Relic, and Sweet Evalina's.

Questions about this series can be directed to karen.warinsky@gmail.com.

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GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

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All programs are scheduled to be held outside on the Library lawn (unless otherwise noted), weather permitting.

Adult Programming

Adult Summer Reading – June 28th-August 20th
Stop by the Library Circulation Desk to sign up for our Adult Summer Reading Program. All you have to do is read or listen to books and return them to the Library to get raffle tickets. Enter to win Gift Cards and Prizes from local businesses. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library and Marilyn and Gerald Fels.

Book Discussion Group – August 16th 6:30PM
The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of the month. New members are always welcome! Next month’s book discussion will be on Monday, August 16th at 6:30PM either on the Library Lawn, or in the Library’s Local History Room, and will be about the book *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmars.org for inquiries.

Outdoor ‘90s Movie Night – August 19th 8:00PM
Get ready for a throwback to the ‘90s with this extraterrestrial extravaganza! Bring a chair or a blanket, and stop by the Library Lawn to experience the aliens who live among us, and the group whose job it is to keep them a secret! Feel free to dress up in your favorite ‘90s apparel!

Yoga on the Lawn – Saturdays in September 10:00AM-11:15 AM
Join Julie at Gladys Kelly for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the “uniting of movement with breath”. A typical class involves a centering of the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages and, finally, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free for Gladys Kelly patrons. Please bring the following to enable the best experience for your body.

Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast with John Root – September 9th 6:00PM
“Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast” is a power point presentation offering a comprehensive introduction to the identification and uses of wild plants for food and beverage. Distinguishing characteristics, seasons of availability, habitats, methods of preparation, and nutritional and medicinal value of our region’s most common and appealing wild plants are discussed. Questions and comments are welcome throughout the presentation, and illustrated pamphlets with plant descriptions, guidelines for responsible and safe foraging, and a bibliography for further study are distributed as well.

Fall Concert Series: Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards – September 11th 6:00PM
Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards have contributed their first decade to the legacy of American folk and country music, sharing emotively intelligent lyrics, unmistakable vocal harmonies, and a unique blend of instrumentation with audiences throughout the US and Canada. The songs poetically reflect their personal experience as factory workers, teachers, community organizers and natives of postindustrial mill towns in central Massachusetts. Accompanying themselves on guitar, harmonica, ukulele, penny whistle, electric bass, and most uniquely clarinet, their live performance is often punctuated by humorous commentary.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming

Summer Reading 2021 - “Tails and Tales!” - June 28th-August 20th
Join us at the Gladys E. Kelly Library from June 28th to August 20th for our summer-long “Tails and Tales” reading program! Read books (novels, picture books, audio books, comics, etc.) for opportunities to win fun prizes! Sign up is FREE and includes a bag full of goodies and a log to track your reading minutes. Sign up any time throughout the summer; read, and claim prizes as you go. For ages 0-17. Teens get their own prizes to choose from this year! Email atai@cwmars.org or call 508-949-3880 for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library and Marilyn and Gerald Fels.

Wiggles and Giggles! - Wednesdays, June 30th-August 18th (excluding July 7th and August 4th) 10:00-11:00AM
Come sing, dance, and make music with Lainey Hanlon! For children ages 2-5 and their parents/caregivers.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 1-7.

Andrew O. Callender, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 1 for Vandalization of Property. Callender was subsequently charged with Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License, Improper Storage of a Firearm, Felony Possession of a Firearm, and possession of a Large Capacity Firearm Feeding Device.

Christopher Penalvert, age 24, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 2 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon.

A 25-year-old male from Whitinsville was arrested on Aug. 4 for Felony Nighttime Breaking & Entering, Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Rape, Armed Assault in a Dwelling, Felony Possession of a Firearm, Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order, Possession of Ammunition Without an FID Card, Home Invasion, Armed Robbery, and Unarmed Robbery.

Xiomara E. Causey, age 26, of Worcester, Mass. was arrested on Aug. 4 in connection with multiple warrants.

Salena J. Rensahih, age 27, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 5 in connection with a warrant.

A 52-year-old male from Webster was arrested on Aug. 5 on multiple counts of Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 38-year-old male from Dudley was arrested on Aug. 7 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Threatening to Commit a Crime.

A 42-year-old male from Webster was arrested on Aug. 7 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Assault & Battery causing Serious Injury, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

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



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“Memories Box” will preserve local history

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley Historical Commission and the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library have joined in a project to establish a “Memories Box” to be kept in the library’s local history room.

The purpose of the box would be to collect “memories” of Dudley residents about past and current local events. Residents are encouraged to submit a hand-written or typed memory on a standard (eight and a half by 11 inches) sheet of paper. Photos or artwork mounted on a standard sheet would also be accepted. The submissions become part of an “ongoing time capsule” that could be accessed by historians and genealogists interested in the history of Dudley and its inhabitants. Multiple memories can be submitted, but each must be limited to one sheet of paper,

and labeled on the back with the date and age of the person submitting the memory. Donor’s name (birth and married), although not required, is preferred, for genealogical research. This project is well suited to teachers and students interested in specific topics.

The first suggested topic is: the local impact of the pandemic of 2020/2021.

This project was envisioned after Ed Bazinet, Chairman of the Dudley Historical Commission, realized that current “history” was being lost. In the past, diaries and letters provided insight into the lives of average people. Today, most communication is phone or text, and not something accessible later on.

When the library was built, the allocation of a room for local history was provided, which also includes a climate controlled and restrict-

ed room for books and documents that needed additional care and preservation. The Historical Commission has used this space over the years to accept donations of published histories as well as maps, newspapers and personal diaries and letters. This is where the memories box will be stored. Working closely with Librarian Drusilla Carter, the memories box idea was conceived as the logical location for collecting remembrances that residents can “store away” for future generations. MS Carter likes to call the project “an historical love letter to the future”.

This project will be ongoing. Anyone may sit down and create a “memory” for inclusion, then either hand deliver or mail it to the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library, 40 Schofield Ave., Dudley, MA 01571.

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Oxford joins new six-town health entity

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Selectmen voted unanimously to join a six-town public health grant project designed to expand education, outreach and inspection services. With their vote, and the Board of Health’s previous vote to also support this effort, Oxford is joining Webster, Southbridge, Dudley, Charlton, Auburn and Brimfield.

The project, funded by a state grant of \$300,000 for three years, is being called the South Central Mass Partnership for Public Health and aims to hire two people – a community health coordinator and regional health inspector. Both will be

based in Webster and salaried at \$65-75,000 a year, but will work regionally to “fill gaps, enhance existing services and expand public health programs to better serve residents moving forward,” according to a May 24 memo from CMRPC’s Connor Robichaud to the six towns’ health boards.

Oxford BOH member David Escobar told the selectmen he felt it’d be helpful in part because the health department has recently seen “gaps in our coverage” due to retirements. Having such regional staff, he said, could be beneficial when the town has many inspections in a short period of time.

Southbridge Health

Director Andy Pelletier agreed, telling the Town Council he sees this as an opportunity to update the town’s seven year old health needs study. Back then, it identified five key issues – domestic violence, substance abuse, asthma, teen pregnancy and poor housing conditions – and now would be a good time to see where those issues stand.

He noted, however, the two new people won’t focus on any one town’s needs, but on the issues all six share.

Southbridge also voted unanimously to join the project late last month.

According to the inter-municipal agreement, the joint effort will be run by an “Oversight Board” of two representatives appointed by the health boards of each town (one of them a health board member), but where each town has one vote. It states, “every

member shall have an equal voice in determining shared priorities and services to be provided.” Regarding funding, it notes, “Until grant funds are expended, there will be no cost to participating municipalities,” and the plan calls for continuing the work by seeking more grants. Towns have the right to secede from the group with 30 days’ written notice.

In other business, the Oxford selectmen got their first formal introduction to newly-hired Superintendent Michael Lucas. Lucas most recently served 12 years as principal at Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge, where he essentially rose through the ranks from a start as history teacher.

He said he plans “on being here several years” and invited citizens, parents and local officials to sit down with him to talk about where they see Oxford schools going.

Regarding the upcoming school year, Lucas said he intends to open with all students in class five days a week with masks, but will have alternatives planned in case a Covid resurgence makes that impossible.

The board also set Oct 6 as the date for the Fall Town Meeting, with the warrant to close Sept 8; reappointed a long list of election workers for the next year; met the new building commissioner; and briefly discussed the fact the town is pursuing several grants.

Additionally, they voted to make the School Committee members “special municipal employees” generally, and specifically exempted member September Forbes from MGL Chapter 248, section 20. The www.mass.gov page describing that part of the law states, “As a ‘special municipal employee,’ you may even have

a financial interest in a contract with your own department (or with a department which has overlapping jurisdiction with your department), provided that you file a disclosure of your interest in the contract with the city or town clerk and the board of selectmen, board of aldermen, town council or city council vote to grant you an exemption to section 20.”

In this case, Forbes sought such exemption in order to take a job as director of the EduCare Program. She said she could not recall seeing that program come up during her 4.5 years on the committee, but would recuse herself from future votes if it does.

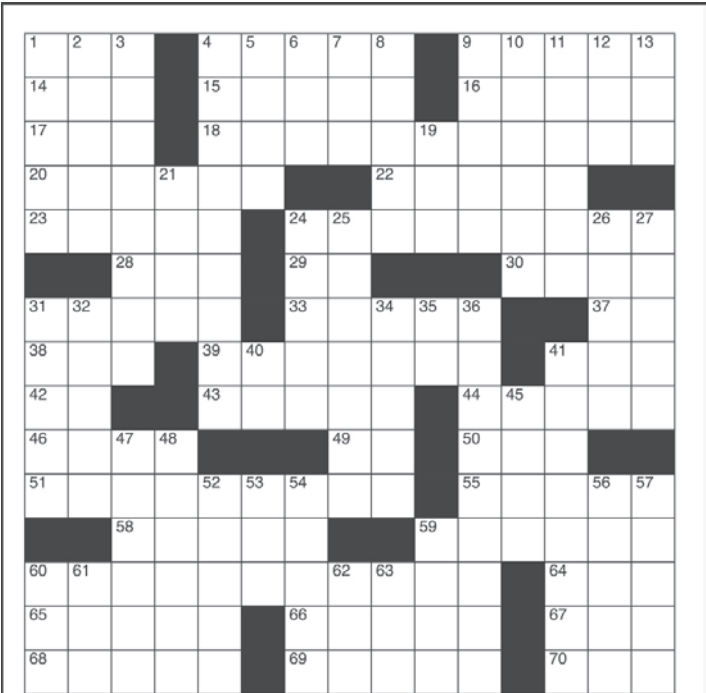
Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of July 30 to Aug. 6.

Justin M. Bell, age 37, of Dudley was arrested on Aug. 2 in connection with multiple warrants. Joel E. Griffith, age 46, also of Dudley, was arrested during the same incident in connection with multiple warrants.

A 5-year-old male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 6 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Strangulation or Suffocation.



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Calls balls and strikes

4. Turkish officer

9. Repaired shoe

14. Grass genus

15. Small, sealed vial

16. Primp

17. Immoral act

18. A tool to communicate

20. Crumbles away

22. Egg-like

23. Districts (abbr.)

24. Dressed

28. Small island (British)

29. Dialect of Chinese

30. Force unit

31. Borderlines

33. Norse gods

37. Morning

38. Fiddler crabs

39. Tell a story

41. Consumed

42. Atomic #58

43. About old Norse poems

44. Fencing swords

46. One-time Tigers third baseman

49. Southpaw (abbr.)

50. Neither

51. Conversations

55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation

58. Cyprinids

59. Appropriate to a festival

60. Pearl Jam frontman

64. Wrath

65. Italian city

66. A way to get there

67. A nose or snout

68. German seaport

69. A horse for riding

70. Airline representative (abbr.)

- CLUES DOWN
1. Unhappy

2. Silk fabric

3. Unbroken view of a region

4. Middle Eastern territory

5. ___ and Andy, TV show

6. Central processing unit

7. Department of Housing and Urban Development

8. Midcentury newspaper columnist

9. Weapon

10. Delivered a speech

11. Probably going to happen

12. Midway between northeast and east

13. Danish krone

19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)

21. Fall slowly in drops

24. Bestow an honor upon

25. Childishly silly

26. Related on the mother’s side

27. Populations of related plants

31. Coherent

32. Tribe of ancient Britons

34. Financial firm Goldman

35. Stephen King thriller

36. Went in again

40. Commercial

41. Poking holes in the ground

45. Prisoners of war

47. Pursued pleasure

48. “Seinfeld” character

52. Body of water

53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)

54. People who utilize

56. Nostrils

57. Inner mass of some fungi

59. Honor lavishly

60. Midway between east and southeast

61. Turn down

62. Small round mark

63. Expected at a certain time

PUZZLE SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | S | Q | | D | E | E | L | S | | N | E | D | W | E |
| B | E | N | | E | L | O | H | | V | N | E | I | S | |
| E | H | I | | H | E | D | E | A | E | I | D | D | E | |
| T | V | L | S | E | J | | | S | E | O | V | D | | |
| G | N | V | M | L | | S | E | N | G | O | T | V | I | D |
| | | H | O | N | | H | T | | | E | G | N | I | |
| S | E | E | d | E | | O | I | D | D | E | | E | O | |
| E | L | V | | E | L | V | H | V | N | | V | O | N | |
| W | V | | | H | I | S | E | V | | I | B | W | I | T |
| E | N | A | D | | | N | M | | L | I | V | | | |
| D | E | T | E | H | V | d | d | V | | S | H | H | E | L |
| | | E | L | V | A | O | | S | E | D | O | H | E | |
| H | E | K | V | E | d | S | D | N | O | T | | N | I | S |
| K | N | I | H | d | | T | N | d | W | V | | V | O | d |
| D | E | T | O | S | | V | H | O | V | d | | d | W | N |

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$582,000, 49 Flaxfield Rd, Lacroix FT, and Bailey, Melissa A, to Alves, Samya, and Breton, Michael.

\$435,000, 24 Budd Dr, Ucher, Piotr; and Ucher, Renata D, to Williams, Eric.

\$329,900, 78 New Boston Rd, Diamond, David W, to Carrell, Sean.

\$320,000, 11 2nd Ave, Jakobkiewicz, Jaroslaw, and Jakobkiewicz, Beata, to Jakobkiewicz, Karolina, and Jure, Daniel.

\$320,000, 2 Ellis Ave, Reno, Robert J, and Reno, Susan R, to McLaughlin, Steven J, and McLaughlin, Patricia A.

\$310,000, 86 W Main St, Keane, Dermot, and Keane, Lynne, to Kumar, Narinder.

\$300,000, 57 New Boston Rd, Norowski, Elaine E, and Gergich, Joyce A, to Quinn, Emily F, and Torrez, Brian H.

\$250,000, 8 Sunrise Shrs E, Camille, Barry E, to Rijos, Rafael.

\$240,000, 32 Central Ave #32, Galek, Maciej, to Agyekum, Eric.

\$85,000, Truman Dr #11, Galaxy Estates LLC, to Howard, Timothy, and Howard, Ariana.

Oxford

\$393,000, 152 Charlton St, Shepard, Stanley F, and Shepard, Virginia L, to Meadows, Kimberly A, and Keay, Kevin M.

\$375,000, 90 Fort Hill Rd, Martin, Lynne, to Hubbard, Dawn M.

\$350,000, 55 Ennis Rd, Swiatlowski, Matthew J, to Santiago, Miguel A, and Santiago, Luiz M.

\$255,000, 24 Ballard St, Medaglia, John F, and Medaglia, Denise L, to Ferrera, Nicholas T.

Webster

\$425,000, 2 Chestnut Hill Dr, Tau, Eric Y, and Fan, Ashlie, to Lobo-Dias, Fabio, and DeSousa-Alves, Livia.

\$380,000, 3 Dominique Dr, Brunnett, Timothy J, to Fiorillo, Kristy.

\$360,000, 5 Oakmont St, Leoniak, Krystyna, and Leoniak, Tadeusz, to Casemiro, Claudio M, and Casemiro, Maria I.

\$315,000, 7 Pine Ridge Rd, Farr, Steven J, to Benker, Autumn.

\$289,000, 8 Wyman St, Fiorillo, Kristy, to Korzec, Greg, and Korzec, Daisy.

\$285,000, 36 Cudworth Rd, Leboeuf, Ellen T, to Pflum, Benjamin.

\$280,000, 39 Brook St, Andrzejewski, Linda N, to Shephard, Ruth M.

\$172,000, 48 Lakeside Ave, Cahill, James J, and Cahill, Kristen L, to Fleming, Angela C.

\$98,500, 22 Aldrich St, Labonte, Theresa A, to Cozzens, Kenneth P.

\$29,000, Goddard St #1, Dibonaventura, Richard, to 73 Willard Rd LLC.

\$13,100, N Main St, Cruz, Jose L, to Rahman, Syed A, and Kalanzi, Ismail.

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Local author releases new book

WEBSTER — Do you have a family pet that you treat just like a family member? Does your pet do some wild and crazy things that make you laugh? Well, Louise Chadbourne had Granite, a charming bullmastiff. Inspired by this lovable dog, she wrote “Granite: The Bullmastiff Story” to share his funny antics with children.

On Aug. 21 at 11 a.m., Chadbourne will celebrate the book release of “Granite: The Bullmastiff Story” at Booklovers Gourmet, 72 E Main St. in Webster. During this event, she will read and sign books in addition children will be able to participate in a coloring station.

“Granite: The Bullmastiff Story” is a story about a family pet that was adopted when he was a puppy into a family that loves dogs. When Granite arrives to his new home; he is given some amazing presents including toys, a bed, treats, and a huge condo to sleep in. As he grew from eight lbs. to 165 pounds, he became a great helper to the family. For instance, standing guard and helping to do chores around the house and yard.

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Evening appointments if needed.

Note: Office hours are for selectmen’s secretary

and town administrator: S

electmen do not hold office hours.

Town Clerk (949-8004)

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Thursday nights 5 to 7 p.m.

Fridays..... 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)

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Board of Selectmen

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Town Clerk (987-6032)

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)

For emergencies, call 911

OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

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WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850

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Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

(943-1212)

For emergencies, call 911

WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)

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Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dudley selectmen approve bike rodeo

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – After initially proposing the idea in July, the Charlton Board of Health has received the Board of Selectmen’s blessing to bring a new bike safety activity to town next month.

The Board of Health first discussed the possibility of holding a bike rally or rodeo event with the assistance of Dudley Police Sgt. Dean Poplawski and the fire

and police departments. On July 26, the Board of Selectmen approved the idea, officially setting the date for Sept. 11 of 2021.

“We would be setting up roughly about five stations that they could go through. Kids would come with their bicycles. We would make sure their helmets fit properly and that they have helmets. We’re looking to try to get donations for helmets so that if a child comes without a helmet

we could possibly give them something. We’d go through some bike safety tips for them like hand signals, rules of the road, making sure their bikes are in good working order and at the end of it they’d get a little bicycle license that says that they’ve been through this. We’re still working on some additional ideas,” Board of Health Chair Jennifer Cournoyer told selectmen when proposing the idea.

The goal is to make the event a yearly tradition with 2022’s edition to take place in June to make sure kids are prepared for the summer. Police Chief Steve Wojnar said the bike rodeo, as it was officially labeled, isn’t a new concept but serves an important purpose.

“We had done one of these, I’d say, probably about eight or nine years ago at the middle school and they’re all very successful. They had a chance to look over the kids bikes and some of the guys even made minor repairs to them if they needed to be done. The biggest thing is to spread the word about helmets and things of that nature. We’ll probably also be able to help register some bikes because you’ll notice that we find some bikes stolen or picked up at other places and if we have the opportunity to get some numbers down, we can add them to our database in case we find a bicycle at some point we can reunite it with the owner. It’s a great idea and kudos to the Board of Health,” said the chief.

Selectmen unanimously granted approval to the event to take place. The first Bike Rodeo is set for Sept. 11 from 1 until 3 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Complex.

Local residents named to Dean’s List at Saint Anselm

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean’s List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Among the students named to the Dean’s List were Theodora N. Veronis of Dudley and Grace M. Sweeney of Oxford.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. A total of 573 students representing 24 states received this honor.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that the following students have been named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2021 semester at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire.

About Saint Anselm College

ABOUT SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE: Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.

Local residents inducted into Honor Society for First-Year Success

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Local Saint Anselm College student Grace Sweeney of Oxford was accepted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national scholastic honor society for first-year success, for the 2020-2021 academic year.


To be eligible for invitation, students must be enrolled full-time at an institution with an active chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta and have a 3.5 grade point average or higher in their first semester or first year of study.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois, to recognize academic excellence among freshman women. One year prior, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshman men. Both groups became coeducational in 1976 in response to Title IX. Alpha Lambda Delta has grown to over 280 chapters and has initiated over one million students.

About Saint Anselm College

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

✿✿✿ Friday’s Child ✿✿✿



Hi! My name is Jayven and I like to play board games and football!

Jayven is an inquisitive boy of African-American and Hispanic descent. He loves board games and is always happy to play one, either with his friends or with an adult. Jayven also likes to be outside, and his favorite outdoor activity is playing football, which he is currently doing with Pop Warner Football. Jayven likes playing football so much that when he grows up, he would like to play for the NFL. Just in case he isn’t drafted, though, he is also considering careers as a detective or as a piano teacher. Jayven is currently doing well in school.

Legally freed for adoption, Jayven is looking for a loving and patient family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home. Jayven is very close with his younger brother and has expressed a desire to be a role model for him. An ideal family for Jayven will be open to helping him maintain this relationship.

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.ma-reinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Helicopter parenting a college student

Gone are the days when your child would head off to college to only place a collect call home once a week, or perhaps would send a letter once a month. In those days, our parents had no idea what we were doing on a daily basis, who we were with or where we were at. They had no idea what test scores were coming in or what we had for dinner.

In current times, college students are in instant, constant contact with their parents and we're not so sure that's a good thing. Sure, it's nice to keep in touch but at what cost to your child? Do we really need to know about every fleeting moment of our child's lives? Naturally, we want to protect our children and keep them safe, but this is not the way to do it. Teach them the skills to protect themselves long before they fill out that college application.

To make things worse, most universities now have Facebook pages for parents. While this can be a great resource, it is also a breeding ground for parents to enable other parents, to enable their children, to lack independence and the skills to be resourceful.

Way back when, children had to be home by dark. In today's world, you have parents posting questions on parent's pages on whether or not to use Tide Pods in the washers at school. Why not let your child head off to the laundry mat at school, with a Tide Pod and figure it out for themselves? Other questions are often posed in regard to the furniture in dorm rooms, where parents are asking other parents for pictures so they can better prepare their student prior to moving in. Window sizes, storage space under the bed, outlets, you name it, it's been asked. Again, why not let your college student figure these things out for themselves along with their roommates? They are not in middle school anymore and can very well handle figuring out what they need on their own. If they ask for your help, then of course step in.

Point blank, parents are asking questions on behalf of their children. If a student has a question about parking, or a class or something in regard to move in day, teach them to pick up the phone and call the appropriate person, you know, like an adult would do.

While we think parent to parent support is a great resource, it has gone too far. Parents are posting pictures of their child in their dorm rooms as if it is their first day of Kindergarten. We know that parents are proud, as they should be, but wouldn't those pictures be better suited for a private page for friends and family to see, instead of potentially embarrassing your child?

If a student is having an issue with a roommate, parents are leaning on these pages to sort it out, asking for advice on how to handle it. Why not just tell your student, how to handle it themselves? It is natural for parents to want to swoop in and save the day and fix everything, but in doing so you are creating a way for your young adult to not be self-sufficient. Common sense tells us, that if your student is having a roommate issue, they need to talk to their hall director.

Parents have asked questions such as 'What winter jackets are boys wearing this year?' 'Does my child need an umbrella?' 'Does anyone do grocery delivery?' 'Where can my son sign up for activities?' These appear to us to be a bit over the top.

Trust in your parenting and trust in your child to take care of their own needs. When parents hover, it can have adverse effects. This doesn't mean parents can't be involved or shouldn't be involved in some way.

When helicopter parents overparent, they are sending the message to their student that they cannot do these simple things on their own. A survey of 450 students with helicopter parents, discovered that these individuals lacked the confidence in thinking they could accomplish their own goals in the workplace. As a result, they were more dependent on others and had difficulty coping which led to an increase in anxiety and panic attacks when put under pressure. You will not be around forever, and your child is capable of handling things on their own. The purpose of child rearing is to teach them how to navigate the world on their own, so they can live the best quality of life possible.

The solution is to have a conversation with your child, and ask them how they want you to be involved and how and when you can support them.

VIEWPOINT

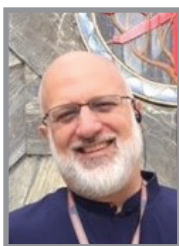
Facing the storms of life

What happens when an eagle, flying in the sky, meets a storm? Well, the eagle does not run away from the storm. Instead, as the storm sweeps in, the eagle sets his wings at the proper angle so that the winds will lift him above the storm. While the storm is punishing the earth below, the eagle is soaring above it, using the very winds of the storm itself to propel it above the storm! What a fantastic and vivid image of how we can face the many storms of life – illnesses, death, disappointment, failure, betrayal and opposition – whatever the storms may be, when they come, we can set the wings of our faith in such a way that the adverse winds will only propel us far above the storm!

We see an example of this in the story when Jesus walks on water. He sent his disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee while He himself went up to a mountain to pray all night. In the middle of the night, a fierce storm arose on the lake, and the disciples found themselves rowing against strong winds, as high waves battered the boat. These experienced fishermen knew the danger they faced. By early morning, they still were far from land when they saw Jesus walking on the water toward them. At first terrified, they thought that they saw a ghost, but Christ comforted them by saying, "Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter, still unsure that it is truly Jesus and not a ghost, calls out to him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." And Jesus answers "Come." Peter obeys and starts to walk on the water as he keeps his eyes focused on Christ. One step, two steps. Peter himself begins to walk on water! As this second miracle occurs, Peter notices the strong wind and waves all around him. In the midst of this crisis, he becomes afraid and begins to sink as his focus turns more towards the wind and the waves instead of towards Jesus Christ! He cries out, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus immediately reached out and holds Peter in His loving arms, saying, "You of little faith. Why did you doubt?" They both enter the boat, and immediately the winds cease.

Saint Peter offers a concrete example about what often happens when unexpected storms sweep into our lives. Notice that while Peter kept his eyes focused on Christ, he was safe and secure – he even walked on water himself! The moment Peter took his eyes off Christ and concentrated on the wind



BEYOND THE PEWS
• • • • •
By FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

and water and waves, he forgot about the security of Jesus and allowed fear to enter his mind and heart. Fear never comes from God. God's love drives out all fear. His peace and presence don't allow fear to remain! Yet Peter did not allow God's love to remain. For one moment, he focused on the storm instead of overcoming the storm with the help of Christ!

The secret of successfully handling every difficulty in life is to focus on Jesus Christ instead of the storm. Don't focus on the magnitude of your problems and troubles, which lead only to fear and despair, but look to the greatness of our Lord Jesus and trust in Him who can calm even the mightiest storm. Jesus' words, "Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid," are for us as well in the midst of any difficulty we may face.

Unfortunately, too often we act like schizophrenic people. We say we believe in God and might even turn to Him each day in prayer but when tragedy, struggles, and disappointments come, which inevitably they will, at the moment when we precisely need God most, we forget about him and try to handle our situation in a rational way, using only our own abilities.

When facing any challenge or problems, don't go over all the details of the problem again and again, without allowing Christ to enter into the midst of the situation. Humbly listen to His advice and guidance! When facing trouble, it does no good to keep our mind recounting the difficulty of the problem. Turn your eyes away from the wind and water and waves, and instead look at Jesus standing there with his arms open, inviting us to enter his secure embrace.

Now, let's address another misunderstanding people have about the storms of life. Some think that believing in God means all problems of our lives will disappear. Our Lord never promised his followers such a carefree life. In fact, he teaches the opposite. "Anyone who follows me must deny himself and take up his cross." In other words, a follower of Christ will face persecution, difficulty and struggle. Disciples of Christ must carry a heavy cross. Yet, in the midst of these difficulties, Christ promises that He will be with us. God will not save us from the storms but will be with us in the midst of the storm. He won't stop the storms from

Turn To **PEWS** page **A9**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An American success story

To the Editor:

Please keep two numbers in mind as you continue. The first is 5.7 percent, and the second is 1.8 percent.

In this land of "white supremacy," so overwhelmingly cruel that people of color never have the same opportunities as their white oppressors, there are those who have somehow defeated ever present "systemic racism."

This group is, on average, better educated than the white oppressors. They are, on average, more prosperous than the white oppressors. They are more likely to be found in prestige professions than the white oppressors.

They do not opine about the discrimination their ancestors suffered. They are the least likely to commit a crime, and the least likely to be on welfare. They are the most likely to be part of a two-parent family, and they are last in the number of out of wedlock births. Most amazing of all, they do not see themselves as oppressed or threatened by racism. As Kenny Xu, author of "An Inconvenient Minority: The Attack on Asian American Excellence and the Fight for Meritocracy," asks, "If America is still a racist country for minorities, how come they have allowed Asian Americans to overtake Whites in education level and socioeconomic status?"

Regrettably, Asians do increasingly see themselves discriminated against by the keepers of the "CRT" flame, the Ivy League and top tier colleges and universities that impose their own race-based admission policies. According to Kenny Xu, an Asian American must score 400-plus points higher than an African American in order to gain admission to Harvard.

Asian Americans feel fortunate to be here because they know that this country, more than any other, affords them

the opportunity to improve themselves, and, even more importantly, gives their children the best chance for a life better than that of their parents.

These remarkable people who have truly bought into the American Dream comprise 5.7 percent of the population and include Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Indians, et al. Their median household income (2018) was \$87,243 vs. \$65,902 for whites. How did the systemic racists that are running this country let that happen? They are also ahead in educational achievement with 56.5 percent college graduates or more advanced degrees, as opposed to 35.2 percent of whites. How did "white supremacy" and "systemic racism" allow that? Maybe that white supremacy isn't all that omnipotent.

The Dudley Charlton School District has announced that it is planning to hire a more diverse faculty and staff. This is in keeping with the theory that a child can only learn from a member of his or her own race. Anything else is "systemic racism." Asian-Americans just don't fit that paradigm. They are the highest achievers educationally, but they are only 1.8 percent of the teachers. With so few Asian-American teachers, what is the chance of an Asian-American student finding him or herself in a class taught by a fellow Asian-American? Yet somehow, they manage to learn and succeed at the highest levels despite the "pervasive racism."

Asian Americans have chosen to work for their success rather than play the victims, waiting for a government handout or for an elitist liberal institution guilted into jumping them in line solely because of their race.

Yes, people of color can achieve without embracing the ideology of victimization. Asian Americans are living proof.

RICHARD CLARK DUDLEY

Be on the lookout for scams



CHIEF'S CORNER
STEVE WOJNAR

A variety of financial fraud "scams" continue to occur in our area. People can be asked to send money or card information to various locations, or provide personal or bank details. These can take place in person, online, over the phone, or by mail. As a result, many people have lost large sums of

money. In recent weeks, a local resident was scammed out of over \$2,000 in one of these instances. I wanted to provide once again everyone with some information on these illegal activities.

Money and identity scams have been occurring for many years. Various types have taken place during this COVID-19 time. Those responsible prey on unsuspecting individuals, particularly seniors. Their goal is to obtain either quick cash or bank account numbers. Armed with this documentation, the criminal can commit identity theft and access your finances. Scammers can be well versed and prepared. Many do extensive on-line research, including checking obituaries, tax records, or other publicly available information prior to calling you. They may have the names of children, grandchildren, a deceased spouse, and a variety of other information, which they can use to intimidate or trick you.

These come in a variety of forms. One instance has an automated message telling the person they have been overcharged by their power company and they are due a refund. Others tell people their vehicle warranty is up, and they are eligible for renewal. The goal is to get you to engage with one of their "representatives" and provide personal information or send money. They most likely have little of the information they called you about and will ask you to provide it to "confirm" their records. The caller tends to become rude if they are questioned. Calls such as this are a hoax. If it is legitimate, the caller should already have all the information and be able to provide phone numbers, addresses, etc. to you to confirm their legitimacy. Do not trust any of this business over the phone. You can follow up with your power company, car dealership, or other business to which they refer. In addition to these situations, Social Security scams are also prevalent. People can be told their number has been compromised or blocked. Callers threaten you with arrest or other penalties unless you divulge personal information or send some form of payment. Often, they will instruct victims to purchase gift cards and call them back with the numbers to quickly cancel the debt. If a victim ever gets this far into the process, let this serve as an obvious flag. No one is ever threatened over the phone by the Social Security Administration and our department has never arrested anyone on behalf of this agency.

Please exercise caution, do not provide any personal information over the phone, and seek out help from trusted people (family member, bank, police, etc.) before taking any actions. If you receive unexpected requests for money or other personal information, assume it is a scam. Be very cognizant of these occurrences and protect your personal information. Report anything suspicious to the proper authorities.

For those still seeking vaccination information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. Please continue moving forward with the "re-opening" of our state in a reasonable manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. During these challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community. Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

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In Print and Online



Review your IRA, 401(k) beneficiaries

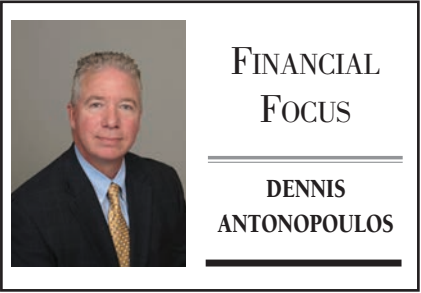
If you’ve had an IRA and a 401(k) for many years, you may occasionally ask yourself some questions: “Am I contributing enough?” “Am I still funding these accounts with the right mix of investments for my goals and risk tolerance?” But here’s one inquiry you might be overlooking: “Have I used the correct beneficiary designations?” And the answer you get is important.

It wouldn’t be surprising if you haven’t thought much about the beneficiary designation – after all, it was just something you once signed, possibly a long time ago. Is it really that big a deal?

It could be. For one thing, what if your family circumstances have changed since you named a beneficiary? If you’ve remarried, you may not want your former spouse

to receive your IRA and 401(k) assets or the proceeds of your life insurance policy, for which you also named a beneficiary.

However, upon remarrying, many people do review their estate plans, including their wills, living trusts, durable powers of attorney and health care directives. If you’ve revised these documents, do you have to worry about the old beneficiary designations? You might be surprised to learn that these previous designations can supersede what’s in your updated will and other documents. The end result could be an “accidental” inheritance in which your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone who is no longer in your life.



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Furthermore, your retirement plans and insurance policy may not just require a single beneficiary – you may also be asked to name a contingent beneficiary, to whom assets will pass if the primary beneficiary has already died. As you can imagine, the situation could become quite muddled if stepchildren are involved in a remarriage.

To avoid these potential problems, make sure to review the beneficiary designations on all of your accounts at some

point – and especially after a significant change in your family situation. If you see something that is outdated or incorrect, contact your retirement account administrator – or your insurance representative, in the case of life insurance – to request a change-of-beneficiary form.

And if you really want to be on the safe side, you may want to enlist a legal professional to help you with this review to make sure the beneficiary designations reflect your current family situation and are consistent with what’s in your estate plans.

In fact, if you’re already working with an experienced estate planning attorney – and you should – you might also

pick up some other suggestions for dealing with beneficiaries. Just to name one, it’s generally not a good idea to name minor children as beneficiaries. Because children can’t control the assets until they become adults, a court would likely have to name a guardian – one that you might not have wanted. Instead, you could either name your own custodian to manage the assets designated to the minor or establish a trust for the benefit of the minor, which can distribute the money in several disbursements over a period of years – which is often a good move, since young adults aren’t always the best at managing large lump sums.

If you’re like many people, you have a strong desire to leave something behind. But you’ll want to do it in the right way. So, pay close attention to

your beneficiary designations – when you first create them and throughout your life.

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

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Tuna fishing is red hot

Tuna fishing was red hot last week, with numerous reports of successful anglers landing some giants. This past weekend Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge landed a 500-pound tuna aboard the Fire Escape Charters with Captain Mark Pettit. This week’s picture shows Matt Fontaine with the huge tuna that was landed, with a team effort of the three anglers on board. Nice fish!

False Albacore should be arriving soon on coastal waters. Catching one of these fish on light spinning rods on fly’s is exciting and are targeted by many anglers. One of my favorite spots is the outer West Wall in Point Judith, R.I. Mel True of Fish Net Charters has had his clients catching 30 to 40 lb. stripers on almost every trip. They were using eels. Unfortunately, most fish had to be released because of the slot size.

Seabass are still being caught in Rhode Island, but the limit still remains at three fish daily. Anglers are still

picking through a lot of short fluke in Rhode Island, and some anglers do manage to keep a couple 19 inch-plus fluke during a full day on the water. Many released fluke do not survive after being released, but no one seems to be concerned.

Feeding songbirds is not recommended at this time, as most residents have heard about the rare disease that is killing them in the Mid-Atlantic states. Some birds have also been found dead in Mass. but may or may not be linked to the Mid-Atlantic states. This past week, some ducks near or in Boston, are also dying from an unknown source. Numerous fish kills were reported along some of the saltwater beaches, from some mysterious infection.

Bear and bobcat sightings are on



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

the rise locally! Reports from various residents of the valley, are increasing weekly on these two newest resident animals. They do not pose a danger to residents, but small dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam freely. Coyotes & Fisher cats also pose a threat to unattended dog and cats, and their species are also growing locally. Deer and turkey sightings are reported daily with a good number of them surviving the wet spring and summer months. Wildlife in the valley continues to grow annually, which is good news for sportsmen.

During the pandemic, many people were forced to work from home. Many families purchased a pet for themselves, or their family members, and many have become attached to their new fam-

ily members, realizing the joy and company that a pet brings to them. A recent letter from my Veterinarian for their old and new pet owners to be patient with their services, due to the sharp rise in veterinarian’s business.

You can now go online to find out the status of your doe permit from the Mass. Fish & Wildlife Web site. Log on to the Massfishhunt site, and you will be able to check your permit status. If you did win an antlerless deer permit you will need to pay a \$5 fee using your credit card or debit card. The extra permits in Zones 9-10-11-13-and 14 that are not purchased in numerous zones, will go on sale on in late September. Next year, if passed, all permits and stamps will slowly increase annually to \$6 in 2022 to \$30 IN 2026.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

August is National Peach Month

Here in New England, late summer is celebrated with the long awaited peach crop. Native peaches are offered up by area orchards, local farmers markets and roadside stands. In recognition of the refreshing, ever so sweet, summertime peach, August has been deemed National Peach Month. Read on for some “peachy”



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

information on peaches!

* Peaches’ Past: As noted previously in this column, peaches were first grown in China, traced as far back as 551 BC. Peaches are a member of the same family as the rose, which accounts for its sweet fragrance. But early peaches, which were tiny and tart with a larger pit and lots of fuzz, barely resembled today’s plump, juicy fruits. Despite its shortcomings, the historic peach earned its place in early Chinese folklore, as it was considered to bring luck and immortality. In fact, today, the Chinese still consider peaches are proper birthday gifts.

Strains of early peaches attracted favor and the tasty fruit traveled from China through Europe and finally to the “New World,” gaining legions of fans along the way. The Romans fondly dubbed peaches “Persian Apples,” for the country that first introduced the sweet fruit to the west. Louis XIV of France was so fond of peaches that he once awarded a pension to the man who provided him with peaches from Montreuil, a suburb of Paris.

While Spanish explorers brought the peach to America, Native Americans are credited with spreading their cultivation. Eventually, Georgia was named the Peach State, for its abundant peach crops, which flourished in the warm, southern climate.

** Picking Perfect Peaches

*Peaches should be picked at their prime of ripeness as the fruit does not always ripen well after its been plucked off the tree. Choose your peaches carefully, as a fruit picked prematurely could spoil before it ripens. A peach that is ripe to be picked has a yellowish color, which extends to the stem area. Avoid peaches that show a greenish tinge, as they may have been picked too early to contain the desired sweetness. And ignore the peach’s red blush, as it does not promise superior taste, simply an abundance of sun exposure.

*Not sure which peach to pick? If all are ready to harvest, choose the larger fruits as they have been on the tree longer, upping the odds of a sweeter pick.

To properly pick a peach, carefully twist the stem off the tree. Experts advise handling freshly picked peaches as if they were eggs to avoid bruising. A soft tree-picked peach should be eaten within two days of picking.

*To ripen peaches at home, spread them on a flat surface and do not allow them to touch. Bruising can be fatal to a peach, so keep handling to a minimum. Or place peaches in a brown paper bag to escalate ripening. Do not pile peaches in the bag, rather spread them out so they do not touch. Ripened peaches will keep their flavor for up to five days in the vegetable crisper drawer of the refrigerator.

Health Benefits of Peaches: Peaches are low in calories and are high in beta-carotene, vitamin C, calcium, boron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and flavonoids. In fact, one average peach is typically under 50 calories and provides almost three quarters of the daily vitamin C requirement!

** Peaches are also an antioxidant, diuretic, expectorant, and a laxative. Studies show the potassium in peaches, coupled with the fiber of the fruit, can help lower blood pressure.

** Peachy Salsa

This Salsa balances sweet and hot, for a versatile topping that’s sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Ingredients: one pound peaches, (about three medium); one tablespoon lemon juice; two ripe tomatoes; six large green onions; one tablespoon canned jalapeno peppers, chopped; 12 tablespoons good quality olive oil; six tablespoons sherry vinegar; two tablespoon honey

Instructions: Dip peaches into boiling water and then peel the skins. Cut peaches into thin strips, throw away pits.. Toss with lemon juice. Dip tomatoes into boiling water, then peel and seed them. Cut into medium julienne strips. Combine peaches and tomatoes. Add onions and peppers. Whisk together oil, vinegar and honey. Pour over other ingredients. Refrigerate.

** Peach Cobbler

Just like grandma used to make!

Ingredients: eight cups fresh peaches,

sliced and peeled; two cups sugar; one quarter cup flour; half teaspoon ground cinnamon; quarter teaspoon ground nutmeg; one third cup butter, melted. Pastry for double-crust pie.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 475°F. Combine the peaches, sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg in a Dutch oven. Allow to set until sugar is dissolved and a syrup forms. Over medium heat, bring the peach mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to low and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in melted butter. Set aside and keep warm. Roll out half the pastry as for a pie, but cut it into an 8-inch square. Spoon half the peach mixture into a lightly buttered 8-inch square Pyrex dish. Cover with the pastry square. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and spoon remaining peach mixture over the baked pastry. Roll out the remaining pastry, and cut into strips about an inch wide. Arrange strips in a loose lattice weave over the peach mixture. Sprinkle lightly with granulated sugar, if desired. Bake an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until browned.

**

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

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

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

Remember to always keep one’s eyes on Christ in the midst of storms, instead of looking at the wind and the waves. Also remember that storms will inevitably come. Do not be surprised by them nor be unprepared for them. We know they will come so stand vigilant and ready!

“Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid.”



News,

really close to home StonebridgePress.com

OBITUARIES

Christine Ann Pieper, 55



Redondo Beach, CA./Dudley, MA. - Christine Ann Pieper, 55, passed away June 21, 2021 at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

She leaves behind her mother, Beverly A. (Pikul) Pieper of Dudley, sister; Donna M. Lefebvre and her husband Jim of Webster, and Keren B. Johnson of Dudley, and a brother Kevin T. Pieper of Woodstock, Ct., her grandmother Jeannette E. Pikul of Dudley, a long-time friend Mabel Romano, and several nieces and nephews.

She was born in Webster, June 23, 1965 a daughter of the late Donald J. Pieper.

She graduated from Shepherd Hill Regional High School and moved to California at age 20, Being a Free Spirit.

Chrissy was very active with animal

rescues and shelters. She worked as a supervisor for Delta Airlines with the Sky Club of which her co-workers admired her work ethic and her integrity.

She was an organ donor so that people could have a better life because of organ donations, something that Christine believed in.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Friday, August 20, 2021 from 6-8 pm in the ROBERT J.MILLER FUNERAL HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School St., Webster.

Following the service, Chrissy will be going home with her Mom.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Bay Pet Adoption Center, 12910 Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA. 90250 or to: Los Angeles Animal S.P.C.A.

5026 West Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90016.

To leave an on line condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

Kenneth L. Gatzke, 57



DUDLEY–Kenneth L. “Big Man” Gatzke, Sr., 57, died Thursday, August 5, 2021 at home after being stricken ill.

He leaves his wife of 30 years, Christine M. (Lavallee) Gatzke; 2 sons, Kenneth L. Gatzke, Jr. and his wife Alexandra of Charlton and George S. Makara III of Spencer; 2 daughters, Tara M. Makara of Charlton and Samantha M. Collazo and her husband Xavier of North Grosvenordale, CT; 3 grandchildren; his mother, Valarie G. “Vale” Gatzke of Charlton; 3 sisters, Maureen Tomaski and her husband Joseph of Texas, Kimberly Tardiff and her husband Randy of Meriden, CT, and Kristine Kirkbride of Herman, ME; nephews, nieces and cousins.

He was born in Southbridge on November 22, 1963 and lived in Dudley all his life. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1981.

Mr. Gatzke was a farmer at the family farm all his working life. He was known in the area for producing the very best hay for horses. A man of many talents, he was mechanically inclined and enjoyed working on his Ford trucks and tractors.

He was a caring and lovable person who will be missed by many. His love was the land.

A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, August 20, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the American Legion Hall, 9 Houghton St., Webster. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Antique, collectibles, and auction news

There’s been plenty of noteworthy antiques, collectibles, and auction news since I last covered the latest news well over a month ago.

Last month, I discussed how prices for some collectibles have exploded recently. The recent sale of a 1996 Super Mario 64 game further highlights this trend. Smithsonian Magazine reports that “Nintendo released ‘Super Mario 64’ as one of the first games for its Nintendo 64 console in 1996.” The games originally sold for about \$60 and Nintendo sold around 12 million copies. According to Smithsonian Magazine, the “‘Super Mario 64’ was the first Mario game to feature three-dimensional environments.” The recently sold unopened game graded a near perfect 9.8 out of 10. It set a video game auction record of \$1.56 million, surpassing the previous

record for a “Legend of Zelda” cartridge that sold for \$870,000 two days prior.

The most prized card in sports collectibles is being auctioned again. T206 Honus Wagner cards were produced between 1909 and 1911 by American Tobacco Company. Forbes reports that the card “is in extremely limited supply and has been setting price records for more than 80 years, most recently in 2016 at \$3.12 million.” Only 60 copies of the Honus Wagner card are known to exist. Some believe Wagner didn’t want his name associated with tobacco out of concern that children would start smoking cigarettes. Others say he simply couldn’t agree on his compensation with the American Tobacco Company. The previous auction record was for a 1952 Mickey Mantle card which sold for \$5.2 million this past January. The bidding for the Wagner card had reached \$4.8 million as of Sunday, August 8th. When the bidding ends on August 15th, there could very well be a new sports card auction record.



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

et just sold at auction in Massachusetts. According to MassLive, “Le Tricorne is a framed mixed media work of art on paper that measures 16 by 16 inches.” Picasso designed the maquette (preliminary sketch) while working on his larger work of the same name at the New York Historical Society. The unidentified painting owner said the painting belonged to their great aunt. They said that their great aunt studied in England and their grandmother studied in France in the 1920s. Their uncle owned mills in Maine. The owner said, “they were some of the first women to fly to Asia on a trip to buy silk with their uncle,” according to MassLive. The Picasso and several other paintings had been stored in a closet for over 50 years. The painting sold for \$150,000. Be sure not to brush things over when cleaning out your closets.



the cataloging of another online model railroad and die-cast car auction. Our virtual appraisal day for the Townsend Historical Society will be on November 13th. Registration is underway for my November 10th “Evaluating your Antiques” class at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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

Bidding is underway for our online sports memorabilia auction featuring a Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig signed baseball, Mickey Mantle rookie card, and Tom Brady autographed rookie card. We are currently cataloging a Webster estate auction with Corvettes, vintage boat motors, boats and many other items. We will also soon be finishing

Closer to home, a 1919 Picasso, Le Tricorne, painting that was recently discovered in a New England clos-

Why are you the way you are?

I’ve always wondered why people are the way they are. Why is one person happy, and motivated, and why is another depressed, and unmotivated?

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

I remember being surprised to learn that gambling is an addiction. I didn’t understand why. I thought substances like alcohol, nicotine, drugs, or caffeine cause addictions.

It turns out that chronic gamblers are addicted to the rush they feel when they roll the dice. What causes that rush? The simple answer is their brain.

They’ve programmed themselves to become addicted to a neurochemical cocktail that causes them to feel the gamblers rush.

What is a feeling? A feeling is produced by a neurochemical or a blend of neurochemicals called peptides.

What causes the peptides to be produced by the brain? Generally speaking, it’s the thoughts you think. Every thought produces a peptide or a blend of peptides which cause you to have feelings.

Feelings are the byproduct of a chemical reaction that starts with a single thought.

In the book “Evolve your Brain,” Joe Dispenza says, “Conscious thoughts, repeated often enough, become unconscious thinking.”

Most people meditate on the same thought patterns for so long they program their brain to produce a blend of peptides unconsciously without even thinking about it, these peptides cause them to feel a certain way.

Even when a pattern of thinking causes a person pain, it’s difficult for them to change; oftentimes it’s because they are addicted to their emotions. This is a major reason most people find changing their thought patterns impossibly difficult.

I spent many years taking acting classes. The method of acting I studied taught me that I should never act, instead I should authentically feel what my character is

supposed to feel. Rather than pretend to cry, I was taught to find a way to truly cry. It’s not easy for me to cry during a performance, but I’ve done it a few times on stage, and for the camera. The way I do it is by thinking thoughts that make me cry; sad thoughts, depressing thoughts.

Good actors are living proof that changing your thoughts will change your feelings.

A good question to ask yourself is, “Where have my thoughts led me?” Thoughts are like the steering wheel of a car; they are steering your destiny. Have your thoughts led you to feel emotions that keep you from the life you really want?

We’ve been taught from an early age that drug and alcohol addictions will ruin your life; is it possible to be addicted to negative emotions?

It is possible to change; at any age.

Sometimes it helps to think about what you have rather than what you don’t have. The glass half full approach!

Instead of allowing your thoughts to make you feel bad, you can use your thoughts to make you feel good.

Joe Dispenza says “The process of change requires unlearning. It requires breaking the habit of the old self and reinventing a new self.”

When you change the way you think, you become a new person. Jesus called this process “Repentance.”

If you want to change the way you feel, an excellent place to start is by changing the thoughts that you think.

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Webster is soliciting bids for the construction of sidewalks on East Main Street from Paradis Lane to Park Ave a distance of approximately 950 feet. Plans, specifications and other contract documents can be obtained starting 8/11/21 online at www.theengineeringcorp.com/bids/. Deadline for questions 8/25/21 at noon. General bid deadline 9/1/21 at 2:00 pm. Bids to be opened at Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster.

August 6, 2021
August 13, 2021

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
21 SM 000797
ORDER OF NOTICE**

To:
Phetdalin Pany a/k/a Phetdalin Bounnaseng
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 50 §3901 (*et seq*)
Sebastian Birritteri, Trustee of Oxford Lenders Trust,
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 149 Charlton Street, given by **Phetdalin Pany to Sebastian Birritteri, Trustee of Oxford Lenders Trust** (u/d/t dated August 15, 2019, recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 60909, Page 245), which mortgage is dated August 20, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 60909, Page 252, as affected by a modification to mortgage dated January 16, 2020, and recorded in Book 61752, Page 226, as affected by a second modification to mortgage dated October 6, 2020, and recorded in Book 63538, Page 104, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s Servicemember’s 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 September 13, 2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 28, 2021.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
August 13, 2021

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- You must call by August 14th



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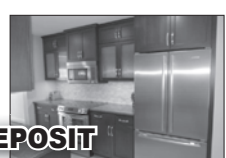
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SUTTON - 30 Jones Rd! 9 Room 2,156' Colonial! 5.31 Acres of Privacy! Long Circular Drive! New Granite Kitchen! Dining, Living & Fireplaced Family Rooms w/Hardwood Floors! Year Round Sunroom w/2 Skylights! 3 Bedrooms! 24' Master w/Master Bath! 2.5 Bathrooms Total! 12x24 3 Season Porch w/3 Skylights! Expandable Attic! Wraparound Deck! 2 Car Garage! Central Air! Super Easy Access to Rte 146! **\$549,900.00**



DUDLEY - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/Guest Closet! SS Applianced Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6x27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skyline! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$509,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**

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ON DEPOSIT

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Town Services

Millbury, Dudley launch housing rehab and community development activities

REGION — In March of 2020, the towns of Millbury and Dudley partnered to seek competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to benefit local residents and infrastructure. A year later, after months of pandemic-related delays at the state level, the towns learned their application for \$664,500 had been approved. Grant-funded activities are now getting underway. The grant's three activities are being managed on the towns' behalf by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).

In Millbury, an architectural design project will address insulation and interior roof conditions at the Senior Center. An engineering design project will identify and specify solutions

to aging infrastructure in Millbury's Pearl Street and Maple Street neighborhood, including the water and sewer lines, stormwater drainage, and roads and sidewalks. A portion of the latter project will include infrastructure fixes on the grounds of the Millbury Housing Authority's Linden Apartments. Construction of both design projects is dependent on future grants or other funding.

The largest item in the grant is a shared housing rehabilitation program open to homeowners in both Dudley and Millbury. Eligible activities under the program focus on code-related repairs and other types of work needed to make homes safe and livable. Activities can include weatherization, access improvements for

disabled persons, roof replacement, heating and septic systems, window replacement, new paint and siding, electrical and plumbing upgrades, structural repairs, and many other types of work.

Residents who meet federal income guidelines are eligible to participate. The current limit for a single-person household is \$55,350 in annual income. For a four-person household, the maximum income is \$79,050. Financial assistance is in the form of a deferred-payment loan secured by a lien. Repayment of the loan is generally required only if the home is sold during the 15-year loan period. Assistance through the program is capped at \$35,000 for most units. The program, which funds repairs by private

contractors for homeowners meeting federal low-to-moderate income guidelines, has revitalized homes in several nearby towns, including Leicester, Spencer, Charlton, Webster, and the Brookfields. The housing program is being implemented by CMRPC's partners at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

More than 50 Millbury and Dudley homeowners who submitted preapplications to the housing rehab program prior to the towns' grant application have been ranked by lottery and are being contacted in sequence as funds become available. But it's not too late for others to request housing rehab assistance. Interested residents can submit their preapplications now to secure a place in the next lottery

should funds become available under the current grant, or if the towns receive additional grants. The pre-application form and additional program information are available on both towns' websites.

In addition to the current grant, both Millbury and Dudley are reviewing options to apply separately for additional CDBG funds in the FY 2021 grant round, due in September. Both communities expect to hold public hearings this month to discuss potential projects including construction of the Pearl and Maple Street infrastructure project in Millbury, infrastructure design and construction in Dudley's Brandon Road/Jericho area including First Avenue, additional housing rehab, and possibly more. Dudley's hearing will be on Aug. 23,

and Millbury's on Aug. 24. Residents are encouraged to participate.

Questions about CDBG-funded projects can be directed to Andrew Loew, Project Manager at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, at (508) 459-3339 or Conor McCormack, Millbury's Assistant Planner, at (508) 865-4754, or Bill Scanlan, Dudley's Town Planner at (508) 949-8014.

The state CDBG program is funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.



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Please submit cover letter, resume and town employment application form, available at www.spencerma.gov to Town of Spencer, Town Administrator, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. EEO Employer.



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BASKETBALL

continued from page A1

Southbridge High, Tahanto Regional and Tantasqua Regional comprised the 12-team summer league, and aside from playing on one court instead of Auburn High's two and the southern location compared to Auburn's centrality, the session went off without a hitch.

"It totally was [a success] because we had 12 solid teams that were committed. Kids and coaches showed up every

week. We started games at 4:30 [p.m.] and it didn't deter anybody. Kids just wanted to play," said DelloStritto.

After a nine-game regular season, all 12 teams competed in a single elimination playoff format. Wednesday, July 28 was the final day with two semifinal contests and a championship game. Eighth seeded Bartlett beat No. 2 David Prouty in one semifinal (46-45), while No. 5 Grafton edged third ranked Shepherd Hill in the other semi (51-49). Then, in the final, the hometown Bartlett squad

edged Grafton by a score of 63-53 to win the championship.

DelloStritto, who had assigned the officials for the past four years prior to 2020 in the boys' league, also ran a girls' league this summer. That league, which finished up a week prior, was also played at All Saints.

"I felt like I needed to reach out to the girls' side," he said. "I immediately gained interest on that side. We got a solid number of eight teams."

When asked about the future of the summer basketball league,

DelloStritto was optimistic.

"I just want to gather my thoughts and wrap up this year before next year. Yes, I plan on doing something next year, but I don't know where," he said. "To be honest, I'd like to bring it back to Auburn. I think a lot of schools would like it back here because it's close proximity."

"There will definitely be basketball, barring a major catastrophe, because there's a desire to play," DelloStritto added. "I just don't know where, but we do have

options."

At the end of the day, DelloStritto was most pleased with the fact that a total of 20 high school teams were finally able to enjoy a summer of playing basketball.

"It worked out great.

All these players got to play. We had minimal issues — we were having great feedback — it worked out as well as could be expected," he said. "We really had some competitive games on both sides."

COVID

continued from page A1

resilient to the ongoing impacts of climate change," Theoharides said. "As we prepare for stronger storms, rising seas, and more intense precipitation, mainte-

nance and enhancement of our aging water control structures, as well as strategies to increase natural infrastructure will help build more resilient cities and towns throughout the state."

Dudley's share of the grant funding will be \$71,903 to assist with the

Carpenter Pond Dam Removal project while Oxford will receive \$55,275 for the McKinstry Pond Dam repairs. While these towns received money specifically earmarked for dam design and permitting other communities also received funding for inland or coastal

design and permitting projects and dam and coastal infrastructure construction. In total, 27 communities throughout the commonwealth were announced as grant recipients in one or more areas of the funding program.

of when "such vacancy or pending vacancy becomes known." That panel, in turn, has 150 days to present finalists to the selectmen.

Under state law, most of the committee's work will be in executive session. The only applicants the public will see are the finalists, who must be interviewed in open session, although the panel will bring some things — such as advertising text — to the selectmen for approval.

Becker said he hopes the other boards will make their appointments "ASAP," and Willardson said he did tell them.

"The goal there is to get as broad a group of folks who represent the community as possible," Becker noted.

In that vein, the selectmen opted 3-2 against giving a seat on the screening panel to one of their own members, although Lisa Kontoes said they might have to reconsider that if not enough people come forward. There was some debate over that, with Becker and Willardson saying they both felt having a selectman do it could help clarify what the board wants in a candidate, although Willardson has seen it both ways. By contrast, Andrew Jolda said he felt it'd be "redundant" since the selectmen do the final interview and have selection authority.

Moderator Ted Avlas said he feels the panel needs at least one department head or other person in Town Hall. He noted the three appointing boards each represent "a different section of the community" and their appointees will reflect those board's foci, while his should represent "the people at large."

Willardson suggested having the search panel "come up with a different kind of assessment" that might better reflect what the applicants will do beyond just interviewing them.

"Some of the skills of an interview translate well to being a town administrator, but not all of them," he observed.

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

WILLARDSON

continued from page A1

Harvest and enjoy mint from the garden



Melinda Myers

Fresh-from-the-garden mint is easy to grow and adds a cool, fresh flavor to meals, beverages and desserts.

Add a bit of cool flavor to your beverages, meals and desserts this summer with home-grown mint. Try using peppermint leaves in fruit cocktails and ice cream. Add spearmint to your tea or use the leaves to season lamb and jelly. Or try chocolate mint for a unique, sweet and refreshing flavor in desserts and drinks.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

container in a vacant spot in the garden or move the planter into an unheated garage. Water thoroughly whenever the soil is thawed and dry.

Gardeners lacking outdoor growing space or in areas with cold winters can also grow this herb indoors. Grow mint in a quality well-drained potting mix. Place in a sunny window or under artificial lights and keep the soil evenly moist.

Store any extra mint cuttings in a vase of water, loosely cover with a plastic bag and place in the refrigerator.

Consider including mint in your patio, balcony or deck plantings. Keeping it close to the kitchen and outdoor living space will make it easy for you to harvest and use. Plus, your guests will enjoy plucking a few fresh mint leaves to add to their iced tea, mojito, other favorite summer beverage or salad.

Not only does this easy-to-grow herb add flavor, but it also aids digestion. Add a garnish of mint to dress up the dessert plate and calm a queasy stomach. And use it to increase the manganese, vitamin C and vitamin A levels in your diet.

Make this the year you plant, harvest and enjoy some minty fresh flavor straight from the garden.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series* and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

COVID

continued from page A1

ered approach ... (i.e., vaccination, universal mask use, ventilation, testing, quarantining, and cleaning and disinfecting)."

One school nurse at the meeting, who didn't identify herself, said kids can test out of quarantine and don't have to quarantine if they've been vaccinated.

"When summer started, we were all dancing and thinking no one was going to be wearing masks in the fall," Goguen said. "things shifted rapidly with the Delta variant."

If students' families do get infected, she said they'll address it on a case-by-case basis. Last year, she often saw packets of books and materials left on school steps for parents to pick up, but they can also have the kids take all books and homework home for independent work.

The board also voted to amend its mask policy to require them indoors but not outdoors and eliminate the social distancing. If a student repeatedly violates it, Goguen said principals "will be in consultation with the parents and the students," but she noted everyone needs to be "sending reminders" on how to wear them properly.

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

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Courtesy
Pictured, left to right: Pastor Michael Bastian, Susan Pierce, Paula Clark, Laurie Larson and kneeling - Kirsten Larson.

Zion and reconciliation hold backpack blessing

OXFORD/WEBSTER — Zion Lutheran Church in Oxford and Church of the Reconciliation in Webster combined efforts to complete their third joint mission and outreach endeavor; a collection of back packs and school supplies to be distributed by the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf.

When families come to the Food Shelf on Thursday evenings to receive their grocery boxes, their students will be happy to pick up a sturdy new backpack filled with items requested by their teachers to begin classes in September. Children in elementary school will find their bags filled with markers, glue sticks, scissors, crayons, dry erase markers, pencil crayons and pocket folders. Upper school student's bags will be packed with composition books, binders, red and the traditional black or blue pens, three subject notebooks, pencil sharpeners and highlighters. What a wonderful way to put a smile on pupils' faces as they begin in person classes again!

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August 12
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August 19
Le'Mixx Band

August 26
Michelle Canning Band

September 2
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In inclement weather, the concert moves indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

Open Sky COMMUNITY SERVICES

VALLEY CAST

Area residents named to Dean's List at University of New

BIDDEFORD, Maine — The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the 2021 spring semester at the University of New England.

Dudley
Jason Nowak
Grace Scanlon

Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine's largest private university, featuring two distinctive campuses in Maine, a vibrant campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of innovative offerings online. Our hands-on, experiential approach empowers students to join the next generation of leaders in their chosen fields. We are home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized degree paths in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts.

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