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Friday, January 21, 2022

Webster offers TA job to LaFond



Richard LaFond

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – After several hours of interviews over two nights, the selectmen unanimously offered the town administrator’s job to Richard (“Rick”) LaFond of Bridgewater last week. They chose him over two other finalists – Oxford Manager Jennifer Callahan and Rutland Administrator Ronald San Angelo – with Chair Randy Becker citing LaFond’s 29 years of experience as a major factor.

During the discussion after the third interview, board members to some degree compared them to ex-administrator Doug Willardson, asking themselves “What kind of culture do we want to create?” in Lisa Kontoes’ words.

As she noted shortly thereafter, “We have to evaluate what we heard and what we didn’t hear.”

LaFond told them he’s been in the same two towns – Abington and Carver – for 27 of his years in the field. To him, “effective personal relationships make things work” by building “respect and loyalty.”

He said he spent some time walking around Webster and talking to department heads and staff, finding

they all agreed on the town’s key issues. At the same time, he said, he found the town “diverse” and “picturesque,” with several key assets that need to be maintained while working on “issues typical of an urban community.”

LaFond said he saw some of those in Abington, while Carver was more rural. Despite that difference, he said he sees the job from “a mechanical, operating-system” sense as being the same: one of building relationships with the board, the departments, legislators, schools, and the community that allows him to “get to know people beyond just their nameplate.” Within the municipal government, a big part of that is bringing people together over the budget.

“We need to make people feel they’re part of the process, and it’s not ‘us versus them,’” LaFond said, later adding, “This is kind of a ‘we’ environment, not an ‘I’ environment.”

In response to a Kontoes question about his personal values, LaFond listed love of family and friends, trust, loyalty, religion and generally “giving, participating, helping other people.” He said he comes in early and leaves late, and likes being “a resource” for staff and community groups. He noted he got those traits from his parents, who were “community-driven” and active in their church, although not involved in government.

Among other things, he also cited experience with economic development, PFAS-related and other water issues, handling human resources issues, and helping create an independent self-insurance system. He said he is willing to move to town, but has historically been “very involved in the towns, but I haven’t lived there.”

“You’ve seen three fairly distinctly different [candidates],” search consultant Kevin Paicos, himself a former town manager, said after San Angelo’s interview. “One has far more experience in the skills, decades of that, than the other two. ... It’s really a matter of what you’re looking for.”

He said the board can’t assess them based on Willardson’s tenure, in part because he grew into the role “and became an effective manager.” The board’s role, he advised, is to consider the fact their board membership isn’t long lasting, but the community is, “insist on the kind of service [town] employees give to the public,” and identify an administrator who can do that.

Candidates typically are good communicators, he noted, but “it’s extremely important that you see beyond the words.” All three have “absolute weaknesses” as well as strengths, he added.

After the last interview, the board called LaFond to offer him the job before going into executive session to hash out its approach to negotiating with him.

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

Reports of suspicious activity prompt stay in place order at Dudley schools

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Two Dudley schools issued “shelter in place” orders on Tuesday, Jan. 11 after a concerned citizen reported an unknown individual near the property that they felt was a potential threat to the schools.

Dudley Police were contacted by a citizen in the early afternoon who reported seeing a “suspicious person” walking on Dudley-Oxford Road. There have been no confirmed reports as to why this individual was considered to be suspicious; however, the call did result in both Shepherd Hill Regional High School and Dudley Middle School sheltering in place at around 1:50 p.m. and police initiating a search of the area. Dudley Police confirmed that no suspect was apprehended and that no person of interest was identified. Police helped provide security during end of the day dismissal out of an abundance of caution.

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Superintendent Steven Lamarche issued a statement on the incident the same day saying that the schools were “placed in lockdown.” However, on Jan. 12, he further addressed the situation during a meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee saying he used the wrong wording and that stay in place order was initiated, not a lockdown.

“The lockdown obviously is if there’s an emergency and there exists the risk of imminent harm right then and there. Everything is locked down within the school, no one coming in or going out. We did have a stay in place (order) which allows a little bit more flexibility, but it is an urgent situation. We did

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Oxford receives \$2.8 million sewer grant for Route 20 project

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – After several years of pushing for it, Oxford finally received state commitment to fund extension of its sewer line as part of the ongoing Route 20 project.

Town Manager Jen Callahan said she received the award letter just before the New Year committing Massachusetts to paying \$2.8 million for that project, and credited the DPW and Planning department with a lot of the work necessary to make it happen.

“It couldn’t have been done without your valuable input,” she told Jared Duval and Tony Sousa, who lead those two departments, respectively.

Duval said he’s been telling people state commitment was coming for months, but knows there’s still a lot of work to do to coordinate it with the state project. The DPW is now working to ensure the sewer work starts this spring, before the main Route 20 work, to “limit the overall disruption,” he added later.

“At least we know it’s real,” he said. “It’ll provide immense public benefit for that quarter [of town] and enhance residential and commercial development out there.”

Selectman Norman LeBlanc, formerly on the Planning Board, said the sewer work there is important to promoting an area where he expects to see most of the commercial development over the next 10-15 years. To him, projects there will likely “fund themselves” in terms of their impact on town services.

“No one likes our tax rates,” he observed. “If we’re going to get out of this, we’ve got to bring in new business.”

Coincidentally, though, one business won’t be going there. Callahan said True Roots, a cannabis dispensary, was unable to secure the land it sought and returned its license. She said she’ll put out a new Request for Proposals to use that license with a May 1 deadline.

She also thanked Duval and his department for “bringing attention to a much needed infrastructure

Karlowicz sworn in as Dudley police Lieutenant

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – It was a few days late, but the Dudley Police Department officially swore in its new lieutenant on Monday, Jan. 10 during a special ceremony before the Board of Selectmen and members of the community.

In November of 2021, Dudley announced the promotion of Sergeant Marek Karlowicz to the position of Lieutenant after a competitive

assessment center in August which saw four members of the department seek the position. Karlowicz began his duties on Friday, Jan. 7, but the first snowstorm of the year prevented the pomp and circumstance of his swearing in. So instead, Town Clerk Lori Smith swore Lt. Karlowicz in before the Board of Selectmen with his family in attendance.

“I want to thank the board, the chief, and my family for this opportunity. I look forward to

the new position and the leadership that I’ll bring to the department,” Karlowicz said after his swearing in. “We do have a great department and great men and women that the town is very fortunate to have, and I’m part of it.”

Lt. Karlowicz carried more than 20 years of experience with the Dudley Police Department into his new position including serving as Sergeant since 2019 and recently completing his master’s

degree through Nichols College’s terrorism program. Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar said Lt. Karlowicz has “hit the ground running” and previously noted that the promotion of a lieutenant brings the department to a level of leadership not seen since 2005. The department will now go through the processes of filling the sergeant position vacated by Karlowicz with his promotion.



Marek Karlowicz is sworn in as the Dudley Police Department’s new Lieutenant.

Courtesy

Turn To **GRANT** page **A10**

Advocates seek bottle bill expansion

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE—A few dozen people took a half-hour online Thursday to explore a current proposal to expand the bottle bill.

As presenter Kirstie Pecci noted, two identical bills – S.2149 and H.3289 – call for increasing the deposit to 10 cents and widening the number of products it covers to include most commercially-available beverages except milk and those selling under 100,000 units per year. It adds “nip” bottles, juices, water, and beverages such as “a new kombucha or some nonsense kids are drinking that doesn’t exist now,” she said.

Pecci is senior attorney

and zero waste project director for the Conservation Law Foundation, one of the bill’s primary backers. Similar bills have been proposed since about 2009, and the Senate has passed two versions as amendments to other bills, but the House has never voted on one.

Co-sponsor Sen. Michelle Ciccolo credited CLF’s “dogged perseverance” for getting the bill through a legislative joint subcommittee recently, but said it’d take a push from interested voters to “make it a priority” for House and Senate leadership. But she also noted “the closer that bill gets [to passage] as it moves through [the Legislature], the more the public tunes in and

people get upset.”

Ciccolo warned some will object to paying more for products upfront. She and Pecci only mentioned Section 3 of the short bill in passing. It states “A redemption center or reverse vending machine is not obligated to count containers or to pay a cash refund at the time the beverage container is returned as long as the amount of the refund value due is placed into an account to be held for the benefit of the consumer and is funded in a manner that allows the consumer to obtain deposits due within two business days of the time of return.”

Afterward, Pecci said by email that section was added by a company called Clynk. According

to its website, the firm runs a bagged container collection program at certain Hannaford markets in which participants sign up online for card-based accounts. Its map did not show any Massachusetts sites; most of them are in Maine.

Pecci said one key impetus behind the bill is that a 10-cent refund can make it “practical and economic for beverage companies to do a refill system” for glass bottles, hopefully getting away from “nasty and polluting” plastic. Many of them are now just hauled with curbside trash or recycling, adding tonnage and cost to municipal budgets. Often, they end up ground into road base or similar uses, not truly recycled, she noted.

As with the current system, the refund money includes a handling fee (2.25 cents for retailers and 3.25 cents for redemption centers). Any money that’s not refunded goes to the state’s General Fund (it used to go to environmental uses). Pecci estimated the proposed expansion would send an extra \$80-90 million to state coffers annually. But she said she doesn’t think it’ll have an impact on prices, noting products are typically the same price in states without bottle bills.

CLF’s Lauren Fernandez said she recently contacted 150 communities and got responses from 60 regarding curbside recycling costs. About half have seen “a drastic increase”

in recent years and “were using it to haul off things that aren’t even being recycled anymore,” she said.

Pecci said that’s in part because haulers benefit more from landfilling and incineration than recycling. They’re likely to oppose bottle bill expansion because they “don’t want that tonnage to decrease.” Similarly, she noted retailers tend to see it as “a pain in the neck” but are coming along, and the beverage companies dislike it but have “softened a lot” in recent years.

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

Baker administration launches new tool for accessing digital vaccination records

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – The Baker-Polito Administration recently unveiled a new way for residents to access their digital COVID-19 vaccine card and vaccination history.

Known as My Vax Records, the resource allows individuals who received their vaccinations in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a digital COVID-19 vaccine card. This card will contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card.

Utilizing the SMART Health Card platform, digital vaccine cards generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. State officials remind residents that they are not required to show proof of vaccination to enter public venues, but this tool will help

residents who would like to access and produce a digital copy of their record.

To use the new tool, enter your name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email address associated with your vaccine record. After creating a four-digit PIN, you will receive a link to your vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

“The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer,” read a statement released by Gov. Charlie Baker’s office. “It also includes a QR code that makes these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps.”

Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the

QR code to their phones or devices, such as the Apple Wallet. Users can then screenshot the information and save it to their phone’s photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for security and privacy, officials said.

“This system provides an optional way that residents can access their vaccination information and a COVID-19 digital vaccine card,” read the statement released by Baker’s office. “This will provide residents with another tool to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, should it be requested by businesses, local governments, or other entities.”

The system leverages the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), the official database used by healthcare

providers across the state to record vaccination information. The system relies on hundreds of providers inputting demographic and health information.

“Some users may not be able to immediately find their record, or may find an incomplete record,” the Governor’s statement read. “Residents whose record cannot be found or is incomplete can either contact their healthcare provider or contact the MIIS team to update their records.”

Massachusetts has worked on the technology with VCI, a voluntary coalition of public and private organizations which developed the open-

source SMART Health Card framework in use by other states. The VCI coalition is dedicated to improving privacy and security of patient information, officials said.

My Vax Records is one of many options residents have to obtain

their COVID-19 vaccination records. Pharmacies that administered the vaccine, as well as many healthcare providers, are also making SMART Health Cards available.

To access the new resource, visit www.MyVaxRecords.Mass.gov.

Local Assumption students named to University’s Fall 2021 Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester. Students named to the University’s Dean’s List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Julie Dwyer of Webster, Class of 2023
Michael Gevry of Oxford, Class of 2024
Eric Giarnese of Dudley, Class of 2025
Adam Ide of Dudley, Class of 2024
Rebecca Jalbert of Oxford, Class of 2023
Brian James of Webster, Class of 2023
Kelly Knutelski of Oxford, Class of 2023
Jaclyn Landry of Oxford, Class of 2023
Matthew MacKay of Dudley, Class of 2022
Christopher Rogan of North Oxford, Class of 2022

“The University is proud of those students named to the Dean’s List for the academic excellence they demonstrated in the classroom in their pursuit of a Catholic liberal education,” said Assumption University President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D. “Through their commitment to their studies during the fall semester, students named to the Dean’s List have immersed themselves in their academic program as they are formed as individuals who will use the knowledge they have gained to live meaningful and purposeful lives and careers.”

Assumption University provides students with a comprehensive, Catholic liberal arts experience through curricular and co-curricular programs, including internship opportunities, recreational activities, and more than 60 on-campus clubs and organizations. An Assumption education forms graduates both intellectually and spiritually, inspiring wonder and purpose as they discover their vocation.

For more information, visit assumption.edu.

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

Friday’s Child



Photo by Lisa Anderson

Ashlynn
Age 13

Massachusetts, and it is extremely important that she maintains a relationship with them.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

I love to draw!

Ashlynn is a shy girl of Caucasian descent who likes to draw and color. She can start off quiet with new people but warms up if given the time to develop a relationship. Ashlynn enjoys music, drawing, spending time with her friends, and swimming. She loves to spend time with her siblings and is very protective of them. Ashlynn is in the 5th grade and has friends at school. She can do well in class with extra supports.

Legally freed for adoption, Ashlynn will thrive in a home that can provide her with her own space and individualized attention. She does best with limitations and a structured routine. Her social worker is open to exploring homes with a mother and a father or two mothers. Ashlynn will do best as the youngest or only child in a family. Ashlynn has four brothers and two sisters in

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Fire Departments receive grants for safety equipment

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

REGION – Several local communities were recently awarded funding through the Department of Fire Services Fiscal Year 2022 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announced the grant winners during a press conference on Jan. 12 revealing 306 Massachusetts Fire Departments would receive a share of \$5 million in grant funding to help purchase safety gear. The funding is part of a \$25 million bond the Baker-Polito Administration filed to support firefighter safety and health. Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, and Webster were just a few of the towns included on the list.

“Our communities and families depend on firefighters in difficult and

dangerous moments,” said Baker. “This program is an opportunity to show our deep appreciation for their work by ensuring they have the tools they need to stay safe and healthy.”

“While the last two years have been so difficult for all of us, firefighters and first responders throughout the Commonwealth have courageously continued to serve the public,” added Polito. “We are grateful for their efforts and proud to be able to provide them with critical equipment and support.”

The grants cover 118 different kinds of equipment purchases including protective gear, washers and dryers to maintain gear, thermal imaging cameras, extrication tools, communication resources, hazardous gas meters, fitness equipment and more all with the goal of helping firefighters be prepared either prior to or during an emergency situation. The grants will also help departments comply with Occupational

Safety and Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards. The Governor’s office listed boots and gloves as the most popular clothing purchase with the grants while hoses and assorted fixtures is the most popular equipment purchase overall with 1,033 hoses, nozzles, fittings and other associated equipment expected to be bought among all grants combined.

The program is providing the Charlton Fire Department with \$11,700.61, Dudley Fire Department \$10,213, Oxford Fire Department \$16,738.79, Southbridge Fire Department \$10,422.78, and Webster Fire Department \$16,059.73. Other local towns included in the list of grantees were Brookfield, Douglas, Leicester, North Brookfield, Northbridge, Spencer, Uxbridge, and West Brookfield.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

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

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Jan. 7-14.

A 21-year-old male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Susan L. Bassan-Boyle, age 67, of Dudley was arrested on Jan. 8 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Jheimes Goncalves-Evangelist, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Jan. 11 in connection with a warrant.

Statewide school mask mandate extended

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With the surge of COVID-19 cases over the last month, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has extended its mask mandate in public schools.

The extended mandate runs through at least Feb. 28, DESE officials announced last week. State leaders will closely monitor health data and confer with experts over the next month-plus. Depending on COVID-19 metrics at the end of February, the mask mandate could be lifted or continued even further into March or beyond.

The mandate applies to all K-12 public schools in Massachusetts.

“The mask requirement remains an important measure to keep students, teachers, and staff in school safely at this time,” read a statement released by DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. “The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with medical experts and state health officials, will continue to evaluate public health data.”

The decision to extend the mask mandate arrived as thousands of educators and parents across the state are calling for a return to remote learning during the surge of Omicron cases this winter. Other parents, teachers, and officials—

including Governor Charlie Baker and Commissioner Riley—believe in-person instruction should not be disrupted again.

School officials across the state continue to have permission from DESE to lift the mask requirement if at least 80 percent of all students and staff members in a school building are vaccinated.

“Lifting the mask requirement through DESE’s vaccination threshold policy is a local decision made by school and community leaders in consultation with local health officials,” added Commissioner Riley.

For public schools that haven’t yet reached the 80-percent vaccination threshold, all students ages 5 and older are required to wear masks while inside school buildings, except when eating or during mask breaks. All school staff members are also required to be masked while indoors.

Additionally, all visitors to school buildings must continue to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are not required outdoors while on school grounds.

“It is strongly recommended that students younger than 5 also wear a mask in school, which is consistent with the Department of Early Education and

Care’s mask policy for childcare providers,” Commissioner Riley’s statement read.

Exemptions from the state mask mandate are available for students and staff members who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, as well as students who are unable to wear a mask for behavioral reasons.

Masks are required at all indoor sporting events and other extracurricular activities held at schools, in alignment with guidance provided by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

Masks should be provided by families each day for their children, DESE guidance recommends, but disposable masks should be made available by schools for students who need them.

By federal public health order, all students and staff members are required to wear a mask while riding on school buses.

For more information about state mandates, visit www.mass.gov.

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Nichols College students named to Fall 2021 Honors List

DUDLEY — Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved Dean’s List or President’s List honors during the fall 2021 semester.

The Dean’s List and President’s List give recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President’s List honors.

The following students have received academic honors.

Alejandra Arango of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Zachary Candito of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Eddy Carias-Chilin of Webster received President’s List honors.

Tara Daniels of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Madalyn Endriga of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Matthews Ferrao of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Evan Healy of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Alexander Howe of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Abigail Karalus of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Ashlyn Kelly of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Taylor LaBouef of Oxford received Dean’s List honors.

Eric Lefebvre of Webster received President’s List honors.

Seth Livernois of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Andrew Makowiecki of Oxford received President’s List honors.

Bradley Mayotte of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Nicolas Micciche of Oxford received Dean’s List honors.

Candice Nelson of Oxford received President’s List honors.

Crystal Nelson of Oxford received President’s List honors.

Victoria Palkon of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Gabrielle Remy of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Cassandra Rudnicki of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Anthony Sacco of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Albert Salonis of Dudley received Dean’s List

honors.

Ryan Spitz of Webster received President’s List honors.

Riley Stawiecki of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Sean Stockhaus of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

William Tashjian of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Jaelyn Taylor of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Desmond White of Oxford received President’s List honors.

Joseph Wojnar of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Noah Azzaoui of Webster received President’s List honors.

Anthony Barnardo of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Ricky Bowden of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Rebecca Ensom of Oxford received President’s List honors.

Charles Hansen of Webster received President’s List honors.

Veronica Helock of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Lukas Janusz of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Benjamin Kallgren of Dudley received Dean’s List honors.

Alexander Laws of Dudley received President’s List honors.

Stephanie Lugo of Webster received Dean’s List honors.

Maria Mironidis of Oxford received President’s List honors.

Katrina Mrzyglod of Webster received Dean’s List honors.


Claudia Slawski of Webster received President’s List honors.

Kara Stankewitz of Dudley received President’s List honors.

About Nichols College

The mission of Nichols College is to educate and enlighten students to capitalize on their ambitions and to become impactful, forward looking global leaders.

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Adult Programming
Book Discussion Group – January 24th 6:30PM
The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! Next month’s book discussion will be on Monday, January 24th at 6:30PM the meeting will take place via Zoom, and will be about the book *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmar.org for inquiries.

POSTPONED DUE TO COVID - Armchair Travel Series – New Zealand: Penguins, Parrots & Pods – January 20th at 6:30PM
New Zealand is home to many rare birds and marine mammals including the comical yellow-eyed penguin. Watch and listen as the yellow-eyed penguin returns from the ocean to feed its chick and the Antipodes Island parrot demonstrates “looks, personality and talent.” Not to be outdone, rare New Zealand sea lions make quite an impression as they interact on isolated South Island beaches, pods of rare Hector’s dolphins frolic near coastal shores and dusky dolphins play with kayakers as they travel deep into the fiords of southern New Zealand. Join us for sights and sounds of animal personalities from this amazing country.

Virtual Armchair Travel Series – Tales from a Reluctant World Traveler – January 27th at 6:30PM
“Sixteen weeks, four continents, three bungee jumps, and I couldn’t come home soon enough.” This is the story of how a Boston homebody turned a solo trip around the globe into a comedy novel and an acclaimed one-man show. The one-hour multimedia event includes a humorous travel slideshow, readings from his novel *God Bless Cambodia* and performances from his show *The Chronic Single’s Handbook*. Go to our website for the Zoom link.

Yoga with Julie – Saturdays from January 8th through March 26th 10-11:15AM
Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the “uniting of movement with breath”. A typical class involves a centering of the

mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages and, finally, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free for Gladys Kelly Library patrons.

Candle Dipping – February 10th at 6:30PM
Learn to dip candles just like Laura Ingalls did in *Little House on the Prairie*. Participants are able to choose wax colors, scents, and shapes of candles, and may choose to hand dip or use candle molds.

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

Children’s and Young Adult Programming
Maker Mondays – Mondays from 3:30-4:30PM
This January we’ll have Perler beads available for children and their caregivers to create with! Every month we will rotate our craft material, so stay tuned!

Build Night – Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30PM
Every Tuesday in January we’ll have Magnatiles for kids to create with! Building materials will change monthly, check back for more information!

YFCP Wiggles and Giggles – Every Friday from January 14th – February 18th 9:30-10:30AM
Join us for a FREE music & movement series created and facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! Children, ages 2-5, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories. “Wiggles and Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome. Space is limited and registration is required each week. You can register at the Events Page on the Library’s website.

Songs and Stories Storytime – Wednesdays at 10AM
Join Miss Emily Wednesday mornings in January at 10am to read books, sing songs, and do rhyme games. Meet other children and caregivers at this community event. After stories, catch up with other community members over a simple craft. This Storytime is best for children 0-5, but

all ages are welcome!

Special Pajama Storytime – Wednesday, February 23rd at 10AM
Wear your favorite jammies or something comfy to this extra special storytime!

Children’s Armchair Travel Series – Thursdays in January at 3:30PM
Tired of being home all the time? Join Gladys Kelly Youth Services as we travel the world this January! From Trinidad to China and Russia to India, we’ll be learning interesting facts about each country and creating an art project every week. January 6th, learn about block printing used to make cloth designs and how the method was perfected in India! January 13th, transport yourself to Trinidad and Tobago where Carnival originated and decorate a fabulous mask. January 20th, travel to the cold, northern world of Russia where we will learn about stacking Matryoshka dolls and each make our own set! January 27th, travel with us to China and create decorations to welcome the Chinese New Year in February.

Working with Dangerous Animals – January 22nd at 12:30PM
Join Joy Marzolf to learn how animal keepers and scientists stay safe when working with dangerous animals, such as captive alligators or wild crocodiles. Meet some live animals at the end! Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

February Vacation Week Programs – February 22nd, 24th, 25th and 26th – 3:30-4:30PM
Tuesday, February 22nd – Wreck the Tech - Ever wondered what was inside a printer? We’ll give kids screwdrivers and some old technology to take apart and explore. This program is best for ages 6 and up but all are welcome with a caregiver.
Thursday, February 24th – DIY Slime - Slime was so popular this Fall, we’re bringing it back! This program is for all ages.
Friday, February 25th - Build Your Own Roadway - For all the vehicle-loving kids out there! Everyone will get a big piece of cardboard and a roll of road tape to create their own highway system. Hot Wheels provided for imaginative play after their creation is finished!
Saturday, February 26th – Learn Ukulele for Kids - Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You’ll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you’ll be able to play some fun and easy songs. No experience necessary. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of hers.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photo’s, news and announcements
Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal.
NEW!!! The Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center will be opening Monday, Feb. 7th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 for more information.
Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing 9:30-10:30 am. Cost: \$3.00 per class
Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets.
Progressive Pitch 1:00 pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and 9-card Pitch on Fridays.
Mahjongg group meets every Friday

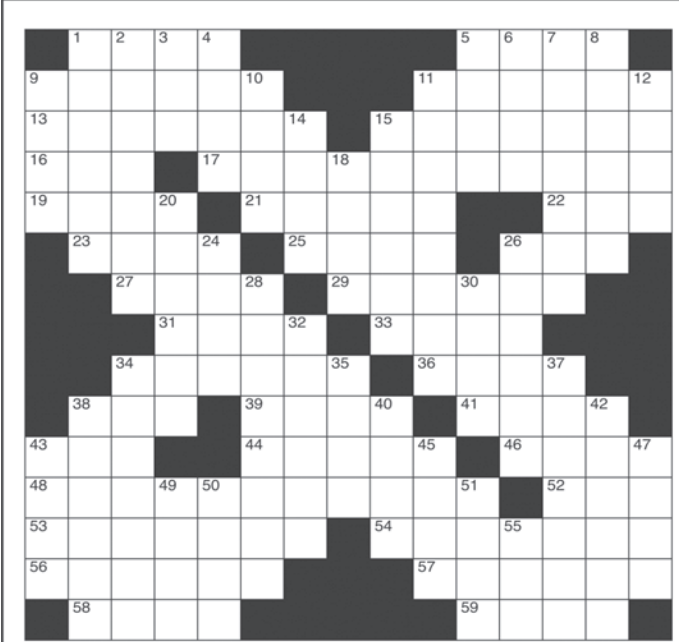
at 1:00 pm
Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 or stop in and pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of additional activities and upcoming events.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER – The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Jan. 2-8.
David Michael Mackie, Jr., age 31, of Northbridge was arrested on Jan. 2 for Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker, and Improper Operation of a Motor Vehicle.
A 38-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 3 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.
Joshua Malcon-Mendez, age 31, of Philadelphia, Pa. was arrested on Jan. 3 for Following Too Closely, Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Cocaine, and Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Heroin, Morphine, or Opium.
Edwin Burgos, age 28, of Webster was arrested on Jan. 3 in connection with a warrant.
Jenna Lynne Creed, age 27, of Thompson, Conn. was arrested on Jan. 3 for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended Registration, and in connection with a warrant.
Destiny Rose Bourbeau, age 23, of Plainfield, Conn. was arrested on Jan. 5 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Child Endangerment While Operating Under the Influence.
A 27-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 5 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Improper Storage of a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm Without FID Card, Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

SNHU announces Fall 2021 President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 President’s List.
Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.
Lisa Atwell of Dudley
Joslynn Daniels of Oxford
Danielle DeSantis of Webster
Sarah Redmond of Dudley
Cailla Hanson of Webster
Lisa Conway of Oxford
Skylar Pietz of Dudley
Kelsey Bates of Oxford
Sean Hollins of Webster
Jennifer Espino of Webster
Baelyn Blackmore of Dudley
Chelsey Grandmaison of Webster
Makayla Norton of Dudley
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 160,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the “Most Innovative” regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Breathe noisily

5. ___ Nui, Easter Island

9. Reddish browns

11. Simple shoes

13. Produce alcohol illegally

15. Home to famed golf tournament

16. Tax collector

17. Famous people

19. Urban area

21. Units of syllable weight

22. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

23. Dismounted

25. Actor Damon

26. Vietnamese offensive

27. Retail term

29. Netted

31. Partner to carrots

33. Witnesses

34. Caulked

36. Satisfy

38. R&B performer ___ Lo

39. Monetary units of Macao

41. Give advice, explain

43. Possesses

44. Turn back

46. Gentlemen

48. One who fertilizes

52. Italian monk title (prefix)

53. Parties

54. Type of horse

56. Cuts in half

57. Raises

58. Expresses contempt or disgust

59. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

- CLUES DOWN
1. Illinois city

2. One of the original disciples chosen by Christ

3. Young form of a louse

4. Type of powder

5. Finger millet

6. Share a common boundary

7. Assumed as a fact

8. Provide clear evidence of

9. Invests in little enterprises

10. A way to be

11. Monies given in support

12. Fashion accessory

14. Steal

15. Becomes less intense

18. Geological times

20. Hooray!

24. Monetary unit

26. Male reproductive organs

28. Earnings

30. Close by

32. Small integers

34. Fixed in place

35. Used to treat Parkinson’s disease

37. Large, imposing building

38. A rooflike shelter

40. Stiff, hairlike structure

42. Print errors

43. To show disapproval

45. Body of traditions

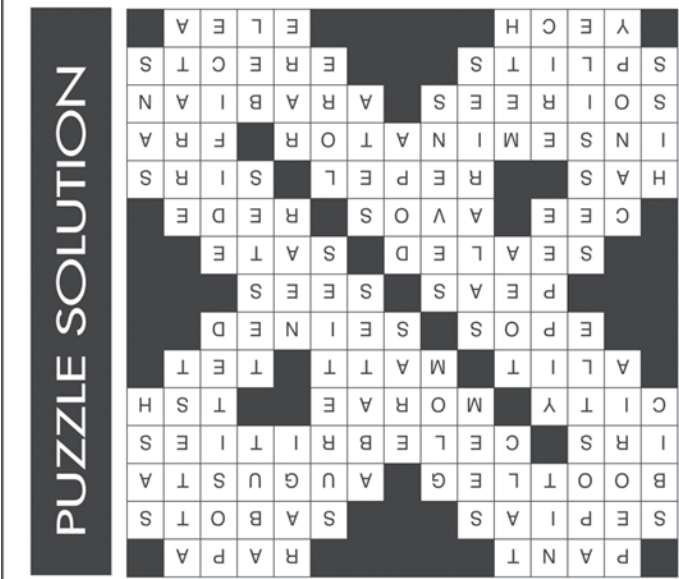
47. Without

49. ___ Clapton, musician

50. Dangerous illegal drug

51. Infrequent

55. Sound unit



ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000

Board of Selectmen (949-8001)

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fridays..... 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 and Town Clerk Hours{

Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 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

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850

Office Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

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

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)

For emergencies, call 911

WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021
Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle!
To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021
KNIT & CROCHET GROUP
Thursday 5:30PM – 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

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

TODDLER TIME
Wednesdays @ 11:00AM
Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs!
This is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

BABY TIME
Fridays @ 11:30AM
Join us for a Baby Time story time! We will be doing songs, fingerplays, and reading to our babies!
This is geared for babies 0-15 months.

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

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES
Fridays @ 11:00AM
Ages 2-5 are invited to attend this fun, free program! Sing, move, play instruments, learn rhythm, and listen to stories with Laine Hanlon.

Space is limited; registration required. Sponsored by the YMCA Community and Family Partnership.

ADULT BOOK GROUP
Third Thursday, 6:00PM-7:30PM – beginning January 20th!
The adult book group meets for an informal discussion of the month’s title, which is available at the circulation desk a month prior to the meeting. The first title will be Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett.

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

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT
Monday, January 31 6:00PM-7:30PM
All teens are invited to a showing of “Jurassic Park.” Pizza, popcorn, and drinks are provided.

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

JEWELRY JAM WITH KIM LARKIN
Thursday, February 3 6:00PM-7:45PM
Make a gift for your Valentine at this jewelry-making workshop for teens and

adults and create a mixed-media necklace on colorful cording using a decoupage technique with scrapbook paper or text. Kim will bring an assortment of materials to inspire your creativity.
Free, but space is limited: registration required.
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS
Saturday, February 5 11:00AM-Noon
Do you and a whale eat the same food? Could you share the same home? Discover which characteristics and behaviors help animals move, hunt and survive. Examine biofacts like bones, skulls and pelts, then meet a live EcoTarium ambassador animal, and explore the amazing ways it’s adapted to the ecosystem.
We’ll also have a take-home craft to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day!

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

YOGA WITH JULIE
Saturday, February 5 Noon-1:00PM
All ages are welcome at this beginner-friendly yoga class led by Julie St. Francis. Please dress for movement and bring your own mat.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, February 7 5:00PM-6:00PM
All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join. You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form).
Pizza and drinks will be served!

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

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

Space is limited; registration required.

WINGMASTERS
Thursday, February 24 11:00AM-Noon
Birds of prey are also known as raptors, and they are hunting birds characterized by hooked beaks and powerful grabbing feet armed with sharp talons (the word raptor comes from a Latin word that means “to seize”). Raptors can also boast the best eyesight and the sharpest hearing in the animal kingdom. Raptors include hawks, falcons and owls, and this presentation, which incorporates 5 live birds of prey, all native to New England, gives an overview of these different categories. The program is designed to explain predation, the birds’ place at the top of the food web, their different hunting adaptations and their status in a rapidly changing world. Because many birds of prey are declining in number, this presentation also features one or more of the endangered raptors that WINGMASTERS cares for;

and explains why these species face an uncertain future.
Free; sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

HOUSEPLANTS 101
Thursday, February 24 6:30PM-7:45PM
Join the master gardeners from Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens to learn everything you need to know to successfully grow houseplants. Learn about several kinds of houseplants, and how to identify common plant-growing problems, so you can beautify your home and purify the air you breathe.

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

DEB’S SING AND SWING
Friday, February 25 10:30AM-11:00AM
Join Deb Hudgins for this interactive program featuring singing, music, dancing, stories, and a variety of fun props ranging from a parachute to pom poms.

Free; sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

SENSORY STORYTIME
Saturday, March 5 11:00AM-Noon
Children with special needs and their families are invited to this special program. We will read books, sing songs, and dance together.

Free; registration required.

DA’s office offers mini grants for safe post-prom and post-graduation celebrations

REGION – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., invites local schools and parent groups to apply for mini grants to support post-prom and post-graduation safety.

The grants will fund various events designed to keep local students safe and prevent drunken driving crashes following celebratory events. The spring months are often the most dangerous time on the roads for high school students, and DA Early is committed to promoting safe functions.

“This time of year is supposed to be a celebration for students and their families, but too often we see tragedies,” Early said. “We’re hoping these grants will assist more schools in offering safe options for students.”

Safe post-prom events, organized and overseen by adults, offer drug-free and alcohol-free alternatives to high-risk activities that often follow end of the year celebrations for high school students.

COVID-19 has made planning difficult for proms and other celebrations this spring, but the DA’s office is proceeding with grant opportunities.

“While none of us know what the status of school activities will be in the spring of 2022 due to the COVID pandemic, we are cautiously optimistic and accepting applications for funding requests,” Early said. “Some celebrations looked different in 2021, but we were proud to continue supporting these efforts and providing students with the fun and safe events they deserve.”

This is the fourth year the DA’s office has offered grants thanks to the support of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund. Prior to that, Early supported local post-prom and post-graduation events at high schools across the county through his drug forfeiture funding.

Schools and parent groups can apply for these grants to either support existing events or to assist in establishing new events. Applications for funding requests are due by Feb. 17.

To request a grant application, contact Ellen Miller at ellen.miller@mass.gov.



Meryl J. Reichman, MD
Endocrinologist

Sarah Balko, RD, CDE
Certified Diabetes Educator

Two new reasons DK Endocrinology can change your life.

Endocrinology is one area of medicine that deals with just about every part of your health. So Day Kimball is excited to welcome two highly respected clinicians to our endocrinology team. Dr. Reichman, an esteemed endocrinologist, is here to treat you for issues ranging from diabetes to infertility to certain cancers. Just as important, Ms. Balko, a registered dietitian, can help you take control of your health through healthy eating and weight management. And they’re both accepting new patients.

Ask your doctor for a referral to the Day Kimball Medical Group Endocrinology office in Plainfield, or call us at 860-457-9133.

Your hospital. Revolutionizing care.

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$415,000, 37 Henry Marsh Rd, FHLM, to Balaban, Naomi.
\$375,000, 28 Roberts Rd, Jones FT, and Jones, Sandra R, to Jablonski, Jason, and Jablonski, Kristin.
\$350,000, 2 Mill St, Zabka, David, and Zabka, Barbara, to Daigneault, Amber.
\$324,900, 39 Schofield Ave, Nalewajk, Joan T, to Locwin, Eric, and Faille, Samantha.
\$300,000, 8 Pine St, Rivera, Dora L, to Rodriguez, Jessica F.

Oxford

\$447,900, 58 Old Southbridge Rd, Skrodzki, Marcin A, and Skrodzka, Olga, to Ulrey, Kristi.
\$430,000, 48 Merriam District, Cyr, Nathaniel J, and Cyr, Kayla N, to Almstrom, Brian, and Almstrom, Lori.
\$332,500, 17 Vine St, Clouthier, Raymond J, and Clouthier, Gloria A, to Torres, Pablo, and Trinidad, Michelle.
\$277,000, 68 Pleasant St #32, Langlois, Renee M, to Sullivan, Sean T.
\$265,000, 2 Russell Ln, Clearwater Capital LLC, to Begonis, Emily A, and Dallair, Joseph R.
\$134,000, 1 Thayer Pond Dr #2, Sky 2 Properties LLC, to Mancuso, Peter.

Webster

\$949,900, 33 Loveland Rd, Arsenault, Gail M, and Godzik, Cathleen A, to Mikitarian, George, and Mikitarian, Elizabeth.
\$759,000, 20 Union Point Rd #20, Palmerino, Mark, and Palmerino, Jill, to Paicos, Kevin E, and Paicos, Ann.
\$423,000, 10 Deslauriers Ave, Fournier, William, and Fournier, Paula, to Ackerman, Robert V.
\$385,000, 19 George St, Gauthier LT, and Gauthier, Roger J, to Jett, Brenden J.
\$250,000, 25 Nancy Dr, Mercier, Patricia A, to Torres, Leezmarie.
\$250,000, 27 Greystone Ave #27, Fuentes, Yamayris, to Moroz, Kyle M.
\$220,000, 150-R N Main St, EKM LLC, to Waller, Samantha A.

OBITUARIES

Jolanta Wojtarowicz, 51



Webster — Jolanta “Jola” Wojtarowicz, 51, died Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Harrington Healthcare at Hubbard after being stricken ill at home. She leaves her parents, Eugeniusz and Wladyslawa (Zurek) Wojtarowicz of Thompson, CT; 3 brothers, Janusz Wojtarowicz and his wife Anna of Krakow, Poland, Tomasz Wojtarowicz and his wife Anna of Chicago, and Karol Wojtarowicz and his wife Aneta of Webster; 4 nieces, Julia, Marta, Klaudia and Julia; a nephew Maximilian; aunts, uncles and cousins; and her dear friend Bogdan in Poland. She was born on June 17, 1970 in Rabka Zdroj, Poland and raised there. She graduated from Liceum Muzyczne, a music high school in Krakow and completed further studies at a music college. She moved to West Warren in

1994 and then to Webster in 1996. Jolanta was a church organist at Saint Joseph’s Basilica in Webster; at St. Aloysius Church in Gilbertville and at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Worcester. She also gave piano and accordion lessons privately and taught Polish language lessons at Saint Joseph’s School. She was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica in Webster. She also played the piano. Jola will be dearly missed by many. The funeral was held Friday, January 14, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation was held Thursday, January 13, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the funeral home. Masks must be worn according to current health guidelines. www.websterfunerals.com Jolanta Wojtarowicz, 51

Robert Louis Gomes, 85



PUTNAM --- Robert “Bob” Gomes, 85, of Webster (Lake), Mass., and Putnam, died Jan. 9, 2022. He was born Feb. 13, 1936, in Somerville, MA., son of Sarah (Bishop) Gomes and Alfred Gomes. He was a 1953 grad of Dedham High School. He married Carol (Papanti) Gomes and they had a daughter. Later he married Dianne (Kearns) Gomes. Blessed with hands gifted in mechanics and music, he started his career in cars at 15 at the neighborhood garage. He worked his way up through the car business in eastern Massachusetts. In 1984 he bought what became Gomes Total Chrysler in E. Putnam. In 20 years he transformed it from a tiny cinderblock gas station into a Chrysler Five Star showplace complex. When he sold it in 2003, he turned around and opened Woodstock Piano & Music. He filled local homes with the joy of music for 10 years. Full of life and drive, he worked hard, was generous to a fault and was known for giving people a chance in the

business. He loved building projects, his airplane, boats, cars, camping. He played six instruments by ear. His “heaven on earth” was Lake Winnepesaukee; he built two vacation cottages there. He celebrated 50 years as a Master Mason, was a former member of Putnam Rotary Club, automobile organizations. He won many awards. He leaves his daughter, Donna Gilbert (Bruno) of Thompson; grandchildren Lisa Bernardino (Nuno and son Leonel Gilbert Bernardino) of CT; grandson Joseph Gilbert (Charleen Amato) of MA., great grandson Austin Joseph Gilbert; sister Martha (Robert) Kelleher of SC; four stepchildren; longtime companion, Linda L. Lemmon of Putnam. Services to be announced later. Donations: South Woodstock Baptist Church, PO Box 86, South Woodstock, CT 06281. (memo: “Camperships”). Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com. .

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

Dudley secures Complete Streets grant for Mason Road project

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda has confirmed that Dudley has been awarded a Complete Streets Grant to fund improvements on Mason Road. Ruda revealed the good news during a Jan. 10 meeting of the Board of Selectmen reminding voters that this will help offset the cost of a project

they approved in the fall. “We received official notification that we were awarded \$400,000 for the construction of that project. That entire plan is going as we hoped it would. The town meeting authorized borrowing for this project in October. The borrowing will be repaid from the Complete Streets Grant award as the terms of the grant requires the street to be completed in phases and

then reimbursed,” said Ruda. The project will involve widening the path from the Dudley Fire Department on West Main Street to the Mason Road Elementary School. This will include new sidewalks on the east side of Mason Road stretching from the school to Meadow Road increasing safety for students and residents who walk the neighborhood. Finally, the project will also narrow

the vehicle travel lanes and reduce the curb radii along Mason Road. The town of Dudley went into the fall town meeting confident they would receive the money even working it into the narrative for the project before voters gave their approval. Ruda said the successful application was a true team effort

that took many different departments working in harmony to sell the project. “The program is a pretty good example of coordination across multiple departments. We worked with planning, highway, water & sewer, and it was a pretty positive outcome with no cost incurred by local taxpayers for

this road project. We’re pleased to see that move forward,” said Ruda. Dudley and Sturbridge were the only local communities to receive money in the latest round of Complete Streets Grants. Sturbridge will use its \$396,609 award to install sidewalks on Bark Street as well as on-road bicycle lanes.

Jonathan Berling named to SNHU Dean’s List

MANCHESTER — Jonathan Berling has been named to Southern Hampshire University’s Fall 2021 Dean’s List. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semes-

ter, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6. Southern Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 160,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, gradu-

ate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the “Most Innovative” regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

WORCESTER — A total of 1,375 students were named to College of the Holy Cross’ Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2021-22 academic year. The following local students made the list: Kelsey Connor of Webster, member of the Class of 2024, majoring in

Undeclared Gianna Cravedi of Dudley, member of the Class of 2023, majoring in English About Holy Cross The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate

college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Local students named to Holy Cross’ Fall 2021 Dean’s List

Eastern student Delaney Kudron of Oxford makes Dean’s List in fall 2021

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester, in which nearly 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs. Among them is full-time student Delaney Kudron of Oxford, who majors in History and Pre-Secondary Education. To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eli-

gible if they’ve accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded course work with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher. To watch a video of highlights from the fall 2021 semester, visit <https://vimeo.com/665228420> Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut’s public liberal arts university, serving more than 4,300 students annually on its Willimantic campus. In addition to attracting students from 163 of Connecticut’s 169 towns, Eastern also draws stu-

dents from 32 other states and 10 countries. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 65 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal art foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked as the #1 public regional university in New England by U.S. News & World Report in its 2020, 2021 and 2022 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded “Green Campus” status by the Princeton Review 11 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

Perry Cariglia of Oxford graduates from University of New Hampshire

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Perry Cariglia of Oxford graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2021. He/she earned a BS in RMP:Program & Event Management. Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude

graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64. Students are only graduated after the Registrar’s Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state’s flagship public institution, enrolling 13,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students.



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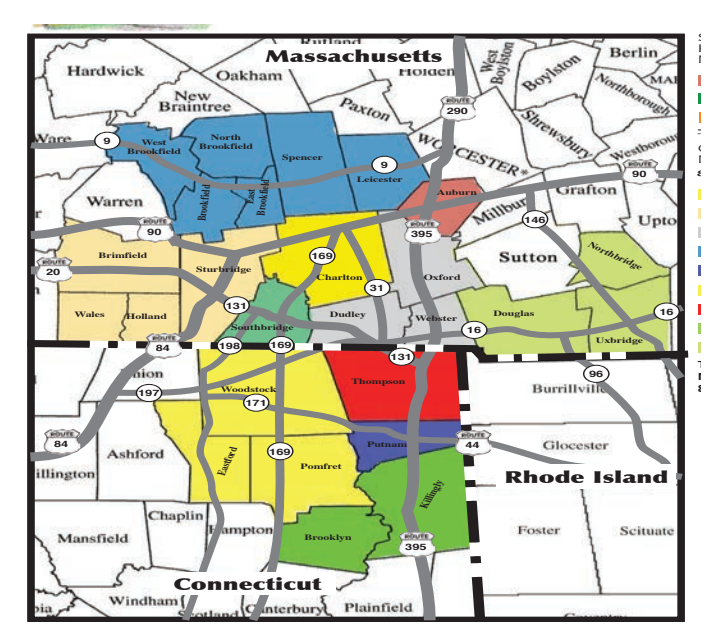
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BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Remembering
the man behind
the holiday

Offices were closed nationwide this past Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 until his assassination in 1968. The federal holiday falls around the birthday of King on Jan. 15.

Republican President Ronald Reagan made the holiday official in 1983. In 1986, the first observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day took place. In the year 2000 the holiday was observed by all 50 states for the first time since 1986.

Labor unions in contract negotiations brought the idea of celebrating King via national holiday. Republican Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts and Democrat John Conyers of Michigan brought forth the legislation in 1979 where it was five votes shy of passing in the house.

Those in opposition of the day cited costs in that paying federal employees would be too expensive. Others stated that honoring a private citizen would go against tradition in that King never held a public office.

In 1980, Stevie Wonder released the single “Happy Birthday” to shed light on the campaign. The largest petition in favor of an issue in the history of the United States gathered six million signatures.

Two Republican senators from North Carolina (Jesse Helms and John Porter) opposed the bill because of King’s opposition to the Vietnam War, and also accused King of being a Communist. An FBI investigation dating back to 1963 turned up no evidence that King had been influenced by communists.

The bill passed the House of Representatives 338-90. Within the bill was language establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. King’s wife, Coretta Scott King was made a life long member of this commission by President George H.W. Bush in May of 1989.

Martin Luther King Day is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans. While there are few traditions surrounding the holiday, many educators use the day to teach their students about the struggle against racial segregation and racism. In New Hampshire and Arizona, the day is combined with Civil Rights Day. In Idaho the day is referred to as Human Rights Day, and in Wyoming, Equality Day.

King, who was born in 1929, was an American Baptist minister from Atlanta, Ga. In 1963, during the March on Washington, he delivered his famous ‘I have a Dream’ speech. In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in promoting nonviolent resistance and for advocating for Civil Rights.

King was assassinated at the age of 39 in Memphis, Tenn. by James Earl Ray. Ray, 41, was sentenced to 99 years in prison. The assassin died in prison in 1998 from hepatitis.

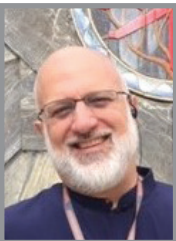
An excerpt from King’s famous speech:

“So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire; let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York; let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania; let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado; let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia; let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee; let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

“And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: ‘Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.’

VIEWPOINT

Seven lessons for the
new year



BEYOND
THE
PEWS
• • • • •
BY FR. LUKE
A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN
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“Acquire inner peace and thousands around you will be saved.” These words come from Saint Seraphim of Sarov, one of the greatest Russian ascetics and mystics of the 19th century. From a young age, he felt attracted to the monastic life and entered the monastery in the wilderness of Sarov at age 24. He lived in the monastery praying, working and seeking out God in the communal monastic life for numerous years until he felt God’s call to go deeper into the forest wilderness to continue his pursuit for God. During this time, he once spent 1,000 days standing on rocks of varying heights praying, night and day, throughout winter and summer. At the age of 70, he finally began receiving visitors for counsel and prayer, inspiring people from all walks of society through his holiness, wise counsel, and miracles.

I want to offer seven lessons from his teachings for us to carry into the New Year.

“Acquire inner peace and thousands around you will be saved.” This may be his most famous saying. He explains how there “is nothing better than peace in Christ, for such peace brings victory over all the evil spirits. When peace dwells in a person’s heart it enables them to contemplate the grace of the Holy Spirit from within. He who dwells in peace collects spiritual gifts as it were with a scoop, and he sheds the light of knowledge on others. All our thoughts, all our desires, all our efforts, and all our actions should make us say constantly with the Church: “O Lord, give us peace!” When a man lives in peace, God reveals mysteries to him.” As we begin the New Year, can we take the time daily to open our hearts to receive the “peace that passes all understanding,” as the Apostle Paul described it.

Of course, the peace of God is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and Saint Seraphim reminds us that the ultimate goal in our life is acquisition of the Holy Spirit. All the spiritual disciples we practice through our prayers, fasting, almsgiving, and other good deeds are simply ways to open our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit. We want God living in us and His Spirit inspiring, directing and empowering us. “Everything good that we do is given to us by

the Holy Spirit.” This is why our Lord Jesus, after His Resurrection from the dead, promised His followers that they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will become my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world.” Thus, we begin every day with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in us – “O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who are present everywhere and fill all things, Treasurer of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and save our souls O Good One.”


Keep your eyes on Paradise. Saint Seraphim explains “If you only knew what joy, what sweetness awaits a righteous soul in heaven, you would decide in this mortal life to bear whatever sorrows, struggles, persecutions and slander with gratitude.” Our life on earth is but a brief journey, and it may be filled with challenges and difficulties. We must always remember Saint Paul’s words that “our citizenship is in heaven.” Of course, this doesn’t mean that we only live for the future. Christ said “The kingdom of heaven is within” and we begin tasting the delight of God’s Presence here and now. What is important, though, is to remember how transitory and brief this life on earth is. Keep your eyes on Paradise.

Nourish your soul with the Word of God. Saint Seraphim would read the entire New Testament every week. Every week! He emphasized nourishing one’s mind and heart daily on the New Testament and the Psalms. “The reading of the Word of God should be performed in solitude so that the whole mind of the reader might be plunged into the truths of Holy Scripture. The Word of God is angelic bread which nourishes our soul. From this he will receive the warmth of the Spirit which will produce in each person tears of repentance.”

As we keep our eyes on paradise, seek to acquire the Holy Spirit, allow God’s peace to dwell in our hearts, and read the Word of God, we will face whatever life brings with courage, never giving in to despair. “Where God is, there is no evil. Everything coming from God is peaceful and healthy and leads a person to see clearly see his own imperfections with humility... the devil

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week’s newspaper is Friday at noon. **SEND ALL ITEMS** to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news

Watch for
changes in
RMDs



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If you’re a certain age, you’ll need to withdraw money from some of your retirement accounts each year. But in 2022, the amount you must take out may be changing more than in other years – and that could affect your retirement income strategy.

Here’s some background: Once you turn 72, you generally must start taking withdrawals, called required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. Each year, your RMDs are determined by your age and account balances. This year, the life expectancy tables used by the IRS are being updated to reflect longer lifespans. This may result in lower annual RMDs than you’d have to take if this adjustment hadn’t been made.

If you’ve started taking RMDs, what does this change mean to you? It can be a positive development, for a few reasons:

Potentially lower taxes – Your RMDs are generally taxable at your personal income tax rate, so the lower your RMDs, the lower your tax bill might be. Possibly longer “lifespan” for retirement accounts – Because your RMDs will be lower, the accounts from which they’re issued – including your traditional IRA and 401(k) – may be able to last longer without becoming depleted. The longer these accounts can stay intact and remain an asset, the better for you. More flexibility in planning for retirement income – The word “required” in the phrase “required minimum distributions” means exactly what it sounds like – you must take at least that amount. If you withdraw less than your RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50 percent. So, in one sense, your RMDs take away some of your freedom in managing your retirement income. But now, with the lower RMDs in place, you may regain some of this flexibility. (And keep in mind that you’re always free to withdraw more than the RMDs.)

Of course, if you don’t really need all the money from RMDs, even the lower amount may be an issue for you – as mentioned above, RMDs are generally taxable. However, if you’re 70 and a half or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from a traditional IRA directly to a qualified charitable organization, and some, or perhaps all, of this money may come from your RMDs. By making this move, you can exclude the RMDs from your taxable income. Before taking this action, though, you’ll want to consult with your tax advisor.

Here are a couple of final points to keep in mind. First, not all your retirement accounts are subject to RMDs – you can generally keep your Roth IRA intact for as long as you want. However, your Roth 401(k) is generally subject to RMDs. If you’re still working past 72, though, you may be able to avoid taking RMDs from your current employer’s 401(k) or similar plan, though you’ll still have to take them from your traditional IRA.

Changes to the RMD rules don’t happen too often. By being aware of how these new, lower RMDs can benefit you, and becoming familiar with all aspects of RMDs, you may be able to strengthen your overall retirement income situation.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Look up now” at our buildings

To the Editor:
Even though we have already seen the beginning of climate change, It may not be too late for a worst case scenario. Look around us where we are, and we can see the second biggest emitters of greenhouse gases in Massachusetts, the very same buildings that we count on to protect us from elements. The houses we live in, the buildings we work in are in need to be retrofitted so that they no longer are a source of a climate disaster, but a place to protect us and our loved ones.
Towards that end, we need to ask our

government representatives, whether at the local or state level, to support the Clean Energy bill (H.3288/S.2136). Massachusetts needs to step up and do our share by enacting a building code that promotes all-electric, highly efficient buildings with renewable made on-site or purchased off site. We need all new construction, and the retrofitting of existing ones, to get us to net zero emissions before it is too late.

GERRY FRANK
DUDLEY

Ice conditions improve



This weeks picture shows Eleanor and Dexter Briggs fishing with their dad at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club this past Saturday.

This past weekend saw a stampede of ice fishing anglers on many ponds and lakes, as the ice conditions improved dramatically. This past Saturday was extremely cold, and only die-hard anglers were fishing, but Sunday, although cold, had light winds and sunny skies. Reports of fast action on jig sticks and ice tilts was good news for

fishermen. Many local bait shops also reported brisk sales, with some shops selling out of live bait early Sunday morning.

A report of a large 40-plus-inch Northern pike was made at a local tackle shop with the angler producing a picture of the huge fish. He claimed he caught the monster fish at the Arcade Pond in Whitinsville & releasing the fish after a photo shoot. I have no reason to question the angler, as to where he caught the huge fish, as they have been caught in many small ponds in the valley. Although it is illegal to take fish from one area, and restock them in another lake or pond, anglers continue to do it. It is unfortunate that Mass. Fish & Wildlife has chosen to stop stocking ponds like Manchaug with juvenile fish that had produced a good amount of adult Northerns after they were stocked back in the '80s or so.

A lot of big fish were reported this past weekend by ice fishermen that braved the cold. Large pickerel and bass were caught by numerous anglers fishing with live shiners and jig sticks. The smell of a fire and venison cooking at many gatherings was noted. The heavy rain this past Monday should freeze, and make the ice even thicker, if the weathermen were correct in their forecast. This writer was shown a video of a car in truck falling through the ice in Maine last week. Driving vehicles on

the ice can be dangerous, as these ice fishing anglers found out.

They decided to put all of their efforts into stocking areas like Brookfield, and even then, the Pike program was brought back by a single female angler whose name was Terry, an active member of the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club. Mass. Fish & Wildlife still stocks Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester & Shrewsbury with juvenile pike, but is considered by many to have low water quality, especially in the spring when waste water is released into the lake after heavy rain. Her and her friends raised the money to purchase a few thousand juvenile pike, and had the MFW assist in the stocking. It was at a time that MFW was not buying or trading fish because of fish being infected with disease in other states.

Now that the deer season in Massachusetts is over, many sportsmen are in search of antler droppings from deer. The deer shed their antlers every year, and grow new ones starting in the spring. Antler hunting can become a family affair, and can reveal how big some of the bucks are that remain in their favorite hunting spots. Antlers are also considered a prize when one is located, and they are used to make knife handles, lamps, and many other things



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
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RALPH TRUE

including jewelry. If the antlers are not found before spring, many are chewed on by mice, squirrels and other ground feeding animals.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club stocked their pond with some impressive trout this past Friday, and is now open to club members to fish. A fishing derby is being planned for this Saturday, but plans were not complete in time for this column's deadline!

Cottontail rabbits are still fare game in Massachusetts, and sportsmen that own a good beagle, could find themselves enjoying an old fashion rabbit hunt. The increase in the cottontail rabbit population in the last couple of years was good to see, and hopes are high for another great year. Of course, local gardeners were not too happy with the increase in the rabbit populations, as many vegetables were eaten by these munchers before they could be harvested.

It is doubtful if any sportsmen's shows will actually take place this year because of Covid fears. Covid has sure changed our lives dramatically!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

An Array of Assorted Tips and Tricks

As we gear up for a new year, this week's column will highlight a medley of ideas to make everyday life just a little bit easier. And remember readers, your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge!

Simply send in a hint to be entered into the random drawing.

**

Practice Power Naps: Here's a quick lesson in Napology! A "power nap", which can clear your brain and increase productivity, is typically only fifteen to 20 minutes long. And, if you're catching 40 winks on a lunch break, set your cell alarm. A nap longer than a half hour can make you sluggish and defeat the power nap's purpose!

**

Candle Capers: Winter is the season for candles! The next time you light

floating candles, place them in cold water and they'll burn longer! Here's a candle FYI: Candles don't just cover up odors? They eliminate them by burning off the tiny odor particles that permeate the air!

**

Bye Sniffles: Stuff your nose this season? Whip up this Vicks Stick clone to clear your sinuses fast! Place one quarter teaspoon of coarse salt in a small glass vial with a tight lid. Add five drops of eucalyptus oil. When the salt absorbs the oil, shake to activate, then open vial and inhale to clear nasal passages.

**

Kitchen Helps: Here are a couple of culinary shortcuts to cook up a storm in record time: If a recipe calls for clarified broth, simply pour regular broth through a coffee filter to clarify it quickly and easily! And here's the



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

easiest way to degrease cooled meat soups and stews: Just put a sheet of waxed paper directly on top of the liquid before refrigerating.

**

Tips to Reduce Cholesterol: Want to reduce your cholesterol? Try topping soups and stews with ground flaxseed to reduce heart attack risk. In a study, forty grams of ground flaxseed every day for three months reduced cholesterol by six percent.

**

Attention Do it Yourselfers: Did you

know nonstick vegetable spray such as Pam can be used to lubricate sticky locks, metal gears, and even bicycle chains in a pinch? And never use oil for squeaky door hinges, use a dab of Vaseline - for a dripless job well done!

**

Wax Nostalgic: Remember wax paper? Try these creative uses: Rub a sheet on your counter tops after you clean. They'll not only have a nice gloss, but the finish will repel dust and dirt. And if you rub wax paper along your closet rod, even your metal your hangers will glide smoothly!

**

Hop to it: Can't sleep? An ancient insomnia tip calls for putting dried hops in a pillowcase. And if you have trouble sleeping on a regular basis, the answer may be as simple as a multivitamin. Make sure you have enough

iron, calcium and potassium, all which encourage a healthy sleep.

**

Shoo Flu: Want another weapon in the fight against colds and flu? According to several Japanese studies, gargling with black tea twice a day from October to March, significantly improved participants abilities to fend off the common flu.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House - Contest has resumed! Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the

town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

The Gateway Process Part 1

How powerful is human consciousness? Can we influence matter and reality with our thoughts?

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
.....
TOBY MOORE

A couple of years ago, I read a document from the US Army and released by the CIA. It's a very complex document steeped in scientific language.

It delves deep into the powers of the human mind in a way that most books about positive thinking never do.

In 2003, this document was declassified by the CIA. It's named Analysis and Assessment of Gateway Process. The paper attempts to break down the nature of the reality that we live in. The PDF can be found at CIA.gov by googling, "The Gateway Process PDF."

It was written in 1983 by Lt. Col. Wayne M. McDonnell, whom we will refer to as Wayne. He was tasked with reporting back to the Commander of the US Army Operational Group at Fort

Meade, Maryland, with all of his experiences learning the techniques of The Gateway Process.

During this period in time, the Military was interested in all sorts of psychic research in an attempt to keep pace and outdo the arch-enemy of the day, The Soviet Union.

A little history on The Gateway Process reveals that In the 1950s, a radio executive named Robert Monroe began to produce evidence that specific sound patterns affect the mind, including alertness, sleepiness, and expanded states of consciousness.

Robert Monroe formed a division inside his company to further study this phenomenon. The research continued for many years until, in 1962, he renamed his company to The Monroe Institute. The Gateway Process is a technique developed by The Monroe Institute, which recorded a series of

audiotapes on practicing this technique.

According to this document, "The Gateway Experience is a training system designed to bring enhanced strength, focus, and coherence to ... brainwave output between the right and left hemispheres, moving it outside the physical sphere... to ultimately escape even the restrictions of time and space."

Wayne partnered with several different people to produce the report, including Itzhak Bentov, an American-Israeli scientist who helped pioneer the biomedical engineering industry.

that everything around us is composed of energy and matter and that energy and matter are two different things. We think of matter as a physical substance like a rock or a piece of wood, and energy as some force, like electricity or fire.

Wayne writes, "matter and energy tend to be misleading if taken to indicate two distinctly different states of existence in the physical world... solid matter ... simply does not exist. Rather, atomic structure is composed of oscillating energy grids surrounded by other oscillating energy grids..."

Again, it says, "Solid matter... simply does not exist." Starting to sound a little like the hit film The Matrix?

The scientific genius Nikola Tesla said, "If you wish to understand the universe, think of energy, frequency, and vibration."

Matter is just energy vibrating at incredibly high speeds. What we call matter is just variances in states of energy. Our body, and everything around us, in the entire physical universe, is an incredibly complex system of energy fields. Everything down to the smallest molecule is vibrational energy.

Albert Einstein said, "Everything in life is vibration."

Wayne goes on to describe that the entire universe is "one gigantic hologram of unbelievable complexity."

If that doesn't make your head spin, then read further. In extreme scientific language, Wayne describes that the only thing in the universe that isn't made of energy.. is human consciousness.

He quotes psychologist Keith Floyd, "it may not be the brain that produces consciousness—but rather, consciousness that creates the appearance of the brain..."

If consciousness is the only thing in our universe that is not energy, what is consciousness? Can we use our consciousness to change our reality and manifest our dreams? Find out next week in Part 2 of The Gateway Process.

Grow herbs indoors for year-round enjoyment



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company
Artificial lights ensure herbs receive enough bright light to successfully grow indoors.

Add garden fresh flavor to your meals year-round. Grow a few of your favorite herbs indoors, harvest and enjoy.

Select a variety of herbs you and your family enjoy and use for cooking, decoration, or fragrance. Basil, chives, cilantro, oregano, marjoram, mint, parsley, sage and thyme are some of the easier herbs to grow indoors. Purchase plants or seeds from your local garden center, favorite garden catalog or produce section of the grocery store.

Most herbs need six to eight hours of bright light each day. A south-facing window in winter is best but an east- or west-facing window may be sufficient. Increase success with artificial lights. Set the timer for 14 to 16 hours a day and keep lights six to 12 inches above the plants.

You will find lots of energy efficient and stylish options for just about any space. Sleeker designs like Gardener's Supply Micro Grow Light Garden can



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

be placed on the kitchen counter or a small table. Furniture grade options like Bamboo LED Grow Light Garden (gardeners.com) make it easy to grow herbs in just about any room in the house.

Use a variety of plants to create an attractive display in a large windowsill planter. Combine plants that have the same growing requirements to ensure success.

Or place each herb plant in its own container. A four- to seven-inch pot is a good size when starting with smaller plants. Growing individual plants in their own container allows you to provide the specific watering, care and transplanting they need.

Select containers with drainage holes or reduce maintenance and increase success with self-watering containers like Viva self-watering planters. Just fill the water reservoir that gradual-

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

have an urgent situation and we are very thankful for the assistance of the Dudley Police Department and all of their work,” said Lamarche.

School districts across the state and country have, of course, taken potential security risks much more seriously over the past decade with an abundance of tragic events receiving national coverage during that time. However, the events of the last month have districts even more on alert as a recent TikTok trend at the end of 2021 encouraged students to call in threats to their schools in order to cancel classes. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District was not spared from this trend as they received threats of their own in December which Lamarche said were also handled by local law enforcement and found to be noncredible.

“We want to thank the Dudley Police Department, the Charlton Police Department as well as the state police for their assistance during that noncredible threat that happened Dec. 16 and 17. Their presence, their response, their support, and their collaboration were incredible,” said Lamarche. “We can’t thank them enough and we appreciate their support with some of the more difficult things that schools are faced with from time to time.”

The school district and law enforcement are asking anyone with information about either incident to contact the Dudley Police Department at 508-943-4411.

For Advertising Information
Call 508-764-4325
email: ads@stonebridgepress.news

GRANT

continued from page A1

effort” – the recent attempt to pass a \$5 million bond for roads – and the Town Clerk’s office and others for making the Jan 4 ballot vote happen. Although Town Meeting overwhelmingly approved the plan in October, it was shot down at the polls 121-405.

By contrast, the town’s electricity aggregation program has generally been successful, Callahan said. She described it as “absolutely the right decision” to join Charlton and Millbury in the program a few years ago because it has provided “substantial savings on a month to month basis, depending on how much electricity they use.”

Program coordinator John O’Rourke of Good Energy said Oxford has had a floating number of customers around 3000 and has seen cumulative savings of about \$1.47 million when compared to National Grid’s base rate. For the current season (November to April), aggregation participants are paying 0.103 cents per kWh (or 0.12 cents for

GARDEN

continued from page A9

ly releases water into the soil for the plants to use. You will need to water less often.

Fill the container with a well-drained quality potting mix. Many contain a slow-release fertilizer, providing weeks or even several months of nutrients for your plants. Just check the label for details and adjust fertilization as needed.

Water the containers thoroughly whenever the top inch of soil is dry. Pour off excess water so the plant does not sit in the excess and succumb to root rot. Or place pebbles in the tray to

“green” energy) through his firm, while National Grid’s base rate is 0.148 cents, he said. Those figures do change periodically, and he noted the firm has seven “tiers.” Four were less than National Grid, two were higher and one was the same price.

O’Rourke said state law requires all residents to be automatically enrolled in aggregation unless they opt out in writing during certain enrollment periods. The most recent ended in November, according to the program website (oxford-cea.com). The town and Good Energy will start negotiating an extension sometime soon, he added.

In other business, the selectmen unanimously voted to waive Oxford’s “first refusal” rights to Chapter 61 properties at 50 Main, 0 Main and 0 Holbrook and 26A Conlin Road. The first three are jointly owned and equal 75 acres abutting I-395. Daniel Cotton, the owner’s attorney, said the owner got an offer of \$1.17 million from a commercial warehouse developer.

The fourth is just five acres, owned separately. Nobody attended the meet-

elevate the pot above any water that collects in the saucer or tray. This means less work for you and better growing conditions for the plant.

Incorporate a slow-release fertilizer or use a dilute solution of any indoor houseplant fertilizer once the nutrients in the potting mix are spent. Follow label directions and do not overdo as too much fertilizer can harm your plants.

Begin harvesting most herbs when they reach six to eight inches in height and as needed. Use a sharp pair of garden scissors, snips, or hand pruners. Make cuts above a set of healthy leaves so the remaining plant is neater and tidier in appearance. As the plant grows, you will be able to harvest larger

ing to talk about that one.

The board also voted to support transitioning Oxford’s health insurance program to one run by the Mass. Strategic Health Group, a self-insured trust comprising several area towns. That became necessary, Callahan said, because Fallon announced it would pull out of the market last year. Around 500 current and retired staff will be put into the new program.

Additionally, the board voted to again hold off on approving a proposed 40B project called Zane Place at 580 Main St. It did so originally last September to see if the Army Corps of Engineers would accept it. While that agency did so in November, the Zoning Board approved another 40B project before then (in October) and sent the state a “safe harbor” claim.

Oxford is now awaiting the state’s answer to that claim, which argues the approved project meets the necessary affordable housing percentage.

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

quantities and more often.

Start with a few of your favorite herbs and expand your collection as you gain experience. Soon you will be confident and eager to try more challenging favorites.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener’s Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF DUDLEY

Notice to Bidders

The Town of Dudley is requesting bids for the following construction materials and services for various departments for the period of **January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.**

ITEM #1 All grades of medium curing asphalt and emulsion type asphalt

ITEM #2 Bituminous concrete, at plant

ITEM #2A Bituminous concrete, in place

ITEM #3 Gravel and Washed screened sand at owners' pit and delivered

ITEM #4 Screened stone at owners' pit and delivered

ITEM #5Tree Trimming and Removal

ITEM #6 Corrugated pipe, steel and aluminum, delivered to highway garage

ITEM #7 Corrugated pipe, polyethylene delivered to highway garage

ITEM #8 Cold Plaining

ITEM #9 Stone Sealing

ITEM #10 Pavement Striping

Bidders of items # 2A & # 9 must be pre-qualified and a Certificate of Approval from Mass Highway.

All materials must conform to Mass Highway Specifications.

Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer in the Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St. MA 01571 until **10:00AM on February 11, 2022** at which time they will be opened and read. All envelopes must be sealed and **marked “BID” and appropriate “ITEM #” indicated.**

The Town of Dudley brings to the attention of bidders, Chapter 149, sections 26D & 27D of the Mass. General Laws concerning minimum wage rates where applicable. All bids must be in compliance with all Mass. General Laws. Specifications available at the Selectmen's Office, 71 West Main St, Dudley MA 01571, Monday – Thursday between 9:00a.m. and 4:00p.m., Friday from 9:00a.m. – noon. Specific questions may be addressed to Jeffrey Murray, Highway Superintendent at (508) 949-8020.

The Town reserves the right to reject any bids, or proposals if deemed in the best interest of the Town.

Town of Dudley
Jonathan Ruda
Town Administrator
Chief Procurement Officer
January 21, 2022
January 28, 2022

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 3 George Street f/k/a 6 George Street, Dudley, MA 01571

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Charles D. Corkran and Linda J. Corkran to Mortgage

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for 1-800-East-West Mortgage Company, and now held by **LoanCare, LLC**, said mortgage dated November 30, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42154, Page 145, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment dated October 4, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47984, Page 146; said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, N.A. to EverBank by assignment dated August 5, 2013 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 51406, Page 254; said mortgage was assigned from EverBank to Green Tree Servicing LLC by assignment dated April 23, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52385, Page 367; said mortgage was assigned from Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC to New Residential Mortgage LLC by assignment dated February 18, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 60058, Page 252; said mortgage was assigned from New Residential Mortgage LLC to LoanCare, LLC by assignment dated February 19, 2021 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 64555, Page 191; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on February 8, 2022 at 02:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Dudley, being a certain tract or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon situated on the southerly line of Tracy Street, otherwise called George Street, Dudley, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of the premises to be conveyed said corner being located on the southerly line of said Tracy Street, sixty-seven (67) feet easterly of the intersection of the easterly line of First Avenue, with the southerly line of Tracy Street; THENCE southerly one hundred twenty (120) feet along land now or formerly of one Michelski; THENCE easterly by said Michelski's land now or formerly, fifty-eight (58) feet to a chestnut post; THENCE north by land of Jennie S. Chase, now or formerly, one hundred twenty (120) feet to Tracy Street; THENCE westerly by the southerly line of Tracy Street, fifty-eight (58) feet to the point of beginning.

Subject to building restrictions. Being the easterly portion of lots numbered 7 and 8 on Plan of Fairview and Fairview Addition, dated June 6, 1916, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 27, Plan 44. For mortgagors' title, see deed in Book 16961, Page 98.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 31, 1995 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 16961, Page 98.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC

1080 Main Street, Suite 200

Pawtucket, RI 02860

Attorney for LoanCare, LLC

Present Holder of the Mortgage

401-217-8701

January 14, 2022

January 21, 2022

January 28, 2022

A.C.78A

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER, SS

PROBATE COURT

21P2584PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Nancy E. Olex of Webster in said County, person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell – private sale – certain real estate of said Nancy E. Olex for her maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the first day of February 2022, the return day of this citation.

Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifth day of January 2022.

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register

January 22, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO22P0038EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Vicki K. Dimmich

Also known as:

Vicki Kay Dimmich

Date of Death: 07/21/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathleen Dimmich Mahaffy of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Kathleen Dimmich Mahaffy of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/15/2022.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 11, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

January 21, 2022



SPORTS

Mullen’s monster game helps Rams rally past Nashoba



Nick Ethier photos

Shepherd Hill’s Raegan Peck steps into a jump shot versus Nashoba.



Emery Mullen of Shepherd Hill drives the ball past Nashoba defender Bella Cotter.



Shepherd Hill’s Shaylan Cashman swats away a shot taken by Nashoba’s Madeline Toth.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — A tough week was in store for the Shepherd Hill Regional girls’ varsity basketball team when they hosted a pair of tough Midland Wachusett League foes in Westborough High and Nashoba Regional on Tuesday, Jan. 11 and Thursday, Jan. 13, respectively. And after losing a 55-33 decision to the Rangers, the matchup with the Wolves became even more important. Things didn’t look all that well for the Rams in the early going, as they trailed by a 16-5 count after one quarter and



Sydney FitzGerald of Shepherd Hill remarkably steps over a fallen Nashoba player while maintaining possession of the ball and remaining inbounds.

26-17 at the half. But The Hill rallied and eventually emerged victorious, 53-50. “We have a very determined group of girls, that’s for sure,” said head coach Maura Hackenson. “We were coming off a tough loss to Westborough the other night. We came in with a little bit of a chip on our shoulder tonight. They needed to redeem themselves. Playing that hard tonight after a disappointing loss the other night speaks volumes of these girls.” Shepherd Hill junior Emery Mullen, the team’s point guard, was the catalyst. After being held scoreless in the first quarter, she rattled off six, five and then a staggering 14 points in the next three periods to finish with a game-high 25 points. She also pulled down 12 rebounds for the double-double. “She is extremely fast. That girl is lightning,” Hackenson said of Mullen, a cross-country and outdoor track

star when she isn’t playing basketball. “She’s extremely hard to defend, she runs the floor, she has endurance, she can last the whole game — I rarely sub her. She has matured a lot this year, basketball wise. She’s really in a groove here.” With the Rams trailing after three quarters, 37-31, Mullen helped her team win the final frame, 22-13. She opened the period with a 3-pointer from the top of the arc, her first trey of the game. “I hit one 3 and I felt good, so I kept going and it was working,” said Mullen.

Mullen hit her next 3-pointer with 5:17 to play, this one from the right wing, to give Shepherd Hill its first lead at 41-40. Moments later, another triple from Mullen, this one a mirror image but from the left wing, regained the Rams’ lead at 44-42. Nashoba grabbed the lead back, 47-46, but Rams’ sophomore Heidi Jarosz (9 points, 10 rebounds) finished off a layup to put her team ahead once again, 48-47. Mullen then hit five of six free throws in the final minute to keep The Hill ahead, and they were able to breathe a sigh of relief and savor the victory when Nashoba’s Davita Honig’s 3-pointer at the buzzer rimmed out. “We definitely started off not as strong, but we pull through,” Mullen said of trailing for much of the contest but rallying for the win. “We bring it together as a team, and that’s what we did out there. “It’s Nashoba. They’ve always been great. The fact that we just did that, it’s uplifting in our season,” Mullen added. Hackenson noted that a total team effort was needed to squeak by the Wolves. “Our seniors really stepped up well for us. We needed that to win,” Hackenson said of Sydney FitzGerald (6 points), Amanda Adamuska (6 rebounds) and Raegan Peck (8 points). After a few lackluster seasons in years past, order seems to have been restored for the perennially powerful Rams, who improved to 5-2. “We are back on track up here at Shepherd Hill, I think. Our feeder programs are doing well and everyone has bought in,” Hackenson said.

Webster Little League registration now open

Webster Little League 2022 spring baseball registration is now open online at WebsterLittleLeague.com for boys and girls ages 5-14 (age on Aug. 31). Multiplayer discounts are offered. Final day to register is Jan. 31. More information is available online and during the registration process. Don’t forget to sign up for coaching and volunteer opportunities when registering — especially Tee-Ball and Coach-Pitch parents! Follow us on Facebook too, at Webster Little League. Webster Little League Baseball is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We were chartered in 1972 and will be celebrating our 70th year this spring! Any questions, please email websterlittleleague@gmail.com.

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MOHEGAN BOWL FALL LEAGUES, WEEK ENDING JAN. 16

- Monday Men’s Business

Single — Ryan Pelletier 147, Jon Dufield 139, Mike Marrier and John Guillotte 135

Series — Mike Marrier 396, Ryan Pelletier 392, Jon Dufield 367

Series over average — Todd Siefert +78
- Ten Pin City

Single — Division 1: Natalie Wood 201, Claudia Allen 178

Division 2: Marie Piegorsch 164, Doll Gardecki 160

Series — Division 1: Natalie Wood 583, Claudia Allen 479

Division 2: Marie Piegorsch 453, Kristine Russell 432
- Tuesday Chet’s Social

Single — Ryan Pelletier 130, Tom Smith 129, David Blake 122, Ellen Fugatt 126, Erin Van Dam 107, Brenda Mayer 100

Series — Tom Smith 353, Ryan Pelletier 336, Dave Lamontagne 306, Ellen Fugatt 331, Erin Van Dam 303, Dawn Gleason 267

Series over average — Luke Lamontagne +39, Ellen Fugatt +70
- Wednesday Women’s Industrial

Single — Monique Pierangeli 128, Linda Bernier 113, Annette Bent 104

Series — Monique Pierangeli 324, Linda Bernier 300, Tara LaLiberte 292

Series over average — Nancy McGovern +56
- Summit Tenpin

Single — Division 1: Bob Hanville 223, Bob Grant Jr. 186

Division 2: Kevin Ryder and Robin Altiery 167

Series — Division 1: Mark Nichols 597, Todd Fischer 515

Division 2: Donald Altiery 470, Scott Lamica 390
- Thursday Morning Coffee

Single — Barbara Penniman 109, Nancy Zumpfe 107, Jean McHugh 103

Series — Barbara Penniman 288, Nancy Zumpfe 276, Jessica Agazarian 273

Series over average — Nancy Zumpfe +60
- Thursday Men’s Industrial

Single — David Blake 127, Bo Gauvin 125, Ryan Pelletier 120

Series — Ryan Pelletier 352, Bo Gauvin 349, Chris Andros 337

Series over average — Mike Taft Jr. +55
- Thursday Mixed Tenpin

Single — Todd Gaucher 182, Chris Wong Kam 157, Sean Blake 153, Cary Gay 136, Carol Buchanan 123, Barbara Choiniere 122

Series — Frank Bosma 610, Tim Johnson 427, Tony Borowy 392, Brenda Johnson 366, Janine Bolduc 341, Carol Chausse 338



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**Maureen
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THOMPSON CT - 15 WAGER RD



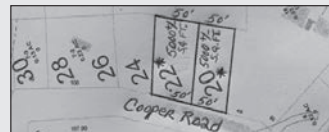
Cape with 3 bedrooms, gleaming hardwoods, stone fireplace. Septic (2019), replacement windows, family and dining room, fresh paint throughout! Generator hook up, and updated Buderus boiler with holding tank. Garage under. This one maybe for you! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island



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WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.



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SPORTS

Middle two quarters turn the tide in Rams' favor to surge by Oxford



Oxford's Evan Brindisi lets go off a running floater in the lane.

Oxford's Will Owusu gets past Northbridge defender Nikolas Hayes while dribbling the ball down the court.

Nick Ethier photos

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — The Northbridge High boys' varsity basketball team may have led Oxford High after the first quarter of play, 11-7, when the Rams and Pirates met on Tuesday, Jan. 11, but it was the middle two quarters that led the visitors to victory.

Northbridge won second quarter scoring, 31-15, and then took the next

frame by a 24-6 count. That gave the Rams a comfortable 66-28 lead through three quarters as they cruised to a 73-56 win

"They stayed in a zone and we got the ball moving the way we've been trying to, which led to some open looks that we knocked down. We were patient and aggressive at the same time," explained Northbridge head coach Aaron Katz.

"We started diversifying what we are doing and who is doing it, getting it inside and out for shots — all clicking at the right time."

Katz was pleased to see a plentiful amount of points being scored, as two games prior the Rams went cold in a 56-41 loss to David Prouty Regional on Jan. 4.

"We faced a good and hot David Prouty team last week and we did not shoot well. That's why tonight is good, because we know we can do it," said Katz. "We're progressing and everyone is settling into their roles."

Cam Boucher (18 points), Ryan Boyce (16 points), Ian Gahan (14 points, 10 rebounds) and Nikolas Hayes (10 points) were all in double figures for Northbridge, and all had their moments — particularly in the second and third quarters. Boucher had an eight-point second quarter, which included a pair of 3-pointers. Boyce also had two 3's in the second and scored 12 points in the frame. Gahan came alive in the third quarter, scoring 10 of his points there. And Hayes netted seven of his points in the second.

On the flip side, Oxford could only muster seven made baskets (and five free throws) over the course of the second and third quarters.

"Every once in a while you have a flat game, and I don't want to take anything away from Northbridge," said Pirates' head coach David Aldrich. "I'm not

happy with what we did. We came out a little soft in the first period."

Aldrich was quick to add that Oxford won't look too much into the loss — "we've been playing great," he mentioned — and will refocus.

"We just had a heart-to-heart talk," Aldrich said. "We've just got to throw the tape in the trash, forget about it, wipe the slate clean, come back to practice tomorrow and start again."

Brady Margoupis led the now 2-4 Pirates with 27 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter with Oxford pressing the issue and cutting into the deficit. But complementary scoring was hard to come by, as teammate Evan Brindisi (10 points) was the only other Pirate in double figures.

"Brady Margoupis is our leading scorer, everybody knows he's coming, so now other people have to step up," Aldrich said while noting the youth movement on the roster. "We're really young."

Northbridge made it a point to hold Margoupis in check, which they did as he totaled 11 points during the important second and third quarter stretch. Back on Dec. 28, 2021, Margoupis scored 28 points with seven 3-pointers versus the Rams, as Oxford held a one-point lead into the fourth quarter until Northbridge rallied with a 28-12 run to win the game.

"Knowing he hit seven 3's against us last game, we came in knowing that he's what drives them and we had to focus on him," said Katz, as the Rams improved to 6-2.



Kofi Owusu of Oxford fires off a pass down the court versus Northbridge.

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