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Friday, April 10, 2020

# School employee tests positive for COVID-19

#### BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON - The COVID-19 pandemic has hit home for Dudley and Charlton once again with the announcement from both towns and their school district that a staff member of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District has tested positive for the virus.

In a joint statement from Charlton Town Administrator Andrew Golas. Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda and school district Superintendent Steven Lamarche, it was revealed that a positive test was delivered to the unnamed staff member on Tuesday, March 31. The employee reported the diagnosis to the Dudley and Charlton Boards of Health on their own. For privacy the individual has remained unnamed.

In the press release, the joint statement noted that schools in the district had been closed to students since March 18 and that nonessential personnel were to remain home as of March 23. Teachers were invited back into the school om March 30 to retrieve resources for at-home teaching. The infected individual was confirmed to have been a teacher who entered one of the schools during this time.

'The individual diagnosed with COVID-19 was among those present at Dudley Elementary school, retrieving resources to prepare for the extended closure. Since Monday, March 30th, the DCRSD schools have been closed to teachers and non-essential staff. On

Turn To COVID, page A6

## LOCAL COUPLE CELEBRATE **50TH ANNIVERSARY**



The family of Ronald and Agnes Coporale wishes them a safe and very happy 50th wedding anniversary this weekend. The **Coporales were joined** in marriage at St. Andrew Bobola Church in Dudley on April 11, 1970.

Photos Courtesy



# St. Joseph's Sister Jeanne adjusts to remote learning



Photo Courtesy

Sister Jeanne conducts an online lesson with her 4th grade class. On the Chromebook screen, student Colton Haase responds to a question.

WEBSTER — Sister Jeanne Marie Akalski, fourth grade instructor at St. Joseph School, is a Felician Sister who has spent decades in educational ministry. Never in her wildest dreams would she have imagined how her teaching strategies would dramatically change in March of 2020. No longer does she stand before her fourth-grade students in her thoughtfully decorated classroom. Mandated by state and local government actions and the decrees of the Diocese of Worcester, St. Joseph School in Webster is now empty of students, but education continues during the pandemic caused by the Coronavirus.

Sister Jeanne and her teaching colleagues had little time to plan their remote teaching. However, they worked quickly to provide their students with meaningful educational activities to do at home and technology became their best friend. It was a huge effort to continue to provide excellent instruction for their pupils but has been very successful. Already using Khan Academy to help students build important math skills, Sister Jeanne turned to Khan Academy for reading, English, social studies and science. Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empowers learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. Most students, including Sister Jeanne's fourth-grade pupils, love the challenges that the program provides. To give students assignments to work on at home and to collect their homework, Sister Jeanne and her colleagues are utilizing Google Classroom. Although she never used the platform in her regular classroom setting, Sister

# A Note to Readers

the paper might seem a bit smaller than you are accustomed to, but rest assured, this is only temporary. Due to the unique circumstances we are all living under at the present time, local sporting events and community activities have wiselv been canceled as we all try to stay closer to home and practice social distancing.

As we ride out this temporary interruption of life as usual together,

This week's edition of we urge you to continue supporting the local businesses that advertise in your newspaper. They have always been here for you through good times and bad, and now, more than ever, they need you to be there for them in any way you can

Amid this temporary absence of local events and municipal meetings, we are also looking to celebrate the many quiet heroes in our communities who have gone above and beyond to make this situation easier for those most affected by it. Let us know if there is someone in your community who you think should be recognized by e-mailing news@stonebridgepress.news.

Above all, know that we have been your trusted source for local news for generations, and we plan to be here for you to generations to come. in print and online at www.stonebridgepress. com.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUSPENDED

With many local groups and organizations wisely canceling planned events due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, we have temporarily suspended publication of our weekly calendar of events. Once the current situation settles down, we will return to being your go-to source for the area's most comprehensive listing of local events and activities.

Turn To JEANNE, page A6

# Dudley residents come together for cleanup effort

#### BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - Due to the practice of self-quarantining and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, many local residents are left with plenty of time on their hands and the residents of one street in Dudley decided to use that time wisely to do right by the place they call home.

Residents along Corbin Road in Dudley took to the streets to perform a community cleanup effort on Sunday, March 29 to help beautify their roadway. Families split up into their own groups taking different sections of the roadway being sure to maintain social distancing while working together to do something nice and productive with loved ones and neighbors.

Andrew Jeffers helped organize the event seeing it as an opportunity to take the unsure situation of modern times and change it into an opportunity to help do something good and bring their local community together for one united effort.

'We're trying to make a positive situation out of something that's frustrating. We contacted everyone we could in the neighborhood to try and get something done while we have the time to do it. It'd be awesome to see this catch on and see other join in around town," Jeffers said.

Joining Jeffers near the Corbin Cemetery end of the roadway was the Gonya family. Rachel Gonya said they decided to pitch in to use their free time effectively and to hopefully inspire others to not only clean up their own roadways but to be mindful of proper trash disposal

"It's our neighborhood, and it's a nice thing to do. We've been cooped up because of the virus so it's for a good cause. Our kids grew up here, so we want to keep it looking nice. Everybody else pays to get rid of their trash and some people just throw it on the side of the road so it's not fair but we're here to clean it up," Gonya said.

Down near the far end of Corbin Road was Spencer Bell and his family. Bell is the owner of S. Bell Construction and as both a resident and businessman in the area he felt that giving back was not only an important lesson to pass to his children but also an important contribution he could provide for the place he calls home.

'We're trying to do something pos-



Photos Jason Bleau

The Bell family poses for a photo as they clean up Corbin Road.

itive and get the children out of the house. As a business owner, I also want to keep my neighborhood looking nice and it's important to do things like this with your family away from the daily grind. It teaches the kids to experience a different part of life and be a little humbler. We're pretty lucky here in Dudley," said Bell.

Both the town and a private trash service helped dispose of the waste gathered during the cleanup which ranged from small items like cans, bottles and food containers to empty propane tanks and even car seats.

Efforts like this are a reminder that



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Information as of April 2020 by: Earl J. Wilkinson Executive Director and CEO International News Media Association

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- Call your local grocery stores to find elder shopping hours and only shop during that time period.
- Wash your hands frequently with hot soapy water.
- Stay home as much as possible.

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# Dudley moves forward with cybersecurity improvements

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – In late 2019, the town of Dudley took preemptive measures to increase cybersecurity in the town after neighboring Charlton discovered its town website had been hacked. After partnering with True North Consulting Group, a company based out of Minnesota, Dudley is ready to take the next step.

Dudley hired True North to complete a Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessment utilizing a Community Compact Grant to help guide Dudley towards creating a more secure website and system without the risk of hacking or compromising public information. According to Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda the review was "comprehensive and in-depth" and designed to pinpoint any vulnerabilities in the town's network.

"Much more than a simple 'virus scan,' which is a scan and isolation of  $% \left[ {{\left[ {{{\rm{s}}_{\rm{m}}} \right]}_{\rm{max}}} \right]$ 

known viruses, this was a high-level test of all vulnerabilities including software and hardware, physical security vulnerabilities, third-party vendor security reviews, firewalls, switches, etc. In some cases, where appropriate, the same level security review of systems that is conducted on law enforcement and highly sensitive systems recommended by the FBI was completed. We even reviewed our new voting machines to ensure that the integrity of the local vote was safe and secure," said Ruda.

True North presented the results in the form of an executive summary to the Board of Selectmen with over 140 pages spelling out the immediate concerns and how to address them. The report assigned overall risk and priority levels to help guide the town in addressing these security needs effectively. Selectmen and the Town Administrator have chosen to keep the finer details of the report behind closed doors as revealing vulnerabilities before they are resolved would put the town in a security risk the study was meant to avoid. According to Ruda, implementation is the next step.

'The next immediate steps are clear, and there will be a cost associated with it that will not be a 'one-off' cost, but an ongoing, regularly-budgeted spending item that will be very high on my priority list. In fact, it will fall within the top three categories, 'public health, public safety and cyber-security.' To place cyber-security any lower on the list of priorities, in my estimation would be short-sighted," said Ruda. "Our residents and business owners must always feel safe and secure when conducting business through the Town's website, and our employees must be trained and aware of not only how to proceed when handling and working with electronic, sensitive data but must also be steadfast in working collaboratively across networks in a manner that has been vetted and recommended to be the best and most secure solution for both the departmental network and the town's cyber security posture."

Ruda added that the town will continue to utilize independent networks and manage those networks using vendors best suited for department needs. One big change in approach will be prioritizing hardware and software upgrades on a more consistent basis. The town also plans to hire a private cyber security firm to manage the overall cyber security program. All of this will result in slight changes for town workers which will be even more subtle to the general public when they attempt to access the town Web site.

"There will be little to no unusual impact to the way and manner that residents are able to access online town services. Staff will definitely notice changes but change in practice and security measures is the modern standard across industries," Ruda said. "The lack of change, the lack of consistent standard, particularly internally is precisely what we will address. Customers should be unaware, staff should be acutely aware."

# Local Assumption students spend Spring Break serving communities in need

WORCESTER — More than 40 Assumption students participated in a weeklong service immersion trip through the College's SEND program during spring break, which took place the week of March 9. Local students included:

Kelly Knutelski of Oxford, Class of 2023. Knutelski was a member of the group that traveled to Baltimore, MD, where students spent the week rehabilitating houses in West Baltimore neighborhoods with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. Students also volunteered at Catholic Charitie's, Jenkins Community Center, which, according to the website, is Maryland's first senior community to offer options to low and moderate income individuals for independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing care, rehabilitation, and medical day care.

Jack MacPherson of Oxford, Class of 2022. MacPherson was a member of the group that traveled to Norristown, PA, where students spent the week rebuilding homes for Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County. Students also spent time with the Religious of the Assumption sisters in Philadelphia, as well as working with the Catholic Charities of Norristown's Food Pantry, which is dedicated to helping community members in need of food assistance.

The College's SEND Service Immersion Program, sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry, offers nearly a dozen serving-learning trips throughout the year-during winter, spring, and summer break-in which students make a meaningful difference in the communities in which they serve. Reflecting the College's mission, the SEND Program provides students the opportunity to learn and grow in their faith while helping those in need.

During this alternative spring break, five groups of students volunteered in communities along the East Coast, working with local Habitat for Humanity chapters in Baltimore, Md.; Georgetown, Del.; Norristown, Pa.; and Immokalee, Fla., as well as Catholic Charities, Boys and Girls Club, and the Student Farmworker Alliance. Those students who ventured to Washington, D.C., worked with the City Service Mission organization.

Learn more about the SEND Service Immersion Program and Assumption's

the urge to give back, use their time effectively and to come together as a community for one united cause. Their hope is that their efforts can inspire others to do the same and help make Dudley a cleaner, more presentable community. Campus Ministry program by visiting www.assumption.edu/campus-life/ campus-ministry.

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs-each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment. Students-whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus-become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful

citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption.edu.



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.



#### **CLAENUP**

continued from page A1

small differences can be made even on your own roadway in these unique times. One overarching mentality for everyone involved in the cleanup was



Young volunteers take a short break from helping clean up Corbin Road in Dudley.



The Gonya family helped clean up the Corbin Cemetery end of Corbin Road.



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# Nichols College donates protective gear to Dudley FD

low on equipment in March

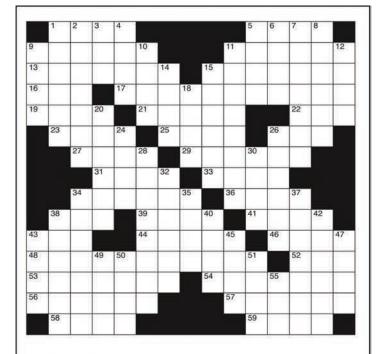
but thanks to numerous local businesses and entities the

#### **BY JASON BLEAU**

DUDLEY - While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many kind and thoughtful gestures nationwide, some of the most generous donations have been directed towards hospitals and first responders. In order to stay safe and

reduce risk of exposure to the coronavirus, medical personnel and emergency responders must wear personal protective equipment, or PPE, while on duty but, as has been highly publicized nationwide, many of these entities have run short on these essential supplies.

In Dudley, the town's Fire Department started to run



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Canadian law enforcers
- 5. Actor Idris
- 9. Cut or bruise
- 11. Vegetables
- 13. Aircraft delivery
- 15. To make obsolete
- 16. Things similar to those
- already noted
- 17. Columbus is a famous one
- 19. Age group
- 21. Denotes nature of sound
- 22. Klutz 23. Uninteresting
- 25. Computer manufacturer
- 26. 2,000 lbs
- 27. Genus of seabirds
- 29. Emerges
- 31. Baseball stat
- 33. Witnesses

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Churned
- 2. Seal bottles
- 3. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 4. Meat from a pig (French)
- 5. Within
- 6. Walk in a slow pace
- 7. Cries
- 8. About Andes
- 9. Fishermen use it
- 10. Expresses delight

20. Extreme disgust

- 11. Shouts
- 12. Feudal agricultural laborer

- 34. Observed
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. Former OSS
- 39. Small Eurasian deer
- 41. Wife of Sparta's king
- 43. Ballplayer accessory
- 44. Temporary cessation of breathing 46. Where construction workers
- ply their trade
- 48. Arguments that justify a
- religious doctrine 52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- 53. Widens
- 54. Detection
- 56. Period of inactivity
- 57. Tomato and vodka are two 58. Greek war god
- 59. Urinates
- 35. Yankee hero Bucky
- 37. Building
- 38. Per \_\_, each
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Makes amends
- 43. Scoundrels
- 45. Baseball's best pitchers 47. Some are scrambled

49. Emit coherent radiation

department is now better equipped to handle the pandemic and keep its emergency responders safe from exposure. Among those donating to the department was Nichols College, which is housed on Center Road in Dudley. Upon hearing Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski's comments on a recent video stream of a Board of Selectmen's meeting Nichols College Assistant Director of **Campus Services Justin Dolan** saw an opportunity to help the school make a difference. The college provided their supply of gloves and N95 respirators to help protect the town's firefighters and EMC workers from exposure. "It was kind of a quick turn-

around to make that donation the next day. On the facility side, we work very closely with different town officials. Fire and emergency services is no exception. Our relationship with them is pretty close. We know these guys by name so it's nice to be able to help them out," Dolan said.

He added that being able to give back to the first responders that keep everyone safe in a time when they need it most was a heartwarming experience. However, seeing the outpouring of support from other entities as well also proved inspiring.

"Not only was Nichols able to donate to the fire department other companies stepped up to the plate. It's nice to be part of a community that recognizes what's important and are willing to rally around that," Dolan said.

Nichols College was joined by Webco, Shields Packaging, and Gentex who all came forward to donated everything from PPE gear to hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies to allow the fire department to stay safe and prepared for any emergency during the pandemic.

Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski said he deeply appreciates the support his department has received from the communi-



Photo Courtesy

the whole crew in quarantine

for fourteen days. They're

taking the appropriate pre-

cautions to flatten the curve.

It's vitally important we have

this equipment so we can do

our jobs under the current

circumstances safely," Chief

Kochanowski said. "I think it's

great that people are thinking

of us, especially when things

are probably more difficult for

them. I think overall these enti-

ties are trying to keep everyone

safe so by donating to us that,

in turn, helps keep them and

everyone else in safe if we have

to respond to any emergency.

It helps everybody all around

and we can't say enough 'thank

you's' right now. We're very

humbled. For us we're just

doing our job.

Dudley Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski accepts a donation of PEE gear from Nichols College.

ty. With the help of local businesses, he said the department is now better prepared and is also seeing the first shipment of supplies from MEMA. The chief said his department is in better shape than many in the state although he acknowledged that if the pandemic results in a flood of calls or turns into a critical situation locally they may need more assistance as supplies start to wane. For now the equipment donated will be significant to helping the department follow the CDC guidelines and prevent exposure to the virus.

"If we go into a house now under current DPH and CDC guidelines without and personal protection equipment on, we're probably putting the ambulance out of service and

# OLICE LOGS

Dudley police log

Tamara Capri Gorman, age 37, of Webster was arrested on March 29 for Trespassing and Disorderly Conduct. Amber Penacho, age 32, of Webster was arrested on March 30 for Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and Assault & Battery on a Public Employee. An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 30 for Assault & Battery with Dangerous Weapon а and Assault & Batter on a Family or Household Member.

An adult female whose name has been withheld from publica-

tion was arrested on April 3 for

Assault & Battery on a Child with

- 28. Computes
- 30. Pop singer
- 32. Weds secretly
- 34. Having two poles

- 14. Sailboat
- 15. Small Eurasian willows
- 50. Singer Redding 18. S. American native people
  - 51. Break
  - 55. Institute legal proceedings against
- 24. Nonsense (slang) 26. Produce male reproductive cells

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported only one arrest during the week of March 27 to April 3. Caesar Darko Ampaw Osei, age

38, of Worcester was arrested on March 29 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol.

#### Webster police log

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week March 29 to April 4.

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

FRANK G. CHILINSKI

(508) 909-4101

frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER

RYAN CORNEAU

(603) 677-9082

ryan@salmonpress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Julie Clarke

(508) 909-4105

production@stonebridgepress.news

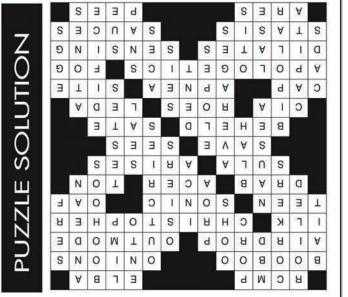
Injury, Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon against a Child Under 14, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

ALMANAC **OPEN TO CLOSE DUDLEY** DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000 Board of Selectmen (949-8001) Fridays .. 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) Monday-Thursday......8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday nights ...... 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays ......9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)** Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week **DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)** Monday-Sunday......6 a.m. to 6 p.m. **OXFORD** OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027 Board of Selectmen Monday-Friday ......9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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) Monday-Friday......8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **WEBSTER** 

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# Police Chief takes to YouTube

#### BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar is no stranger to the young students of his community. Over his years working in the town, the chief has strived to connect with local children as Mason Road Elementary School to help introduce them to the idea of a police officer and be a part of the lives of the future adults of Dudley.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools are closed making that connection harder to maintain. In an effort to continue his outreach to local students Chief Wojnar has taken his annual outreach efforts to YouTube.

With support from his wife, Chief Wojnar has started his own YouTube page under his official "Chief Wojnar," title. where he has begun reading books to children to maintain that communikids. The first video, a reading of "And That Was the Oddest of Things" uploaded on April 2, had reached nearly 175 views as of this writing making the channel and early success.

"It seems to have been very well received. As long as the kids are still out of school we plan to continue to do it, maybe once a week if it's possible," Chief Wojnar said. "It might be something where we'd try to expand and develop it into something bigger. We could even use it as maybe a younger version of a Chief's Corner to allow the kids to interact and ask questions through email.'

Wojnar added that it's also a way for his department to help spread some positivity in unsure times. Recognizing that the pandemic has uprooted the normal lives of many children as well as adults, the chief sees the channel as a way

ty connection with local for him and his officers to help make a positive difference in the everyday lives of the youngest members of the community and help them through what is surely a confusing time.

"We always like to spread something positive. Usually, we deal with the negative stuff so any time we can be involved in something positive we like to take that time. Especially with the younger kids, a lot of them are very confused. They really can't go out and play and do what they would normally do. Their lives are turned upside down for a while. We always wanted snow days when we were kids but now these kids have a lot of days like that and anything we can do to brighten their day we like to be a part of that,' said the Chief. "On a personal level for me, I know when I had my bout of cancer a few years ago I got a lot of support from the kids at the school and



Photo Courtesy

Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar reads "And That was the Oddest of Things" on YouTube.

that meant a lot to me and helped me through some real difficult times. Anytime I can pay it back a little bit, that's what I like to do."

On another note, Chief Wojnar also complimented the officers and staff of his department for doing a commendable job maintaining services to the community and their composure in such a dif-

ficult and unsure time. "People are responding to their calls and doing the job and still also balancing their own personal lives. I'm very proud of the men and women at the department for their efforts and everything they've done," the chief said.

Those interested in watching Chief Wojnar's first video on YouTube

search "Chief can Wojnar" on the site or visit the Dudley Police Department Facebook page where a link to the video has been provided. Those with a YouTube account wishing to stay up to date on the channel can also subscribe to receive notifications when new videos are posted.

# School employee tests positive for COVID-19

DUDLEY — Last week, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Administration learned that a Dudley-Charlton staff member was confirmed to have contracted COVID-19. This positive diagnosis was delivered to this individual on Tuesday, March 31. Upon learning of the diagnosis, the individual self-reported the diagnosis to the Dudley Board of Health and Charlton Board of Health.

As you know, all Dudley-Charlton Schools have been closed to the public since Wednesday, March 18, and closed to non-essential employees as of Monday March 28. This Monday, March 30th we

invited teachers to enter the schools to retrieve more based on the resources Governor's

announcement last week that schools are to remain closed through May 1. The individual diagnosed with COVID-19 was among those present at Dudley Elementary school, retrieving resources

closure. Since Monday, March 30, the DCRSD schools have been closed to

teachers and non-essential staff. On Tuesday, upon learning of the March 30, 2020 brief admittance of

Dudley Elementary School staff to retrieve resources, the Town of Dudley Board of Health Agent and

officials, district school officials and Charlton Board of Health discussed the immediate steps being taken

by the school district to address the risks the exposure may have presented. In consultation with

officials from both towns, including both local Boards of Health and the school district, and in an

abundance of caution, the following steps have been taken:

-Dudley Elementary has been closed to everyone, both staff and the public, and the school

district is hiring a third-party to disinfect the entire school.

-Officials from both towns to prepare for the extended and the regional school district

have agreed to close the

following schools to everyone until further notice, CES, Heritage, DMS, DES, and Mason Road.

-All schools shuttered will be disinfected by personnel trained with the appropriate-level of

mitigation, using the appropriate products and equipment and essential employees will only

provide building checks in those schools moving forward.

-Upon total disinfection of the building, the DCRSD Central

Office will remain open to essential employees to con-

duct official school business operations, SHRHS and CMS will remain

distribution points to prepare and distribute food for our grab-n-go program. Both schools

continue to be electrostatically sanitized weekly and commonly touched areas are disinfected

daily.

-Our essential employees will disinfect SHRHS and CMS

after business and food service personnel

leave and will conduct building checks.

Further, both town health agents have been in contact with the staff member who has confirmed to

have contracted COVID-19 and have referred the matter to the health nurse that serves both

towns. Both towns will follow essential protocols of contact tracing and next steps. We continue to

stress the need for physical distancing, washing of your hands, and if you do not feel well to reach out to

your doctor via telephone and follow their guidance. Please continue to follow the Governor's Stay at Home advisory.

Both towns agree and will continue to take the appropriate steps to notify those with any potential

exposure though contact tracing and stand ready provide assistance to those in need. We appreciate the

steps taken by the DCRSD Administration to mitigate this situation and will continue to work with them

and the Town of Dudley towards keeping our communities safe during this public health threat.

In conclusion, we take community health matters very seriously and will continue to follow established

guidance from the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



## Abigail Shaw of Oxford inducted into Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society

W O R C E S T E R Assumption's Department of English has announced that Abigail Shaw, of Oxford, has become a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the International Honor Society for those who study English.

"Assumption College English majors are active and engaged critical thinkers, readers, writers, and analysts who transfer their skills gained in coursework and internships to many kinds of professional careers and graduate studies," said Becky DiBiasio, Associate Professor of English and one of the honor society's advisors. "As a new member of Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society, Abigail joins a group of inductees who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the many facets of the College's English department, including literature, journalism, multimedia communication, secondary education, and creative writing."

To qualify as a member of Sigma Tau Delta, students must earn a minimum of a 3.4 grade point average in the major and a 3.0 grade point average overall. Candidates must also have completed at least three semesters of college course work and have completed a minimum of two college courses in English language or literature beyond the traditional first-year English requirements.

For more information on Assumption, visit www.assumption.edu/english.

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption Worcester, Assumption in College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs-each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal

fulfillment. Students-whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus-become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption. edu.

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# Oxford police procedures 'changed drastically' by Covid-19

#### BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – The pandemic has sparked quite a bit of activity in Oxford, according to Town Manager Jen Callahan.

Speaking to last week's remotely-held selectmen's meeting, she led off with a point that will affect – hopefully positively – most Massachusetts communities. On March 28, the federal government included the state in its Covid-19 disaster declaration, making it possible for towns to get reimbursed for various kinds of pandemic-related expenses.

That will probably be some time coming, though.

"This is not a sprint; it will be a marathon," she said, noting Oxford had its first two official virus cases shortly before the meeting.

Some of the pandemic aid is already coming, at least from the state. Besides formally applying for authority to deficit spend, she noted Oxford recently received \$10,000 from the state Department of Public Health for case surveillance and monitoring and is seeking funds to beef up local public health nursing capacity. Additionally, the schools are ramping up their ability to provide students with breakfast and lunch by curbside pickup, and the local Food Shelf pantry has been offering similar help for non-students in need.

Quite a few locals – individuals and businesses – have come forward to donate protective equipment of various kinds, including gowns, gloves, masks, safety glasses and face shields, she said.

"As days go by, it's becoming more and more apparent ... the kinds of things we need," Callahan said.

Most of those items are going to the police or fire departments, which have both changed numerous practices to deal with the pandemic.

"The way that business is conducted has changed drastically here," observed Police Chief Tony Saad.

Among other things, he said officers are being required to decontaminate cruisers every shift; the department is screening calls to determine if they need a physical response or just phone calls; and they've set up a buzz-in system for visitors plus a drop-off box for paperwork such as pistol permit applications. Additionally, they're working "to limit contact if possible" by issuing more summonses rather than arresting people, and waiting outside for ambulances to arrive to some calls before entering houses, he said.

But the most notable change may be the fact they're now conducting bail hearings and arraignments at the station via conference call with judges, lawyers and other key personnel. If the judge orders a person held, the House of Correction is dispatching a van to pick them up, Saad said.

He also noted reduced traffic has meant fewer accidents, and public support is high..

"Overall, people seem to be pretty good respecting this epidemic we're going through," he said. "... Everybody knows the situation we're in as first responders."

Fire Chief Laurent McDonald said his department has reopened the North Oxford station, both to shorten response times in that part of town and to avoid cross-contamination if someone gets exposed to the virus. He said he ordered six thermometers (but had yet to receive them) to enable staff to check themselves for fevers twice daily. So far, it's "on the honor system," and a couple people did stay home recently.

Callahan said the recent mandated business closures raised some concerns regarding the town's biggest employer, IPG, so town staff visited it. It's considered an "essential provider" because it makes things for both the medical industry and military, but has had to furlough some staff, make other work from home, and institute various preventive measures on those still working on-site, she noted.

She also raised an issue many may not have thought of. Local Animal Control is recommending families designate two or three caretakers for their pets, have food and medicine on hand, and stick a written list of them plus doses on their door so first responders can find it, should they "go to the hospital or need to leave abruptly" because of the pandemic.

Additionally, Callahan said she's working with the state on potentially using the closed Pine Street nursing home as a local/regional "lower level or step-down [pandemic] treatment facility" in case Worcester sites get overwhelmed. She added the Legislature approved a bill allowing towns with property taxes due April 1 to delay them until May 4 and to waive late-payment interest/penalties through June 1.

In other business, the board approved allowing Chief Saad to handle the lateral transfer of a police officer who wants to return to Oxford. Officer Roy Aquafresca served here from 2013-17 before going to Millbury, he said. He also announced a commendation for Officer Ryan Kasik for his part in a State Trooper's traffic stop in March, where Kasik saw an illegal gun in the car, leading to the driver's arrest on that and drug charges.

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

## Hannah Yash of Webster inducted into Psi Chi Honor Society

WORCESTER — Assumption's Department of Psychology has announced that Hannah Yash, of Webster, has become a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Yash, Class of 2021, was inducted into the honor society during the 2019-20 academic year.

"We are honored to induct some of the top psychology majors and minors at Assumption College into Psi Chi, including Hannah," said Assistant Professor of Psychology Leamarie Gordon, Ph.D., who is a co-advisor of the honor society along with Assistant Professor of Psychology Karen Lionello-DeNolf, Ph.D. "An invitation to join Psi Chi signifies that each inductee has not only exceeded academic requirements, but is also committed to the practice of compassionate service in the pursuit of helping others, which are core values shared by both an Assumption education and a career in psychology."

Psi Chi was founded with the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduates, of sophomore, junior, or senior academic standing, who major or minor in psychology. Inductees must have completed nine semester hours of psychology courses, rank in the top 35 percent of their class, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.25. Members of Psi Chi have the opportunity to submit scholarly articles to the Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research, apply for research grants, and attend and present at regional and national conferences.

For more information on Assumption, visit www.assumption.edu.

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs-each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth

of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment. Students-whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus-become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption.edu.

However, teachers and students cannot wait to get back to their regular classroom settings.

"We are praying for God's mercy," Sister Jeanne stated.

Also, Sister Jeanne's students are creating thank you posters to tell doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, and first responders how grateful they are for their services. In addition, Sister Jeanne

Friday's Child # # #
Hi! My name is Brianna and I am learning how to

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#### JEANNE continued from page A1

Jeanne has found it to be a very helpful tool and plans to continue to use it even after remote teaching concludes. Google Classroom enables teachers to create an online classroom area in which they can manage all the documents that their students need, and Sr. Jeanne has found the



Brianna Age 17

## is currently in the tenth grade where she has made friends and good relationships with many of her teachers.

Brianna is legally freed for adoption and can be placed in a one or two-parent home with or without other children. Brianna has stated she enjoys living in a suburban area versus somewhere that is rural or an inner-city. Interested families should be open to maintain four visits per year with Brianna's siblings. She also has other relatives she would like to maintain contact with once placed.

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

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

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





To sponsor Friday's Child call Patricia at 508-909-4135 x321 or email patricia@stonebridgepress.news

ride a horse!

Brianna is a fun teenage girl of Hispanic descent. Some of Brianna's favorite activities are listening to music and reading. She also loves animals and has recently started to learn how to ride a horse. Brianna does a great job caring for young children, and she has expressed wanting a job working with children when she gets older. She teacher/student interface to be especially useful.

The greatest achievement for Sister Jeanne is her ability to teach religion online. In early April, she once again saw her amazing students and they saw their amazing teacher! Sister Jeanne began the class with a song as she often did in her regular classroom. She ended the class with a joke, another regular feature of her religion classes. Teaching a concept by using a story is natural to Sister Jeanne and the students interacted with her in a wonderful way. Following the online class, Eva Podgorny called Sister Jeanne to tell her how much her son Max smiled during the entire virtual learning session.

"He was thrilled to see you and his classmates," she exclaimed.

Times are critical right now, but it is a great gift to students and teachers to carry on real learning despite the conditions that exist. Many teachers, both at St. Joseph School and throughout the state and country, feel that a positive result of the pandemic is learning new and exciting ways of educating youngsters.

#### COVID

continued from page A1

Tuesday, upon learning of the March 30 brief admittance of Dudley Elementary School staff to retrieve resources, the Town of Dudley Board of Health Agent and officials, district school officials and Charlton Board of Health discussed the immediate steps being taken by the school district to address the risks the exposure may have presented," the press release stated.

The steps laid out include the complete closure of Dudley Elementary School to all staff with a third party being brought in to disinfect the entire school. Charlton Elementary School, Heritage School, Dudley Middle School, Dudley Elementary School and Mason Road Elementary School have also been closed to all

has put 30 holy cards of Our Lady of Mediatrix on the convent windows, asking the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede to God for an end to the pandemic.

Sister Jeanne is truly a blessing to the St. Joseph School and Basilica Community. Although the students pray daily in their classes, serve the church as altar servers, Children of Mary, or members of the Children's Choir, and regularly attend First Friday Mass including Benediction, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Sister Jeanne's presence, as well as her knowledge, guidance, and love, furthers to strengthen the spiritual foundation of all who are part of the St. Joseph School family. Just like the smile on her student's face when he attended his first on-line class with Sr. Jeanne, she brings a smile to all who know and love her!

To learn more about St. Joseph School, please call 508-943-0378. You may also visit our Facebook page or go to www. sjs-webster.com to take a virtual tour of the school and visit Sister Jeanne's fourth grade classroom.

personnel until further

notice. These schools will

all be disinfected by per-

sonnel trained for miti-

gation of the infection.

After the cleaning is com-

plete the district central

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Shepherd Hill Regional

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Middle School will remain

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cal distancing, washing of

your hands, and if you do

not feel well to reach out to

your doctor via telephone

"Both towns will fol-

both towns.

and follow their guidance. Please continue to follow the Governor's Stay at Home advisory," the joint press released stated. "Both towns agree and will continue to take the appropriate steps to notify those with any potential exposure though contact tracing and stand ready to provide assistance to those in need. We appreciate the steps taken by the DCRSD Administration to mitigate this situation and will continue to work with them and the Town of Dudley towards keeping our communities safe during this public health threat."

As of April 3, Dudley and Charlton have each reported nine confirmed cases of COVID-19 respectively, 18 in total. Around 915 cases of the virus have been recorded in Worcester County as of this writing.



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> **BRENDAN BERUBE** EDITOR

## **EDITORIAL**

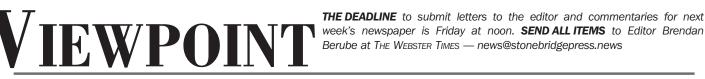
# Finding a silver lining

This editorial is being written immediately after our Editor returned from a walk around town. While we are all undergoing a complete change in the way we live our lives, and the reason is scary and horrifying, there is a silver lining. This coronavirus has caused a camaraderie among people that seems to break through barriers of religion, race, political beliefs, socioeconomic status or where we live in the world. We truly are all in this together.

During our walk, we saw entire families slowly strolling up and down side streets, with no real destination, simply enjoying the sun and warmer weather. It was nice to slow down enough to notice the cracks in the sidewalks. or notice the intricate woodwork on the old houses we passed. Seeing the community through a new, calmer, less stressed pair of eyes was interesting. While a cloud of uncertainty hangs above all of us, it's clear that despite the unknown, shoulders have dropped a bit, and we have been forced to slow down and just be present. These are stressful times, no doubt, but it hasn't gone unnoticed that the majority of people seem to appear more relaxed. [This, of course, does not include those on the front lines fighting this virus, to whom we say a heartfelt thank you.]

There are so many unknowns when it comes to this situation. We don't know when it will end, we don't know whether the virus will mutate when the warmer weather we've all be waiting for finally arrives, and we don't know how it will affect our economy or our livelihoods in the long run. What we do know is that, again, we are all in this together.

Strangers are stopping strangers (at a safe distance, of course) and having conversations that go beyond the weather. This outbreak has created a need for us to talk and to relate to each other for comfort, and to simply process what is happening. While passing by a gentleman getting ready to grill his dinner on the back porch, we struck up a conversation about going stir crazy, sharing a few laughs and well wishes, and then we were on our way. People have slowed down enough to lift their heads from their phones, laptops, steering wheels and television sets to open their eyes fully to the world around them. There are more smiles and head nods exchanged. People are making more eve contact with one another, almost to say yes, I'm uncertain too, but we will



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

## <u>Letters to the Editor</u>

## Closing parks isn't needed, but necessary

#### To the Editor:

Many basketball courts and playgrounds have been closing in many areas around the United States since the COVID-19 pandemic started to accelerate. Recently, Worcester Police and the Department of Public Works employees went around Worcester Friday and locked up basketball courts and playgrounds (Telegram and Gazette). While many may believe that locking up basketball courts and playgrounds may be a little excessive, it is totally necessary during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Locking up basketball courts and playgrounds across the country seems harsh for officials to enact since many children are dying to get some fresh air and exercise during this tough time. However, the COVID-19 virus is extremely contagious and keeping these parks open create an easy way for this virus to spread even faster. So how many germ's live in a playground? Let's say the number is bigger than you would think. According to HomeAdviser, a playground has an average of 3,500,000 colony-forming units per square inch (Playground Germs). That's about 20,248 times more than on a toilet seat. Playing indoors seems even more safe since a video game controller has an average of 5 CFU (Playground Germs).

The government has staged a social distancing message across the

world as a measure of coping with COVID-19. Basketball courts and playgrounds are an opposition of social distancing being enclosed to many children. Many sports are played among children and involve close contact between one another. Close contact sports are a risk factor for many infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The close contact involved in many sports can allow infections to spread by direct skin-to-skin contact, inhalation of infected droplets or aerosols, or injuries resulting in breaks to the skin which disrupt the body's natural defense mechanism (Management of Infectious Disease In Schools).

Individuals should avoid basketball courts and playgrounds to slow the spread of COVID-19. The risks of being in contact with the playground and other individuals is extremely unsafe at this time. We must practice social distancing and even physical distancing to make sure many people including children don't get this infectious disease. Governments should close down these playgrounds and courts to ensure your health and safety. Getting fresh air and exercise is always important, however doing it in a safe way is important as well for our societies well-being.

TREY CARRIER WEBSTER

# **Beware of** COVI scams



variety Α of "scams" are taking place during this crisis. COVID-19 These are intended to take advantage of people's panic or sense of generosity at this uncertain time. The FBI has recently issued an important advisory on these issues that I would like to share with you. As has been

mentioned in the past, telephone, Internet, and mail scams have been occurring for many years. With advances in technology, these occur with greater frequency. Those responsible prey on unsuspecting individuals and obtain either quick cash or other personal data, such as bank account numbers. This Corona Virus situation simply adds another component. The FBI warns you to protect yourself and do your research before clicking on links purporting to provide information on the virus. Some examples are donating to a charity online or through social media; contributing to a crowdfunding campaign; purchasing products online; or giving up your personal information in order to receive money or other benefits

The FBI warns us to watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other organizations offering information on the virus. Do not click links or open attachments you do not recognize. Fraudsters can use these links in emails to deliver malware to your computer designed to steal personal information or lock your computer and demand payment. Be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19 cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites to infect and lock devices until payment is received. Look out for phishing emails (fraudulent messages purporting to be from reputable companies) asking you to verify your personal information in order to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. While talk of economic stimulus checks has been in the news cycle, government agencies are not sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information in order to send you money. Phishing emails may also claim to be related to: Charitable contributions, General financial relief, Airline carrier refunds, Fake cures and vaccines, Fake testing kits, etc. They warn to be cautious of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19. Be alert to counterfeit products such as sanitizing products and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The FBI reminds you to always use good cyber security measures. By remembering the following tips, you can protect yourself and help stop criminal activity: Do not open attachments or click links within emails from senders you don't recognize; Do not provide your username, password, date of birth, social security number, financial data, or other personal information in response to an email or robocall: Always verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type them into your browser; Check for misspellings or wrong domains within a link (for example, an address that should end in a ".gov" ends in .com" instead). If you believe you are the victim of an Internet scam or cybercrime, or if you want to report suspicious activity, please visit the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. More information can be found at https://www.ic3. gov/media/2020/200320.aspx 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.

### Your kindness should be an example for everyone

#### To the Editor:

I would like to thank so many of my customers for their support and caring that they have shown over the past several weeks.

We all are faced with difficult and unusual times that affect so many people in different ways. But a few words such as "How are you holding up?"

"How are you doing?" "Are you OK out there?" "Keep safe!" make such a big difference each and every day. You are all such wonderful people, and I wish everyone could take lessons from you, including myself. Thank you!

"JOHN THE MAILMAN" WEBSTER

# Finding joy in quarantine

I awoke at 5:30 a.m., started a fire in our darkened kitchen fireplace and am sitting in the quiet of

POSITIVELY

antine and put them into action!

Why waste time? What is SPEAKING that project you've always wanted to complete? Get moving! Write a book, build GARY W. MOORE the model, complete the puzzle, write some letters, renew contact with those you've lost contact with. Explore the possibilities, then act! And I do understand that some of you are afraid. I think we all harbor some level of fear and that's normal. Work to turn your fear into healthy caution and follow all the guideline for remaining safe. And for some of you who have a loved one who is sick, or you are not well, I'm praying for you now and I encourage others to do the same. Want me to pray for you or a friend or loved one by name? Send me an email or snail mail and I will do so. I won't post it here, but my phone number is on my Web page. It's easy to find. If you want me to pray with you, give me a call. And for those of you who don't believe in the power of prayer, please accept my positive thoughts for you as I pray for you. To pray is a decision I make personally. You don't have to do the same. I had a young student who said, "I don't believe in God or prayer ... so will you pray for me?" I prayed for her until her crisis passed. (Let the contradiction of her question sink in ...)

be all right. With nowhere to go aside from home and work (for some of us who also deserve thanks for continuing to put their health at risk so we have groceries and supplies to live on), priorities have shifted. People have used this time to really think about what matters in their lives. They have caught up on their reading, or re-visited old hobbies and house projects that have sat dormant for years.

Finally, this situation gives us all an excuse an excuse to just 'be.' Could it be that people can really benefit from simplifying their lives? How will things look when the world re-opens? We have a feeling that people will be friendlier and more appreciative of being able to clink beer mugs and raise a toast at their local watering holes. Perhaps people will find the value in slowing down.

We are living in a point in history that will live on in perpetuity. These few months will be read about and discussed for decades to come, long after we are gone, as we look back now and wonder about simple things like what it would have been like to live without electricity or a way to keep our food We're not sure there has ever cold. been a time when the entire society has shut down, when town squares look like ghost towns or something out of a movie set with no one in sight.

To those reporters and editors to come after us, we will tell you that these times are surreal. Despite not knowing what's going on and watching the news change every day, people are generally in good spirits and are finding ways to decrease stress and otherwise find some sort of joy.



the morning, counting my blessings.

My family is healthy and quarantined together. We are only missing my

oldest, who is sheltered in Los Angeles. My daughter, son-in-law and my two grandsons are sleeping soundly on the floor above me. My youngest son is sleeping in the basement with our grand dog Walter. Our dear friends and my daughter's in-laws, Stu and Lynn, are here and I'm going to make my grandmothers recipe for biscuits and gravy for breakfast. I cannot describe the joy am feeling at this moment.

I think people often interchange the words joy and happiness as though they are the same. They are not. Happiness is a feeling you get from outside events and/or circumstances, while joy radiates from within. Your happiness is dependent on things or other people while your joy is only dependent upon you. Want to be joyful? Easier said than done? Start by counting your blessings.

Joy is from the heart.

I find my joy in my love of family and friends. I am joyful in making breakfast for my family. I get happiness from seeing them feel enjoyment from my efforts. I feel joy in writing. I'd do it even if no one ever read it. I get happiness knowing people do.

So, what is my goal in quarantine? Love my family. Reach out to friends. Write to positively influence others. Finish my book, "Carbon Hill." Spend more time in prayer and contemplation. My plate is as full as my heart.

What about you?

How many times have you wanted to do something, but you complain you have no time? How often have you thought you'd just like to have a little time to yourself, or just a moment of peace and quiet? Sheltering in place can make those wishes come true.

You know me as a weekly columnist, but I'm also an author. In fact, I think of myself as an author that also writes a column, and not the other way around. I need to get busy and finish my fifth book.

I'm told that Shakespeare wrote King Lear while in quarantine for the plague. When I first heard that, I laughed and thought, as an author, hearing that is a lot of pressure. But then again, No pressure. I'm just a storyteller. I need to dig in and finishing telling the story of the Tallman brothers and "Carbon Hill."

Make positive decisions during quar-



This too shall pass.

I don't know what's in store for us over the next few weeks and months. I'm not a health care worker or government official. All I'm certain of is that this isn't the end of the world. This too, shall pass. The world will survive. I also understand that the death toll is high and growing. Just remember, if vou shelter in place, the odds of you getting sick are minuscule. And if you are sick and remain in place, you won't pass it to others. I think this will fit into the category of "Do good. Be good.'

Turn your fear and boredom into positive productivity during quarantine. Decide to make the most of this time and find both happiness and joy in doing something you have always wanted to do.

Stay healthy. Don't be afraid. I'm praying for you.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.



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# Coronavirus, public panic and the rock of faith

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

The Coronavirus. A pandemic. Whole cities being quarantined. Travel interrupted. Schools closing. Stadiums and large gatherings forbidden. Financial markets plummeting. Fear and the danger of mass panic and even hysteria. It almost sounds like a horror movie, and yet we all realize we're facing this reality right now.

In the midst of such a public crisis, where is God? Where should the Church be in such moments of social turmoil? What is our role as Christians in society during such times of mass fear and grave challenges? Will our Christian Faith act as a source of comfort in our lives, something that we can embrace and from which we will find strength, or will we push it aside and focus only on our fears, or will we just ignore our Faith as something irrelevant compared to 24/7 voices we listen to from the media and society at large? Ultimately, do we truly believe that God is with us, especially in times of turmoil and uncertainty, and will we find hope and solace in Him during this crisis and any other unexpected turn of events in our lives?

I read an interesting article in the NY Times entitled "Coronavirus and God." The Italian journalist Mattia Ferraresi wrote about the closing of churches, along with a general lock-down of society in Italy. He noted ironically that precisely at a time when people need comfort and strength, something that faith has offered to countless people throughout history, the government has closed the churches and suggested that people can watch the liturgical services on TV or via the internet. As the Archbishop of Milan celebrated Mass before an empty cathedral, he noted that the difference between attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist compared to watching it on TV was the same as the difference between "sitting next to a bonfire and contemplating a picture of it."

Ferraresi went on to write, "Faith is a fundamental source of spiritual healing and hope. It's a remedy against despair... and an antidote to loneliness... It is the ultimate source of meaning that makes sense of the whole of existence, including, and perhaps especially, during circumstances marked by suffering and tribulation."

The early church is full of examples about how Christians would risk their lives in order to worship no matter what the authorities demanded. Why? Because they understood, "we cannot live without the Lord's Bread," which included worshipping the Lord even when plague or disease would create havoc throughout society.

Now, in our contemporary world facing the coronavirus, we must take care to heed preventive actions. We need to listen to the scientific and medical advice offered to control and address the spread of this virus. Yet at the same time, we must also be careful not to allow fear, overreaction and panic to rule the day. And we must especially take care not to turn away from or ignore the main source of comfort and hope we have - our faith in an ever-present and loving God.

Remember, the life of the Church, the Family of God, and our Faith is not simply one among many other secular organizations. Our secular society will treat the Church just like any other organization and will feel there is no problem in closing our churches. Yet the Church and particularly the Mysteries of the Faith are something that we need now more then ever. They are means by which we encounter God in the most intimate way, and in this encounter we will find comfort and strength.

We can see an example of finding this comfort, strength and hope in the midst of our concerns and fears about the coronavirus in three beautiful hymns we chant during this Great Lenten season. I "Lord of the Power, be with us. For in times of distress, we have no other help but You, Lord of the Powers, have mercy on us." We also chant the inspiring hymn. "God is with us, let it be known. Let all nations be humbled, for God is with us!"

Lord of the Powers be with us! God is with us! We are never alone in any trial we face in life. Let us never forget or allow any threat of a pandemic or fear of any other concern overwhelm us so much that we forget that ultimately, we are in the hands of God. God is here and present even in the midst of any uncertainty. He is with us and will never abandon us! Always remember, the safest place to be is in the will of God! Let me repeat this. The safest place to be is in the will of God! Stay with Him and walk with Him and if we are with Him, there is never anything to be afraid of!

Listen to some of the comforting promises our Lord Jesus Christ told his followers:

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid... In the world you will have tribulation; but take courage, I have overcome the world (John 14:27; 16:33) Christ offered this comfort right before he was arrested and crucified. He knew his disciples would be confused and afraid, yet he reminded them that His peace is something no unexpected circumstance can take away! As He often told his friends, "Do not be afraid. Fear not!"

Jesus' final words, right before He left His followers and ascended into heaven, were And remember I am with you always even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20) He reminded them that He was not leaving them alone. He promised I will not leave you orphans. (John 14:19) but reminded them that He was sending His Spirit to always live in them.

We see another incredible example of this peace in the Apostle Paul, when he himself faced an uncertain future locked up in prison himself. He didn't know if he faced life or death, and yet he was concerned about the Christians in Philippi who themselves were facing persecution and the uncertainty of their own lives, and he encouraged them by writing Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

The Apostle Peter had similar advice to offer in his first letter when he wrote, Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

These words remind us: "Do not be afraid; Fear not; I am with you." This doesn't mean we won't be concerned. We all may have certain anxiety and worries. And we must take all the precautions and guidelines necessary to protect ourselves and one another, but as Christians we shouldn't allow fear to become a guiding force for our actions. We need to remember that God is with us and will always remain close to us no matter what uncertainty we face. Throughout history, Christians have faced countless perils and dangers from devastating plagues that have wiped out large portions of the population to wars, famine, pestilence and other natural and man-made threats. Yet Christians have always found

their greatest Source of comfort, support and strength in their faith in Christ and in the assurance that God is with us!

He is our Rock and if we rest in Him, the unexpected storms and waves of the world won't impact us. As the Psalmist proclaims, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1) In moments of fear or uncertainty, pause from listening to the constant voices of panic all around us, and enter into the silence of resting in the Presence of God. Turn your attention to Him and invite His "peace which transcends all understanding" to come into our hearts. He is our Source of peace and strength. He is the Well-Spring of comfort and hope. Christ is our Rock and our Refuge. Do not allow fear to overwhelm you. Rest in the Lord and know that whatever tomorrow brings, we will be dwelling secure in the peace of our loving God.

Remember also that not only have Christians not been afraid of whatever unexpected challenges life brings, but throughout history Christians have always been among the first in society to courageously help those in need, offering whatever support, compassion, and encouragement necessary to comfort those facing the fears and challenges of the world.

So let us keep turning to our Lord these days whenever fear tempts us, and don't allow any fear or panic of society to push Christ out of your mind. May we act as His instruments in bringing His healing grace and love to those suffering and to those who are afraid.

"Lord of the Power, be with us. For in times of distress, we have no other help but You, Lord of the Powers, have mercy on us."

# It's not easy, but look past the market selloff

These are challenging times. Like everyone, you are concerned about keeping your family safe and healthy, and you're doing your part to help protect your community from the effects of the coronavirus. And if you're an investor, you must also address your financial situation. How should you respond to the current market volatility and recent declines in investment prices?

Furthermore, housing market indicators were moving upward and the decline in mortgage rates could add more strength. Also, the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cuts, taking shortterm rates back near zero percent, will support the



reports we are seeing these days. As a country, we have the motivation, the will, the solidarity and the resources to defeat the coronavirus and its effects, despite the pain and trauma it is now undoubtedly causing.

So back to our origina

so, you might want to adjust your portfolio mix to include more fixed-income securities, which can help provide more "downside" protection. However, this would also affect your long-term growth potential.

Look for buying opportunities. Stocks are now at their most compelling values in more than a decade – in other words, there are plenty of compelling investments out there. You can find many high-quality investments at very good prices, so you may want to consider taking advantage of the opportunity. These are trying times for all of us. But as an investor, you'll help yourself greatly if you keep the situation in perspective, take a long-term view, evaluate your own risk tolerance and be receptive to new possibilities.

recent decimes in investment prices.

For one thing, try to avoid what many others seem to be doing: panicking. The market selloff may feel unsettling, but it appears to be driven as much, or more, by fear and panic than by economic or financial reality.

Uncertainty is high, but there are reasons – solid, objective reasons – that provide more confidence in the longer-term outlook, suggesting that conditions still warrant an eventual rebound. U.S. unemployment entered this situation near a 50-year low, with solid wage growth. We will see a temporary disruption to the labor market, of course, along with a decline in economic activity, but households entered this period in generally good shape. economic rebound as the impact of the virus containment efforts eventually fade.

In addition, while further volatility and the potential for further weakness will likely continue, the steep drops we've already seen indicate that the financial markets have "priced in" the likelihood of a short-term recession, which may mean that the worst of the stock market pain has already been endured, though, of course, there are no guarantees.

First, though, it seems likely that the investment world will finally calm down only when the health situation shows signs of containment – and this will inevitably happen, despite the grim question: What should you do? Here are a few suggestions:

Remember why you're investing. Given the market decline, you may be tempted to change your investment strategy. But keep in mind that your financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement, are longer-term than the shelf life of the coronavirus. These goals, not today's headlines, should guide your decisions.

Re-evaluate your risk tolerance. The recent volatility provides a good test of your ability to weather short-term swings in your portfolio. If you're having a hard time coping with these losses, your portfolio may be positioned too aggressively for your risk tolerance. If This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

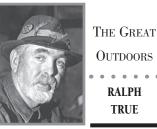
Stocking for spring

Fishing at some local ponds has been just fantastic, while some streams and brooks are very slow according to a few local anglers. This writer made a call to M.F.W. Central District this past Friday, April 3, and was told that the spring stocking is pretty much complete. The

stocking trucks were running nonstop to ensure that the spring stocking of trout would be completed. As of this date, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is holding on to the trout allocated for the fall stocking. The Covid-19 virus sure has negatively made a big change in our daily living, and will affect our lives for months and years to come.

This week's picture shows Amy with her large brown trout from Ashland Reservoir. this past week, that also had the upper jaw missing as the second picture shows. The heavy rain of the last two weeks, and the cold temperatures have kept trout fishing a bit slow, but the warmer weather of this week has brought the water temperatures up, which has had anglers catching some impressive trout.

Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife, along with some other states, have been feeding the trout at the hatcheries a new diet over the last few years, which has the trout growing very fast, and the end result is a more impressive trout being



stocked. The down side to the new diet that trout are being raised on have lost there sweet natural taste at the dinner table.

I am not the only one that has noticed the difference in the taste of trout over the last few years. Any fish or meat

taste can be altered with numerous brands of seasoning on the market today, but I and many other anglers miss the natural sweet taste of the trout. I guess we cannot have it both ways. Numerous anglers have switched to smoking trout, rather than pan fried.

Tautog fishing season in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is now open, but the water temperature was still a bit cold last week , hovering in the middle 40 degrees. The temperature needs to hit the low 50's for the fishing to improve. A few anglers fishing for tautog last week reported a few small tautog being caught, so it should not be long before the big fish move in. When the dandelions are out, it is time to fish for tautog.

A couple of years ago, both Massachusetts & Rhode Island stopped commercial fishing for tautog in the spring, and gave them a good season in the fall. It was long overdue. Tautog were returning to spawn in the spring, and were being depleted before they had a chance to spawn. It was a no brainer. Rhode Island Marine Fisheries & NOAA has placed another nail in the coffin of the recreational fluke fishing season this year. Raising the Fluke size limit to 19 inches and allowing the commercial anglers to keep 14-inch fish is outrageous. A lot of fish are going to be wasted due to mortality after being released by recreational anglers. Taking home a few fluke fillets for the family this year is going to be tough. Massachusetts has held there legal size limit to 17 inches again this year. It was not that long ago that Rhode island raised the size limit for fluke to 21 inches for recreational anglers.

That was the year I sold my 21 foot boat. I love bottom fishing and we found ourselves coming home with one or two fish if we were lucky. Commercial anglers were fishing on the side of us keeping 14 inch fish!

Seabass are also being saved for the commercial guys, with the season starting June 24 this year for recreational anglers and a bag limit of three fish daily. Striper fishermen are not happy with the slot size on Striped bass. The big problem with the striped bass decline is in Maryland & Delaware, not in Massachusetts & Rhode Island. Massachusetts Marine Fisheries has also dealt a hard blow to the sport fishing boats up and down the coast.

My neighbor erected a blue bird box



in his yard a few years ago, and is being used annually by a pair of them. They sure are nice to see in the back yard as they frequent my bird feeder daily along, with a pair of cardinals. It will not be long before the humming birds return.

Until next week, stay safe! God Bless America.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

# **OBITUARIES**

## James J. LaRochelle, 60

NORTH GROSVENORDALE- James J. LaRochelle age 60 passed away Thursday morning, April 2, 2020, at the University of MA Healthcare Center



Hopsital, Worcester, MA. He leaves his loving wife Laura J. Hackett, and a son Tyler Day both of North Grosvenordale, He also leaves his Roland parents, LaRochelle and Mary (Bachand) LaRochelle

and a brother Roland LaRochelle and his wife Delores all of Southbridge, also a niece and her husband Amy and Patrick Reynolds of Dudley. He also leaves many brother and sister -in-laws that loved him dearly along with numerous friends. Jim lived in North Grosvenordale, Ct for the past 20 plus years,

James was the Head Maintenance Engineer for the Shaner Group in Southbridge. Some of Jimmy's joys were his motorcycle, his two dogs Ruby and Tilly and his love for his family and home.

Please consider making a memorial contribution donations to the American Diabetes Foundation in honor of James.

Services will be announced at a later The Shaw-Majercik Funeral date. Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of James.

veteran, serving in the Vietnam Era.

Mr. Wilk worked at Kenyon Oil

Company in North Grosvenordale, CT

for 37 years, retiring as the corporate

He was a communicant of Saint

Andrew Bobola Church and a member

of the Saint Joseph Basilica Council

of the Knights of Columbus. He loved

watching the Boston Red Sox and the

New England Patriots. His family was

The family would like to express their

thanks to the entire medical team in the

ICU unit of Saint Vincent Hospital who

provided exceptional care with compas-

sion and understanding for Ernie and

Because of the current Covid-19 epi-

demic, his funeral and burial will be

held privately. A celebration of his life

will be held in the future on a day and

time to be announced. Donations in

his name may be made to either St.

Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262

Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN

38105 or to the Webster-Dudley Veterans

Council, 3 Veterans Way, Webster,

MA 01571. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf

& Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School

www.websterfunerals.com

his family in his final days.

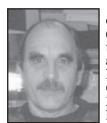
treasurer in 2007.

his treasure.

## Ernest J. Wilk, 71

#### Ernest J. Wilk, 71

DUDLEY - Ernest J. "Ernie" Wilk, 71, died Friday, April 3, 2020 in Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester after a long illness, with family at his side.



He leaves his wife of 42 years, Jane E. (Ryan) Wilk; 2 daughters, Laura M. Soldani and her husband Kevin of Norwalk, CT, and Sara A. Miedema and her husband Christopher of Webster; 2 grand-

children, Logan and Sawyer Miedema; a sister, Joan E. Cormier of Gardner; a brother, Stanley J. Wilk, Jr. of Webster; nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his nephew Keith Nivala in 1989.

He was born in Webster on April 25, 1948, the son of Stanley J. Wilk, Sr. and Helen (Augustynski) Wilk and lived in Dudley all his life. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1966 and earned an Associates Degree from the New England School of Accounting.

He was a United States Marine Corps

Rosemary H. Wieloch, 78

Street, Webster.

DUDLEY - Rosemary H. (Meleika) Wieloch, 78, died Friday, April 3, 2020 in Harrington Healthcare at Hubbard after being stricken ill at home. Her husband of 54 years, John J. Wieloch, Sr., died in 2015.



She leaves a son, John J. Wieloch, Jr. of Dudley. She was preceded in death by her brother Phil Meleika. She was born and raised in Oxford, a daughter of Felix F. and Charlotte J. (Korzun) Meleika and

at Gloria's Beauty Salon in Webster for 8 years and then operated her own business at her home on a part-time basis for 11 years. After that, she became a homemaker.

She was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica in Webster and a member of the Saint Joseph Polish Women's Club. She enjoyed crocheting, jewelry making and painting.

## Alexander G. 'Glenn' Thibeault, 68

CHARLTON- Alexander G. 'Glenn' Thibeault, 68, passed away April 2, 2020 at Harrington Memorial Hospital in

Southbridge. He leaves behind his wife of 36 years, Corinne E. (Ryder) Thibeault, his mother, Teresa F. (Dubuque) Thibeault of Charlton, 2 sons; Nathan Alex

Thibeault and his significant other Michelle of Charlton, and Joshua Lee Thibeault and his wife Anne Marie of Putnam, CT., a step-daughter, Melissa Vassar of Brookfield, 2 brothers; Wayne N. Thibeault and his significant other Kelly of Southbridge and Dean M. Thibeault and his wife Mary of Oakham, a grand-daughter Marijane, step-grandchildren; Johnathan McGary, Amanda Joy Hurd and her significant other Nolan, Xavier and Zachary and his close companion and furry friend 'Izzy'.

Glenn was born in Southbridge August 18, 1951 son of the late Alexander A. Thibeault who died March 21, 1999, and lived in Charlton most of his life.

He was a graduate of Charlton High

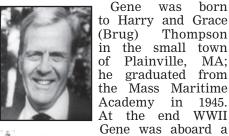
WORCESTER-Frederick A. Baird Jr. age 73 passed away Monday morn-ing at the St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester, MA. He leaves his wife of 35 years Sharan A. (Springer) Baird of Worcester. He also leaves daughters, Jessica Ring and her wife Erinn of Worcester and Pamela Cavallo and her husband Jaye of NJ, also sons, Craig and Jason of Worcester, grand-Hunter, children,

Forrest, Emma, Kailyn and Kendall. He also leaves a sister Beverly Boza of Worcester.

Herbert E. "Gene" Thompson, 93

CHARLTON - Herbert E. "Gene" Thompson, 93, formerly of Sandwich, MA passed away peacefully on April 1, 2020 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Gene was born

(Brug)



in the small town Plainville, MA; graduated from he the Mass Maritime Academy in 1945. At the end WWII Gene was aboard a

Thompson

gasoline tanker in the Pacific; after the

School, was a master electro plater and was a certified plastic welder and several other classified programs for the U.S. Government which he held many certifications.

He worked for LSA Clean Parts as a chemical technician, he also served on the Charlton Sewer Commission for 10 years and was instrumental in the design of the project. Glenn loved music and was an avid collector, and loved to travel to Vermont and Lake Champlain.

Glenn recently became certified as a food server on a food truck venture with his best friend Gabe Rivera of Southbridge.

Due to the current health conditions, mandated by state and federal guidelines, Funeral Services will be Private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Multiple Myeloma Foundation, P.O. Box 414238. Boston, MA. 02241-4238.

The ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd. is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave an on-line condolence or to Share a memory, please visit:RJMillerfunerals.net

Frederick A. Baird Jr., 73

Fred was born in Worcester, son of the late Frederick A. Baird Sr. and Blanche (Cusson) Baird and lived in Worcester all his life; he was a Vietnam Era US Air Force Veteran. Fred was a electrician and worked for IPG Photonics, Oxford, MA; he enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, and watching his children and grandchildren playing sports. Fred was a season ticket holder for Holy Cross football. The love of his life was quality time with his grandchildren.

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

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Fred.

riage that would last for sixty-seven wonderful years; together they raised two sons, David and Peter.

Gene enjoyed fixing things, working in his yard, and harvesting shellfish; he loved his family and would always be right there to help.

Gene is survived by his wife Carolyn; two sons: David Thompson and his wife Martha and Peter Thompson and his wife Lorraine; his grandchildren: Marcus, Sarah and her husband Shawn, and William; his great-grandchild Jack, and his nephew Harry Schaller.

Please consider a memorial contribution to the Alzheimer's Association in honor of Gene

graduated from Oxford High School in 1959. She then earned a certificate in har dressing.

Mrs. Wieloch worked as a hairdresser

# 🐨 🎬 We're All In This Together.

#### As a retailer selling essential goods, Ocean State Job Lot stores are open.

As a company, we always look for ways to turn challenges into opportunities. During this time of crisis, we are using our global supply chain to source critical supplies, like masks, gloves, sanitizers and more. These supplies are immediately donated to hospitals and other medical facilities.

We have contributed \$250,000 toward acquiring these vital items, and we are asking for your help by donating at the register. We will use 100% of your donation to purchase supplies, and we'll use our buying power to get the most for your money.

During these difficult times, we are also ramping up our food donation efforts. We could not do this without the incredible support of our customers all throughout the year. We are grateful, now more than ever, for your continued partnership with us.

Thanks for your support, and stay safe.

Her funeral and burial will be held privately for the family. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 260Cochituate Road, Framingham, 01701. Arrangements are under MA the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA.

www.websterfunerals.com



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war, he served in the Naval Reserves. Gene worked as a stationary steam engineer, completing his long career at the Canal Electric plant in

Sandwich, MA.

On November 15, 1952, Gene and Carolyn Ralston were married, a mar-

#### Yvette D. Devault, 86a

WEBSTER – Yvette D. (Corriveau) Devault, 86, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday March 24, 2020.



Being predeceased by her husband, the late Arthur Devault, Yvette is survived by two brothers: Rene Corriveau of Fl, and Corriveau Lucian her daughof NY: ter in law Debbie Champagne who lived

with and cared for her for the past three years; her granddaughter Robin Champagne-Brewer of Maine, four great-grandchildren: Jazlyn, Jaron, Lilly, and Grace of Maine, and one great-granddaughter Beatrice Tomah, also of Maine. Doris also leaves several relatives and friends. Yvette is

## Lucille Steibel, 96

CHARLTON - Lucille (Bodiford) Steibel, 96, passed away at the Masonic Overlook Health Center on March 28, 2020:

She is survive by her husband William Steibel and her daughter Melanie Levine. Lucille was born in Columbus, Georgia on December 28, 1923, daughter of the late Bennie and Mae Lilly (Purvis) Bodiford; she was a teacher for many years, prior to her

also predeceased by her son Bobby

Champagne; two daughters Debbie Champagne and Ann Corriveau; four brothers: Roger, Dickie, Donald, Jerry, Albert, and Bernie.

Yvette was born in Sturbridge, MA on July 7, 1933 daughter of the late Lucian and Irene (Tetreault) Corriveau: she worked at Ethan Allen Furniture ad an upholsterer for many years. Yvette greatly enjoyed cooking, especially for her family and treasured friends.

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

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Yvette.

retirement.

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

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Lucille.

## Suzanne M. Parslow

WEST WARREN- Suzanne M. Parslow passed away Thursday, April 2, 2020 at her home. She leaves her children Rosann Goodine, Donald Goodine, Robert Goodine, Tina Goodine, Ira Estabrook and Scott Goodine, fifteen grandchilden, 32 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. She was the daughter of the late Donald

L. Clevland and Mary L. Clevland.

There are no calling hours, services are private. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

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

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Gene.

# **OBITUARIES**

## Michael P. Henry, 61

STURBRIDGE- Michael P. Henry age 61 passed away Sunday, April 5, 2020 at his home. He leaves his daughter Trisha M. Walsh and her husband Michael Walsh Sr. of Webster, two grandchildren Michael Jr. and Tasana. He also leaves a brother Timothy Henry of Worcester, four sisters; Barbara King of Millbury, Mary Ellen Lambert of Worcester, Patricia Henry of Grafton and Ruth Dansereau of N. Brookfield. He also leaves his special friend for over 30 years Susan McDonald of Webster.

He was born in Worcester son of the late Joseph Henry and Ruth (Raymond) Henry and lived in Sturbridge for the past ten years prior to that living in Worcester. He was a formerly employed at Hudson Belting in Worcester.

There are no calling hours, all services are private. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

## Russell G. Norwood Sr. 72

Russell G. Norwood Sr. 72, formerly of Worcester passed away March 18, 2020 at Harrington Healthcare - Hubbard Campus.

He leaves three children, Michael Norwood and his wife Tammy, Russell Norwood Jr. and his wife Wendy: Kellie Theriault and her husband Joshua. He also leaves several grandchildren and his brothers Stanley Norwood Jr and George Norwood. He is pre-deceased by his fiancé Edna Barnes and his former spouse, Linda Norwood. Russell worked many years for St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. Russell loved NASCAR, local car shows and listening to Elvis and the oldies.

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

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in memory of Russell.

## Barbara R. Yeagher Dalterio, 92

SOUTHBRIDGE-Barbara R. (Bazinet) Yeagher Dalterio age 92 passed away Thursday, April 2, 2020 at Overlook Masonic Home, Charlton. She leaves sons, Robert Yeagher Jr. of Thompson, CT and Brian Yeagher of Dudley, daughters, Jean E. Walker of Webster and Michelle F. Yeagher of Sterling, CT, twelve grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Barbara had a son who predeceased her, Barry Yeagher of Webster. She had one brother that predeceased her the Honorable Dr. Wilfred Bazinet of Thompson, CT. She was born in Webster daughter of the late

Wilfred Bazinet and Florence (Barre) Bazinet and lived in Southbridge for several years, prior to that living in Thompson, Ct. She was the wife of the late Robert E. Yeagher Sr. and Salvatore Dalterio. There are no calling hours. There will be private graveside services in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster at a later date. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.



AUBURN – Harry P. Rogan 93, formerly of Springbrook Road, died Sunday, April 5, 2020, at the Life Care Center of Auburn. He was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Eunice J. (Anderson) Rogan of Auburn who died in 2001. He is survived by seven children, Patricia A. Rogan of Santee, CA, Michael Rogan and his wife Anne of Myrtle Beach, SC, William P. Rogan and his wife Sheila of Webster,

## Harry P. Rogan 93

Leicester; Daniel J. Rogan and his wife Marilee of Chandler, AZ, and Steven R. Rogan of Auburn; his daughter-in-law, Carole Rogan of Oxford; two brothers, James Rogan of Arlington, VA, and Paul J. Rogan of Fishers Island, NY; two sisters, Gail Garill of Pensacola, FL, and Mary Stather of Attleboro; seven grandchildren, Arthur, Ryan, Patrick, Ben, Conor, Kylie, and Andrea; and several nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by a son, David H. Rogan who died in 2003; two brothers, Bernard Rogan and Peter Rogan; and a sister, Ann Leger. He was born in Fishers Island, NY, son of the late Peter and Lina (Forster) Rogan, and lived in Auburn since 1959. He graduated from Fishers Island High School and Manhattan 3, 2020 after complications from COVID- always loved coming home to his piece He was a U.S. Army veteran of College World War II.

Veteran during the Korean War and was

Honorably discharged as a Corporal-

He worked as a superintendent for

James was a member and Past New

England president for the Fraternal

Order of Eagles and was also a member

Burial will be at a later date at St.

The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL

To leave a message of condolence,

Joseph Cemetery in Bedford, New

HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School

St., is honored to be assisting the family

please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

There are no calling hours.

baker commodities for many years

Airman 2nd Class.

prior to retiring.

of the Hibernians.

with arrangements.

Hampshire.

## Barbara R. Yeagher Dalterio, 92

SOUTHBRIDGE-Barbara R. (Bazinet) Yeagher Dalterio age 92 passed away Thursday, April 2, 2020 at Overlook Masonic Home, Charlton:

She leaves sons, Robert Yeagher Jr. of Thompson, CT and Brian Yeagher of Dudley, daughters, Jean E. Walker of Webster and Michelle F. Yeagher of Sterling, CT, twelve grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Barbara had a son who predeceased her, Barry Yeagher of Webster. She had one brother that predeceased her the Honorable Dr. Wilfred Bazinet of Thompson, CT.

Barbara was born in Webster daughter of the late Wilfred Bazinet and

Dorothy M. Jensen, 85

Worcester/Charlton/East Hartford Dorothy M. (Davis) Jensen, 85, passed away March 28, 2020 at the Oasis at

Dodge Park in Worcester. Her husband of 62 years, Richard G.

> She leaves behind 3 daughters; Linda C. Gillett of Tampa, FL., Joan M. Morse and her husband Ernie of Southbridge, and Susan M. Hardies and her husband David of Charlton. 3 grandchildren; Jennifer (Hayes)

Baille and husband Grant of Wesley Chapel, FL., Matthew and Steven Hardies of Worcester, and many nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was born August 25, 1934 in Athol, a daughter of the late Howard E. and Hilda B. (Longevin) Davis.

She was predeceased by 2 brothers; James A. Davis and wife Margaret of Tucson, AZ., and Robert E. Davis and wife Beverly of Ft. Pierce, FL.

Dot was a devoted mother and wife. She was a member of the Mother's Club at Burnside Methodist Church in East

Mary Sergel, 101

DUDLEY: Mary (Krawiec) Sergel, 101, born April 22,1918 in Dudley, died Sunday, March 15, 2020 at Webster Manor in Webster.

She was the wife of the late Albert H. Sergel who died in 1962.

She is survived by Albert G. Sergel and his wife Marion of Charlton; Paul A. Sergel and his wife Cheri of Webster; Bernard G. Sergel and his wife Lucy of Charlton; Anna Marie Ricci of Dudley, William Sergel of Northampton, James Sergel and his wife Cathy of Webster, MaryAnn Chauvin and her husband George of Dudley. She was predeceased by a son Wayne and a daughter Dolores Kaminski. She also leaves 17 grandchil-

Gerald C Carlson, 80

19. Jerry was a hardworking family Florence (Barre) Bazinet and lived in Southbridge for several years, prior to that living in Thompson, Ct; She was the wife of the late Robert E. Yeagher Sr. and Salvatore Dalterio.

There are no calling hours. There will be private graveside services in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster at a later The Shaw-Majercik Funeral date. Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements.

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Barbara.

Hartford, CT., for many years, as well as a Brownie Girl Scout Leader.

She retired from First Federal Savings at the Glastonbury branch in 1994.

After moving to Charlton, she was active at the Charlton Senior Center coordinating day trips and setting up exercise and line-dancing classes as well as secretary of the Golden Age Club.

Dot was a member of the Federated Church of Charlton.

The family would like to thank all the caregivers and management at Oasis at Dodge Park for their exceptional care and support as well as the staff from Brookhaven Hospice.

The Funeral Service will be private, with burial in West Ridge Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to, The Oasis at Dodge Park, Activities Fund, 102 Randolph Rd., Worcester, MA. 01606.

The ROBERT J. MILLER – CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd., in Charlton is assisting Dot's family with arrangements.

To leave a message of condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

#### dren and several great grandchildren.

Mary was a homemaker and enjoyed her family for the holidays and any family gathering.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN 38105 or online at http://www.stjude.org

Belanger-Bullard funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge is directing arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Due to the current health crisis Mary's funeral was private. Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster.

Jerry Carlson passed away on April in Maine and the Berkshires yet he



Richard J. Rogan and his wife Laura of Auburn, Nancy E. Marcinkus and her husband Peter of

## James S. Tierney, Jr.,88

WEBSTER- James S. Tierney, Jr.,88, passed away March 24, 2020. He leaves his wife, Susan (Farwell) Tierney, a son,



James S. Tierney, III of California, a stepson; Kevin M. Morgan and his wife Lisa of Webster, 3 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. He was born in

Manchester, New Hampshire February

11, 1932 son of the late James S. and Beatrice (Frances) Tierney, Sr., and was also predeceased by 2 sons and a step daughter.

He graduated from Central High School in Manchester and attended Keene State College.

James also was a U.S. Air Force



man, outdoorsman and animal lover. He was a veteran of the US Army and worked as a sheet metal worker and belonged to sheet metal workers union 63 for most of his life. Always hardwork-



ing, he also bartended for many years and raised pheasants (the pheasant whisperer) at Singletary Rod & Gun Club for the last 42 years, where he was a lifetime member. Despite having

multiple joint replacements, he still chopped and split all his own firewood and was still working on his woodpile the day before he was admitted. In his younger days he loved to fish and hunt. He had plenty of annoying 'dad jokes' and loved Family Feud, The Price Is Right and Hee Haw. He had a glass of Merlot (which he always pronounced mer LOT) every evening. He also loved to annoy telemarketers and hated when anyone swore. He loved vacationing

of paradise

He will be greatly missed by the love of his life Phyllis (Belisle) Carlson, his children Melissa (Peter)Voas, Stephen (Carole) and Rachel Carlson. His grandchildren Jason (Jennifer) Voas, Nicole (Levi) Schutter, Jamal, Naomi and Haleigh Carlson. His great grandchildren Aurora and Harrison Voas and Wvatt and Julia Schutter.

Jerry was predeceased by his parents Conrad and Celia (Chesna) Carlson and his brother Robert and sisters Barbara (Mercer) and Donna Carlson.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to C/O Children's fund, Singletary Rod and Gun Club, 300 Sutton Ave. Oxford MA 01540.

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Jerry.

#### **Public Announcement**

The Webster School Committee has proposed an operating budget for FY2021. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Webster Public School Administration Office, Michael Makara Committee Room, 77 Poland Street, Webster, Massachusetts.

Copies of the budget and supporting documentation can be found on the Webster Public Schools website at www.webster-schools.org: Office of Business and Finance. Hard copies may also be obtained at the Webster Public School Administration Offices, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570. April 3, 2020 April 10, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court** Worcester Division

#### Docket No. WO20P0904EA Estate of: Mark H Roukat Date Of Death: 1/29/2020 **INFORMAL PROBATE** PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Paul J Roukat of Dudley MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

#### Paul J Roukat of Dudley MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the

administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. April 10, 2020

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NEWSPAPER



# Antiquing during this health crisis

Many antique events and auctions have been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The usual online selling and buying options are still available though, and some new opportunities have even become available.

The biggest local antique news is that the May Brimfield Antique Show has been canceled. Westernmassnews.com quoted the Head of the Brimfield Select Board WAYNE TUISKULA only to comply with who said "I think when you get 20,000 people

coming from around the world, it'd be disastrous ... I think everybody is sad for it. I don't necessarily apologize for the decision because I think it's the right one." Although this is disappointing to antique dealers and collectors, in my opinion July 2020 will be one of the best shows. Many other shows have also been canceled. Live auctions and estate sales have been put on hold. Antiques and the Arts Weekly has a long "running list" of many of



ANTIOUES. COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

the canceled events available on their website at antiquesandthearts.com.

Like many other local businesses, antique dealers, auctioneers and estate sale companies have been going online to fill the void. For example, some estate sale companies are running online only sales. Others are selling by appointment social distancing guidelines.

7 News Channel in Watertown, N.Y. reported that auctioneer Don Peck Auctions has turned to Facebook Live to run his auctions which had been held live in person prior to the pandemic. Peck said that prices have increased as he has found a group of new bidders. Most buyers are from within 50 to 75 miles of his Gouverneur, N.Y. location, but he has reached others from as far away as Florida and Las Vegas.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many. Many public figures have done exceptional things to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Former Ohio Buckeyes and Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman is one example. The Detroit Free Press reported that he had previously donated \$100 each to 8 people who were in need for the past two weeks. He is now selling some of his personal memorabilia on eBay to help those in need during this pandemic. His Ohio State Big Ten championship ring is one of his prized possessions that he is auctioning for the greater good. "This hurts to give this up, but where is it going to serve a better purpose?" Spielman said. The ring sold for \$12,000, and Spielman said he will be offering more of his memorabilia.

Our company is practicing physical distancing, along with the rest of the state. If you are handling an estate or just have some items in your home that you think may be valuable and would like some guidance, we can virtually view and evaluate



them. You can contact us by email or phone to schedule an appointment using Facetime, Zoom or Skype.

We are also planning an online auction in Warren, R.I. and an estate sale in Auburn when the situation allows. Our Rutland estate farm auction will go online again as soon as possible. Please see www.centralmassauctions. com for details on these and other events. I hope all of you

continue to stay safe and in good health and we can all be attending antique events together soon.

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.

# Extend your garden season

No matter where you garden, there never seems to be enough time to grow all the fresh vegetables desired. Planting earlier or just providing plants with some added warmth on chilly days and nights can reduce the time from planting to harvest. Southern gardeners will enjoy the

additional time for harvesting heat-sensitive plants before the stifling heat moves in and plants begin to decline.

Prepare the soil as soon as it can be worked. Cover the prepared soil with clear plastic, row covers or high tunnels for several weeks when planting earlier than normal. This warms the soil for planting and helps germinate many of the weed seeds. Lightly cultivate to remove the young weed seedlings without bringing more weed seeds to the surface. You'll be pulling fewer weeds throughout the growing season.

Once the garden is planted, enlist some of these season-extending helpers (gardeners.com). Homemade and commercial cloches, cold frames and row covers can help you plant earlier and harvest later in the season.

Row covers made of spun fabrics let air, light, and water through while



keeping the plants warm. Anchor the fabric with landscape pins, stones, boards, or other heavy items. Leave enough slack in the fabrics for the plants to grow. Lighter weight garden fabrics also protect plants from insect pests like cabbage

worms and bean beetles.

Garden covers take this method one step further. These structures fit over plantings in the garden, raised beds or elevated planters. Look for those with durable greenhouse fabric covers that let water in and keep excess heat out. These types of structures protect plants from cold and wind, speeding up your harvest by as much as 25 percent.

Raise the roof on these structures with high tunnels and plant protection tents. These are perfect for growing tall plants like tomatoes. As temperatures rise, the tops can be ventilated or in some cases replaced with a mesh that keeps out insects and critters, while providing plants enough room to reach full size.

Or maybe you just can't wait for that first red ripe tomato and only want to jump start a row of greens. Garden cloches have long been used for this purpose. They capture the sun's warmth to protect plants from frosty weather. Gardener's Supply Company's Early Season Row Cloche Set allows you to expand your protection to the desired size. These clear PVC plant protectors have water wells to capture rainwater and gently disperse it to the plants below and vents for managing the temperature.

Further boost your tomato harvest with red plastic mulch, red tomato teepees and tomato boosters. University researchers found using red plastic mulch increased the individual fruit size and weight and overall tomato harvest by as much as 20 percent. They found the red plastic mulch reflected certain growth-enhancing wavelengths of light back onto the plants.

With a bit of extra effort and investment you'll be harvesting fresh vegetables long before your friends and neighbors. Then be sure to keep these season-extending devices handy to use again in fall. Protecting plants from those first few fall frosts can keep you eating garden-fresh tomatoes, peppers and greens well into winter.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company Cloches can help you plant earlier and harvest later, extending the growing season.

Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardeners Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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OXFORD - 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/ Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! \$349,000.00



WEBSTER LAKE - 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond - Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm - Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Flr Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Flrs! Beautiful Applianced Custom Granite Kit w/ Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Flr Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! \$779,900.00 Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage!



OXFORD - 10 Huguenot Rd! 8 Rm Colonial! 1.36 Acres! Country Setting! Country Kitchen w/Bay Window Overlooking Back Yard, Front to Back Living/Dining Rm w/French Doors to Deck! Office! Side Entry Breezeway! 3 Bdrms Plus a Study/Craft Rm on the 2nd Floor! 1 Car Detached Garage w/Workshop! Easy Access to Shopping and Highways! \$179,000.00





WERSTER - 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of 395! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Kit w/SS Appliances! Kit & Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Wall to 2 Comfortable Bdrms w/New Wall to Wall! Wall over Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 1st Flr Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! \$169,900.00

Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New Granite New Full Bath! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able to Finish Additional Living Space! 2 Parking Spaces! **\$129,900.00** 

**DUDLEY** – 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quaint Eat-in Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/ New Picture Window! Fam Rm w Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer

Windows! Solar Panels! \$239.000.00

DUDLEY - 9 Nellies Way! TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 10 Rm Colonial Set on 1.2 Acres! Applianced Dine-in Granite Kit! 3 Season Sun Rm off Kit! Din Rm, 2 Story Fam Rm w/Pellet Stove, Bdrm, Full Bath w/Laundry & Gleaming Hrdwds Round Out 1st Flr! 2nd Flr Features an Open Balconv to the Liv Rm! Plentv of Space for an Office. Plavroom or Reading Area. Use Your Imagination! Master w/Tray Ceiling & 3 Closets! Master Bath w/Dual Sinks, Shower, Whirlpool Tub & Makeup Counter! 2 Additional Bdrms & Full Bath! Huge Finished Walk-out Lower Level Perfect for Entertaining! Wet Bar w/Wine Cooler & Fridge! Half Bath w/Tile Flr! Irrigation! Shed! JD Riding Mower! Don't Miss Out! \$469,900.00



Spring Special – List Your Home @ 4%



DUDLEY - 7 - 9 West Street! Brick 4 Family plus a 2 Family! Side by Side! All with 5 Rooms and 2 Bedrooms! Gas Heat! All Separate Utilities 2 Car Detached Garage! The 4 Family with Beautiful Natural Woodwork! All Apartments are Empty and Work is Needed in Several Apartments! Excellent Potential! Will be a Good Investment for the Right One! \$399.900.00



WEBSTER - 60 East Main St! Established Local Bakery & Delicatesser Specializing in Polish Foods being Sold with Building! Turn Key Business! Equipment to be Included with Sale! High Traffic Count! Ample Parking! Easy Access to Rear for Deliveries! Building also consists of a One and Two Bedroom Apartment! The Owner presently uses two rooms for his office and storage which could easily be added to the One bedroom Apartment! Building was Totally Renovated in 2010! \$599,900.00







DUDLEY - 132 Southbridge Rd! 5 Rm Bungalow! 2.21Acres! Enjoy Nature and Kayak right from your Backyard! Eat-in Kit w/Pantry! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrdwds & Bay Window! Din Rm or Fam Rm w/Hrdwds & Ceiling Fan! Full Tile Bath w/ Tub/Shower Combo! Master Bdrm w/Wall to Wall Carpet! Second Bdrm w/ Wall to Wall & Ceiling Fan! Walk-up Attic w/Potential for Additional Living Space! 3 Season Porch w/Natural Woodwork! Recent Roof! Recent Oil Steam Heat! New Septic & being Well Installed! Plenty of Parking! \$179,900.00



WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! \$1.199.900.00

WEBSTER - 14 Summit Street! Conveniently Located 8 Room, 4 Bedroom Cape Featuring Newly Remodeled Stainless Steel Applianced Granite Eat-in Kitchen w Custom Cabinetry & Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring! Formal Dining w/Hardwoods! Spacious Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 2 1st Floor Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! Newly Remodeled Full Tile Bath! 2nd Floor w/2 Bedrooms w/Hardwoods Plenty of Closet & Storage Space! Updated Second Full Bath! Recently Oil Heat, Cast Iron Baseboard! Detached Garage! Corner Lot! \$279.900.00





#### WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEM-PORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+- SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open FIr Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone-faced Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Nook w/Built Ins, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Rm, Mudroom & Coat Closet, 2 Main Level BRs & Full Bath. 2nd FIr Private Master BR Suite w/Private Bath & Walk-in Closet! Central Air! Cavernous 1,500 SF+ Unfinished LL plumbed for a Bath, Oversized 2-3 Car Att'd Garage! Corner Lot, 12,599 SF (.29 Acre), of Land plus BOAT DOCK. \$699,900.



#### WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL! EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct Lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screenedin 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds! New Price \$375,000



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#### We just can't be too safe today!

Information as of April 2020 by: Earl J. Wilkinson Executive Director and CEO International News Media Association



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Visions of a lush backyard garden can brighten these dark days, so why not use this time at home to plan a spectacular summer garden?

As all home growers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a bountiful garden. While nearlv every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a productive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled from various "green thumbed" sources may just be all you need to make this upcoming season the most successful gardening year yet.

#### Starting Seedlings

You don't have to pay big bucks for packaged sterilized potting mix, as you can sterilize your backyard soil at home! (For best results the soil should be moist and crumbly, neither soggy nor too dry.) To do: Put two pounds of soil in a plastic turkey roasting bag. Do not seal the bag shut, as it could burst open. Place the bag in the microwave on other oven safe vessels with no more than four inches of soil. Cover with aluminum foil and bake at 180 to 200 degrees for a half hour. Use a meat thermometer to test temperature. Soil should reach 180 degrees, but don't allow temperature to go above 200 degrees because high temperatures could produce plant toxins. After heating, allow soil to cool before using. Note: heated soil may give off an odor.

Never buy peat pots again! Instead recycle those cardboard paper towel and toilet paper rolls, Here's how: Cut them into pieces with scissors (a toilet paper roll should yield two; paper towel rolls, four). Line them up in a tray, touching each other to ensure that they remain upright and to slow the evaporation of moisture. Fill with potting soil and plant as usual. And when the time comes to replant the seedlings, plant the whole pot, as the cardboard will disintegrate!

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other container gardens properly watered. But,

ting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water! Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can.

Test Number 2: Here's an easy test to gauge if your garden soil is ready to plant. Simply scoop up a handful of dirt and squeeze it into a ball. If the ball crumbles when you release your fingers, the soil is all set for digging. If the ball sticks together, the soil is still to wet to work.

Storing, and sowing, seeds are not longer a hassle with this tip: Simply put seeds in a clean, empty spice, seasoning or Parmesan cheese shaker. If using tiny seeds, add little cornstarch to keep them from clumping together. When it's time to plant, just shake them

plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or tree inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes.

\*Leftover garden seeds will likely sprout next year if you keep them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets can be recycled from vitamin bottles or even shoe boxes.

\$\$\$ Saving Hot Tip: If you're germinating seeds, don't spend your hard earned money on a plant heat mat. A heating pad can do the job at a fraction of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in plastic to prevent any water spill

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at large garden centers. But, bulbs sold at such places are a bargain only if you know how to avoid poor quality bulbs. Here are some tips: Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If they are light, they may be dried out. Avoid bulbs with discolored, dark or moldy spots. \* Make sure there are no holes or other signs of insect damage on bulbs.

Pick over bulbs that have sprouted; it is better if they grow roots first.

Our forefathers took great pains to plant crops at the precise time of year to promote a bountiful crop. Here are some "old farmer's tales" that tell when it is time to plant garden vegetables:

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it s safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn. Native American's Rule: The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today. Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long). Moon Signs: Many natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries. Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, Turn To TRAINOR page A17

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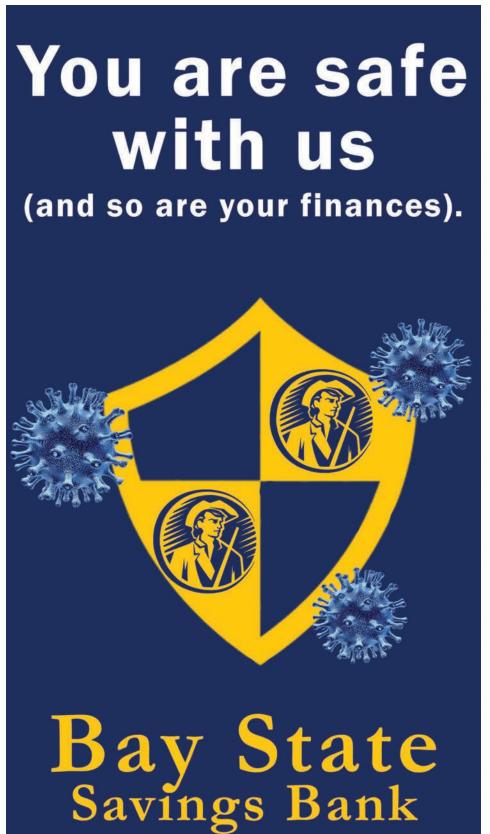
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peas, beans and squash. From the full moon **TRAINOR** continued from page **A15** 

to the last quarter: plant root vegetables.

Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon. \*\* Win Dinner for Two at

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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 Box 90; News, PO Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol. com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.



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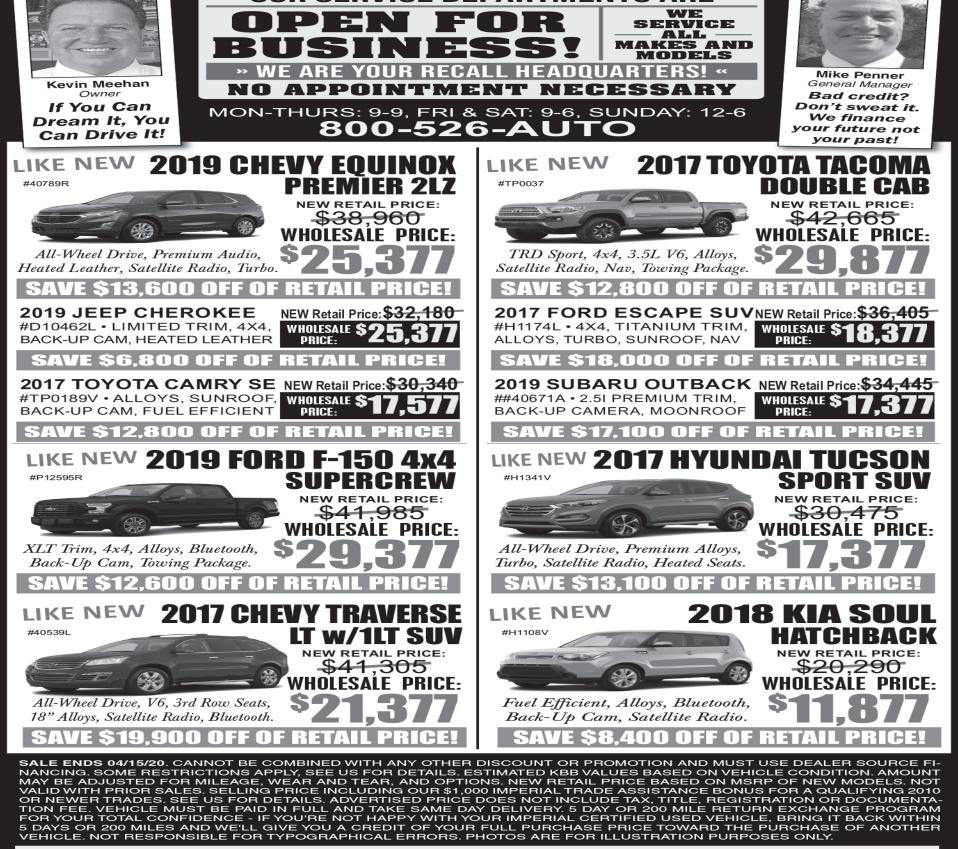




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