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Friday, November 19, 2021

DUDLEY WOMANS CLUB HOSTS POCKETBOOK BINGO

Earlier this month, the DWC held a very successful Pocketbook Bingo at Point Breeze Restaurant. Bingo with upscale handbags as prizes and a 50/50 and unique item raffles were on tap, resulting in several very pleased ladies! Since the Dudley Woman's Club is a non-profit charitable organization, all proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the betterment of our local communities. A big shoutout and thank you to all our sponsors, contributors and attendees!

Return to school brings “unexpected challenges”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – School officials raised concerns about behavior and sickness as students return to in-person school post-Covid.

“This year, I think, has brought some unexpected challenges with bringing young people who have been home for a very long time back into the school buildings,” observed School Committee Chair Kelly Seddiki. “But I don’t know if any of us could have anticipated just how challenging that would’ve been for everybody.”

Superintendent Ruthann Goguen said they’ve “been seeing an increase in student behavior at the middle school and high school.” That’s manifested in 50 high school suspensions and 36 at the middle school (equally split between in-school and out). Staff are “taking all of this very seriously” and using various approaches to address them, including hiring a new interim dean to organizing assemblies to reacquaint students with the expectations in the student handbook, she added.

At the same time, she noted, the district is “seeing and increase in kids getting sick,” with 52 out sick, 31 quarantined from in-school exposure, and 14 more from external exposure to Covid, she said.

Combined, those issues were predicted back in the spring and confirmed much more recently.

In April, to cite just one example, the University of Washington’s Mental Health Technology Transfer Center stated, “Disparities will be present based on who was able to keep up with schoolwork; those whose families are more stressed and those with learning issues or marginal achievement prior to COVID could be even further behind academically. Even for those students who excel academically, focusing on recovering lost instructional time and test scores will cause increased stress for staff and students.”

Such stress, they wrote, often includes increased worry about their own and family members’ health, parental job loss, sometimes increased experience of trauma at home, substance abuse and sometimes self-harm, housing insecurity and various other issues. In some cases, teachers and staff will also be expressing such anxiety.

That short report is available at <https://mhctcnetwork.org/>, under the title “Behavioral health impacts during & after Covid-19.”

More recently, Pew Trust’s “Stateline” blog of Nov 8 (<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2021/11/08/covid-harmed-kids-mental-health-and-schools-are-feeling-it>) cited three major pediatric groups in stating “the pandemic-related decline in child and adolescent mental health has become a national emergency.” It has manifested in various ways, including increased bullying and violence, crying in school, and a 31 percent rise in suicide attempts among teens during 2020, reports Christine Vestal.

In Webster, this comes at a time the schools are still trying to fill staff needs for special education and English learner subgroups, which Goguen noted have seen a “marked difference” in MCAS scores when compared to regular students. But, she added, the district has “made some adjustments to make sure the current caseload of students’ needs are being met.”

In other business, Goguen noted the Bartlett renovation project is “being highlighted by MSBA.” The agen-

Oxford sets \$16.16 tax rate

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – On Nov. 9, selectmen unanimously set a single tax rate for this fiscal year, thus defining it as \$16.16 per \$1000, a drop from last year’s \$16.53.

According to Assessor Chris Pepka, the new values are based annually on property sales; this year, there were 194 total sales in the largest (residential) class of which 126 were “arms-length,” more than the 2 percent needed to be “significant.”

But homeowners may not see the rate drop positively, since property values have risen significantly in the last year. For homes, it went up 6.6 percent, with commercial/industrial values nearly doubling that at 13 percent. In total, Oxford’s property value rose to somewhat more than \$1.6 billion.

Overall, the last two years have seen an “increase of 25 percent during the plague [which] is incredible,” Pepka said. “...It’s kinda stunning to look at.”

He said the town’s current split is 80.35 percent residential and 19.65 percent commercial/industrial/personal property (CIP). Despite a lot of development in recent years, the latter’s proportion has actually fallen a bit. He attributed that to

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A16**

New Dudley Health Agent off to fast start

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Board of Health had their first official meeting with new Health Agent Camille Griffin on Tuesday, Nov. 9 after the town reached an agreement with neighboring Webster to share the agent between the two communities.

Griffin actually started her work with Dudley in September, but the Nov. 9 meeting was the first time most of the Board of Health had officially met her in person. Griffin is a former health inspector for the town of Framingham and earned her master’s degree in public health from Boston University this year.

“I’m just very passionate about public health. I’m very eager to get both communities on the right page, get outdated forms updated and really making sure that our processes are streamlined,” Griffin said in her introduction to the board.

Griffin wasted no time getting right to business in Dudley proposing several updates and changes she through needed to be prioritized for the foreseeable future.

During her first months on the job with Dudley Griffin responded to several housing complaints and a nuisance complaint, all of which were resolved. However, the major focus of her first report to the Board of Health involved temporary food applications and annual food application renewals which she felt required updates. She noted that the current applications are inaccurate due to several technicalities, including Massachusetts adhering to a more modern food code than what is currently depicted in the applications.

“We just want to make sure that all of the business owners are aware of what the current regulations are that they need to be following,” said Griffin.

She also pinpointed an issue with the towns requirement of temporary food permits for entities using shelf-stable foods rather than prepared options.

“It was determined that prepackaged, non-TCS (time/temperature controlled for safety) food products do not require a food permit - So if it’s a shelf stable item that’s already prepackaged it technically doesn’t require a food permit,” Griffin said.

Speaking from her experience in Framingham, Griffin

Turn To **GRIFFIN** page **A18**

Pirates are Final Four bound after sneaking past Palmer



Nick Ether

Oxford’s Robert Fisher executes a well-placed stiff-arm in order to gain valuable yardage on a Palmer kickoff.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

PALMER — For the second straight week, the Oxford High varsity football team had the tough task of playing at a higher seed in the MIAA Division 8 State Tournament. Also, for the second straight week, the Pirates found a way to emerge victorious.

The latest win for No. 11 Oxford took place at Legion Field on Friday, Nov. 12. The Pirates held on to defeat the third ranked Panthers, 16-13. Oxford (8-2) is now in the

Turn To **FOOTBALL** page **A16**

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Dudley police thinking ahead as Lt. candidates finalized

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – With the candidates set for the Dudley Police Department’s vacant lieutenant’s position, Chief Steve Wojnar and the Board of Selectmen are taking preemptive steps to prepare for an internal promotion in the coming weeks and months. Wojnar met with the Board of Selectmen on Nov. 8, where he revealed that three sergeants and a patrolman from within the department recently completed the assessment center to be considered as candidates for the available lieutenant post. Everyone passed according to the chief who called it a “very intense session” and said it was a credit to the members of the department that everyone was able to

qualify after the test was complete. However, with one of the four candidates essentially guaranteed to be the recommended choice for the opening, Wojnar is looking ahead to filling the inevitable vacancy for patrolman. The chief argued that once a candidate is approved it would result in an opening as sergeant, which would likely be filled through a promotion, or and opening at patrolman which would be a need either way. Patrolmen require more training to prepare for their duties and with at least one officer already out due to a non-work injury the chief wanted to make sure the department was prepared to keep the patrolman numbers intact. “We have two individuals that still remain on the list

from our last appointment. Both of them are females and would both be eligible for the position. We’re going to be sitting down with the command staff to review the recommendation for the board to consider for that spot. I have an officer that’s out now that was hurt off-duty that’s probably out for an extended period of time so we’re addressing that. In addition, the Police Academy will be starting up after the first of the year so my intention would be to have a person in place and ready to go for that whenever that comes up because that’s going to be about a five- to six-month training program and I don’t want to have to delay that further into the summer,” said the chief. Selectmen were a bit cautious before acting on the

chief’s request. Some felt it might be better to complete the hire to lieutenant before declaring and opening. However, the chief noted that the board wasn’t approving a candidate and was simply declaring an opening that will likely be available once the new lieutenant is hired. In the end selectmen unanimously approved declaring an opening for a patrolman which Wojnar said would be the priority hire after the lieutenant position is filled and then, if needed, the sergeant position would be addressed. Wojnar did not divulge the names of the officers that are being considered for lieutenant but did indicate that he would have more information, including a possible recommendation, for selectmen at their next meeting.

Gladys E. Kelly Library hosts “Holiday Harvest” event

WEBSTER — On Nov. 9, the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library hosted “Holiday Harvest.” Kim Larkin of Klassic Kreations Gourmet presented a timely program on entertaining buffet style. Three tables put together and draped in fall themed tablecloths showcased her ideas. The colorful display inspired our minds and eyes. The samples for participants included a variety of chocolates – Larkin is a licensed commercial chocolatier — cheeses, and a unique ginger beer cider with a touch of pomegranate to arouse our taste buds. Recipes for some of Larkin’s favorites were shared including Simply Healthy Butternut Squash Soup, Apricot Walnut Bread, and Chocolate Harvest Bark. We also took home a suggested shopping list for an Ultimate Charcuterie Board. It was a delightful evening sponsored by Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Now that we are freer to enjoy being among vaccinated and/or mask-wearing friends post-Covid pandemic, Webster’s library is a great town resource. Check the library Web site (www.gladyskellylibrary.org) regularly to stay current on opportunities for the whole family.



Courtesy
Kim Larkin of Klassic Krations Gourmet addresses participants at Gladys E. Kelly Library Holiday Harvest event on Nov. 9.

Local veterans awarded Quilt of Valor



WEBSTER — On Tuesday, Nov. 2, and on Friday, Nov. 5 the Accord Adult Day Center hosted an emotional ceremony to award the Quilt of Valor to 13 veterans of all branches of the military. Accord is a beautiful, clean and homey environment where those with health or mental needs can spend the day in order to give caregivers some respite. It allows family members to remain working without fear that their loved ones are not able to care for their needs. I personally witnessed much happiness and many activities being enjoyed by the elders.

Fattman attended with his young son, and Massachusetts State Rep. Joseph McKenna attended the ceremony, as well and presented certificates of Appreciation for their military service from both the Massachusetts Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The Veterans Services Officer, Stephen Rogerson and several members of the VFW came to show their appreciation and many family members and friends of the veterans who received the Quilts of Valor from the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service mem-

bers and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. The presentation of the Quilt was done by Foundation representative, Theresa Perreault and Stephen Rogerson, Veterans’ Services Officer for the Town of Dudley. Thank you for your service one and all.

DAR chapter working with Wreaths Across America

OXFORD — The General Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter which is based in Oxford is proud to announce that they are helping to sponsor wreaths for the Winchendon Veterans Memorial Cemetery. This is the first year that the Chapter is working with Wreaths Across America and has a goal of 100 wreaths. The wreaths are \$15 each. Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran’s grave. Donations can be made on line at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0139P. The deadline for ordering is Nov. 30 to ensure that the wreaths will be placed on National Wreaths Across America Day, Dec. 18. For more information contact the General Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter at gen.e.learneddar@gmail.com.

Clara Barton Birthplace to hold open house

OXFORD — Help us celebrate Clara Barton’s 200th birthday by joining us for an Open House at The Clara Barton Birthplace Museum in North Oxford. Learn a little about the founder of the American Red Cross as you wander through Clara’s childhood home Dec. 4 and 5, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Parking is available at 4 Ennis Rd., North Oxford. Masks are required, and tours are free.

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WEBSTER TIMES

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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.

Mohegan Bowl fall leagues, week ending Nov. 14

Monday Men’s Business
Single — Ryan Pelletier 143, Eddy Lavin 137, Jason Mahan 135
Series — Ryan Pelletier 381, Jason Mahan 360, Tim Labay 353
Series over average — Todd Siefert +47

Ten Pin City
Single — Division 1: Pam McCabe 199, Edna Miranda 179
Division 2: Shirley Smith 175, Evelyn Rivera 159
Series — Division 1: Pam McCabe 477, Joanne LaBonte 472
Division 2: Shirley Smith 430, Evelyn Rivera 417

Tuesday Chet’s Social
Single — Ryan Pelletier 137, DJ Devish 135, Dave Lamontagne 134, Kellee Tella 102, Erin Van Dam and Courtney Boulay 96, June Carpenter 94
Series — Ryan Pelletier 371, Tom Smith 363, DJ Devish 335, Erin Van Dam 275, Kellee Tella 261, Diane Levesque and June Carpenter 260
Series over average — Tom Smith +36, Courtney Boulay +50

Wednesday Women’s Industrial
Single — Lynne Smith 118, Monique Pierangeli 114, Shanna Boucher 111
Series — Lynne Smith 326, Monique Pierangeli 293, Noelle Gorski 286
Series over average — Katrina Gomes +42

Summit Tenpin
Single — Division 1: Bob Hanville 279, Ron Suprenant 213
Division 2: Dawn Kupiec 160, Donald Altiery Sr. 146
Series — Division 1: Bob Hanville 595, Derek Reynolds 559
Division 2: Robin Altiery 486, Kevin Ryder 419

Thursday AM Coffee
Single — Flo Jedrzynski 108, Barbara Penniman and Pat Johnson 104
Series — Barbara Penniman 282, Flo Jedrzynski 273, Jackie Arpin 269
Series over average — Barbara Penniman +33

Thursday Men’s Industrial
Single — Bo Gauvin 143, Jeff Therrien 138, Ryan Pelletier and Mark Gulino 124
Series — Bo Gauvin 383, Ryan Pelletier 348, Jeff Therrien 332
Series over average — Bo Gauvin +65

Thursday Mixed Tenpin
Single — John Caskey 220, Randy Schlegel 178, Barbara Choiniere 147, Janine Bolduc 128
Series — Kevin Gay 479, Sean Blake 458, Ann Hebert 454, Carol Buchanan 363



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Oxford soccer takes ‘step in the right direction’ after postseason appearance



Oxford's Edward Flores cuts toward the middle of the field while dribbling the ball toward the goal versus Sutton.



Keeper Aidan Diamond of Oxford gets low to make a save on a Sutton free kick opportunity.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

NORTHBRIDGE — For many years the Oxford High boys’ varsity soccer program would earn a couple of victories each season and miss out on the postseason tournament. It became the standard. But all that changed this fall when the Pirates went 8-5-3 in regular season play and earned a spot in the MIAA Division 5 State Championship Tournament, the first year in which a statewide tourney was played.

And Oxford, seeded 21st, pulled off a first round upset when they upended No. 12 Holbrook High, 2-1, in overtime

back on Saturday, Nov. 6. The Pirates then played No. 5 Sutton High in the Round of 16 — on Tuesday, Nov. 9 on Northbridge Middle School’s Lasell Field — where their season came to a close, losing a 3-1 decision to the Sammies.

But the culture has now changed when it comes to Oxford boys’ soccer, according to head coach Paul Frykberg. “I think it’s just a tone setter,” he said. “The expectations are there now, it’s going to be State Tournament every year.”

Sutton scored first, about 10 minutes into the game,

but the Pirates persevered and found the equalizer to make it a 1-1 game at the half. Edward Flores was the goal scorer.

“Their defender kind of misplayed and [Flores] poked it by him,” Frykberg said of the goal. “A couple moves and then left footer — on the ground and into the corner — and no one is going to save that.”

Being tied at halftime was a positive moment for the Pirates, knowing how strong a team Sutton is.

“It would have been an upset had

we won,” said Frykberg. “We played a defensive game and being 1-1 at half, everything went exactly according to plan at that point.”

But the Sammies continued their offensive onslaught and found the winning goal with 18:06 remaining. Benjamin Venuti stole the ball and passed down the field to Dillon Dussault, who served it into the box and to teammate Shea Blanchard. From there, Blanchard one-touched a shot past hard-charging Oxford keeper Aidan Diamond and into the net.

With minimal attacking chances, the Pirates were up against it. But with 8:45 to go, Flores nearly broke free past Sutton’s defense when the whistle blew, signaling an offside call.

“Hindsight, it’s all I’m going to think about for the next six months, I’m sure,” Frykberg said of playing a defensive game and not having as many chances to score.

But that strategy was necessary, and it was evident throughout most of the second half. The Sammies added a third goal with 3:42 to play when Aidan Rogan sent a 40-yard free kick down the field, which was headed in by Blanchard.

Despite the loss, Frykberg was proud of the Pirates and their 9-6-3 season.

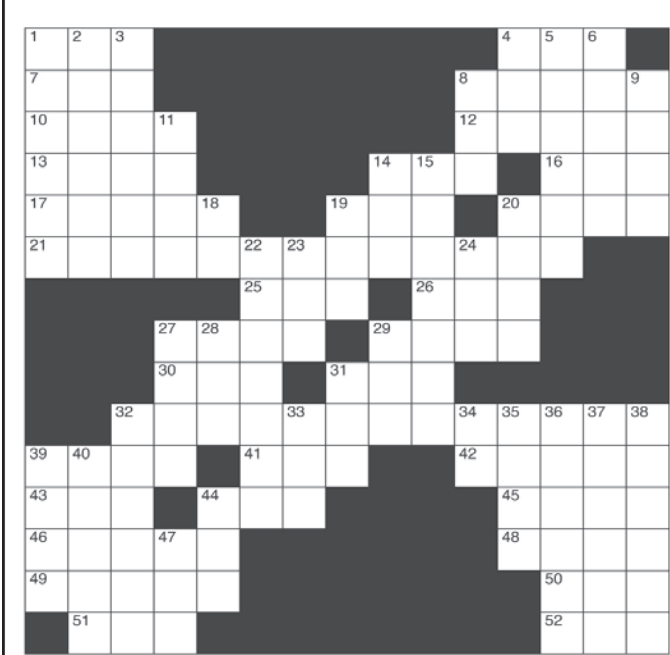
“Big-time step in the right direction,” he said. “We still have tons of youth on our side, that’s huge. We have two freshmen center mid[fielders] that are honestly the engines of the team.”

Those players are Nate Davis and Kofi Owusu, and Frykberg also touched on the play of Edward and Edwin Flores.

“Two juniors, the Flores brothers, are uber-talented. Skill and strength with those two,” he said.

Although the future of Oxford boys’ soccer is bright, Frykberg would be remiss not to mention the leadership brought on by his captains.

“I couldn’t have asked for two better senior captains, senior leaders, in Myles Craft and Sam Zostant. Those kids leave everything on the field every game,” Frykberg concluded.

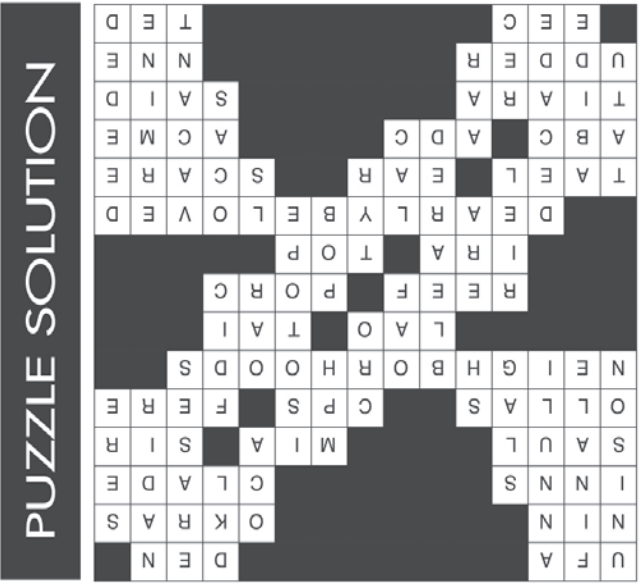


CLUES ACROSS

1. FDNY’s union
4. Hideout
7. Trent Reznor’s band
8. Old World tropics plants
10. Places to stay
12. Group of organisms from a common ancestor
13. TV character Goodman
14. Not around
16. Title of respect
17. Ceramic jars
19. British legal authority (abbr.)
20. A companion (archaic)
21. Where groups of people live
25. Indigenous person of NE Thailand
26. Red-brown sea bream
27. Ridge of jagged rock
29. Meat from a pig (French)
30. A way to save for the future
31. Opposite of bottom
32. A term of endearment
39. Weight used in China
41. You need it to hear
42. Frighten
43. Basics
44. Computer data collection (abbr.)
45. The best point of something
46. Jewelled headdress
48. Spoke
49. Mammary gland of female cattle
50. Midway between north and northeast
51. Defunct European economic group
52. Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

CLUES DOWN

1. In tune
2. Ending
3. Ring-shaped objects
4. Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
5. Removes from record
6. The lowest point
8. Plant cultivated for its tubers
9. Dry or withered
11. Stony waste matter
14. Speedometer reading
15. Each of two or more forms of the same element
18. A baseball stat
19. Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
20. Insures bank’s depositors
22. Made dim
23. Uncultured person
24. Paddle
27. Currency of Cambodia
28. Pitching stat
29. A place to put mail
31. God of battle (Scandinavian)
32. 10 years
33. Resinous substance secreted by insects
34. Losses
35. S. American plants
36. Void of thought or knowledge
37. Stout-bodied moth
38. Transferred property
39. Russian pop act
40. Accept
44. A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
47. A type of center



Oxford's Edwin Flores uses his head to advance the ball further down the field.

St. Andrew Bobola to host Holiday Bazaar

DUDLEY — St. Andrew Bobola Parish’s 2021 Holiday Bazaar will be held in the church hall at 54 West Main St., Dudley, on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. ‘til 5:30 p.m. The Rosary Sodality and Parish Council are joining forces to host an Indoor Yard Sale, a Bake Sale, a Basket Raffle and a Lottery Tree Raffle. Frozen Polish Food will also be available for take out: cabbage and cheese pierogi, golabki (stuffed cabbage), kapusta and kielbasa. All ready to defrost, heat and eat for your holiday festivities. Come and join in the fun, find a unique treasure you just can’t live without, take a chance or two on the raffles, take home some home-baked goodies and frozen Polish food for your traditional Christmas dinner!

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Boys & Girls Club Holds Craft Fair



Jason Bleau

The Lakeview Candle Company, specializing in handmade soy candles, brought a selection of their products for visitors to view.



Paint Pouring by Serina displayed a variety of unique paintings to fit anyone's unique taste



Wildest Dream Creations lived up to its name providing a wide array of different fashion items for buyers to consider.



Dresser Hill Candles, nestled in the heart of Dudley, made an appearance at the fair.



Visitors examine some products from Bill's Handcrafted Log Decorations.



As with many craft and vendor fairs, the Boys

DUDLEY – The Boys and Girls Club of Webster, Dudley held a craft and vendor fair on Saturday, Nov. 13 welcoming a wide variety of sellers to the facility. The parking lot was full for most of the day as locals visited the event to get some early Christmas shopping done and to learn more about what the Boys & Girls Club has to offer.



Young sellers from Earth's Creation Studio man their station as they await passing guests.

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$375,000, 50 Fairview Ave, Pecora, Ann M, to Disa, Julie L.
\$345,000, 7 Ridge Dr, Adamuska, Angelique, to Rodriguez, Misael J.
\$127,000, 44 Alton Dr, 4 Lots Dudley RT, and Katsikis, Haralambos, to Alves, Flavio A, and Dossantos, Sostenes.

Oxford

\$300,000, 8 Marcam Village Rd #8, Troio Mary Ann Est, and Drew, Nola, to Moffat, Diane.
\$189,900, 10 Thayer Pond Dr #9, Mancuso, Peter, to Theroux, Matthew H, and Theroux, Andrea M.
\$125,000, 29 Joe Jenny Rd, Petrowsky, Joseph, to Geldbaum LLC.

Webster

\$572,000, 11 Mikes Way, Scolaro IRT, and Scolaro, Martin J, to Picard, Meghan, and Picard, Heath.
\$395,000, 190 Lower Gore Rd, 190 Lower Gore Road NT, and Conner Land T LLC Tr, to Lamothe, Nicholas F, and Lamothe, Karissa M.
\$310,000, 18 Vecchia St, Reed, Joseph D, to Gonzalez, Gerardo J.

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Adult Programming

Fall Concert Series – Claudia Schmidt – November 13th 2:00PM

Claudia Schmidt has been perfecting her craft of performing for almost four decades. It is a quirky and wonderful hodge-podge (her word!) of music, poetry, story, laughter, drama, and celebrating the moment. Work in clubs, theaters, festivals, TV, radio has added depth and dimension, and since she has always included her original work along with very personal versions of the work of others, what you get is a unique look at the world from someone who says what she sees with clarity, humor, and wonder. The San

Francisco Bay Guardian said: Schmidt's shows are a lot like falling in love. You never know what's going to happen next, chances are it's going to be wonderful, every moment is burned into your memory and you know you'll never be the same again." More succinctly, Garrison Keillor said "when Claudia sings a song, it stays sung"

Book Discussion Group – November 15th 6:30PM

The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! Next month's book discussion will be on Monday, November 15th at 6:30PM the meeting will take place via Zoom, and will be about the book The Other Einstein by Marie

Benedict. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmars.org for inquiries.

Indoor Movie Night – Third Thursday of the month, next on November 18th at 6:00PM

Join us monthly on the third Thursday of each month as we show a new release film. We'll make theatre-style popcorn for you to enjoy! The film selection changes each month, call the Library for this month's title: 508-949-3880.

Jean Walker Painting Class – December 2nd at 6:00PM

Join us as we host a painting party, featuring a Holiday scene. All the supplies are provided, simply bring your creativity and maybe a

friend! Space is limited to 25 people, registration is required. To register, call 508-949-3880 beginning November 12th at 9am.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

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

From October 11 to December 20, sign up at: gladyskellylibrary.beanstack.org, or download the Beanstack app on iOS or Android. Join this fun reading program for kids 0-12. Earn digital badges as you log reading, earn digital badges for attending library events, and earn book prizes by reading! Read 10 hours to complete the program. This new online reading platform has an

app that is easy to download and use. Along with the app/website, you can also ask for a paper version. Questions? Contact Andrew at atai@cwmars.org.

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

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

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

LEGO Club – Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30PM

LEGO Club is back, and we're so excited to have you build with us again. Stop by the story-time room every Tuesday

at 3:30 to freeplay with our BUCKETLOADS of LEGOs or try out our weekly challenge!

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

Songs and Stories Storytime – Wednesdays at 10AM

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

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

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Nov. 7-13.

Israel Morales, age 35, of Worcester was arrested on Nov. 7 in connection with a warrant.

Giany Rivera, age 27, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 7 in connection with a warrant.

Marek Starsiak, age 34, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 7 in connection with a warrant.

Jamar Raheem Austell, age 32, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 7 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 32-year-old male from Webster was arrested on Nov. 7 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Operating a Motor Vehicle after having his License Revoked as HTO. A 31-year-old female from Webster was issued a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Lynn Kampersol, age 66, of Southbridge was arrested on Nov. 8 in connection with a warrant.

Lisa Michelle Murray, age 42, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 9 in connection with a warrant.

Hilda M. Rosado, age 51, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 9 in connection with a warrant.

Brian Taylro Schofield, age 54, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 9 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (third offense) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Jacob Charles Bugajski, age 21, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 10 for Operating Under the Influence of Drugs and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.

Joseph N. Bottis, age 38, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 10 for Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official, and Walking or Riding on a Railroad Track.

Jesslyn N. Peperato, age 23, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 10 for Distribution of a Class B Drug.

Justin A. Lachance, age 26, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 11 for Failure to Stop for Police and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Charles Joseph McLaughlin, Jr., age 64, of Auburn was arrested on Nov. 11 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (second offense), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

Justin M. Bois, age 37, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 12 in connection with a warrant.

Randy M. Denham, age 29, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 12 in connection with a warrant.

Kristen Marie Groccia, age 39, of Holland was arrested on Nov. 13 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Joseph T. Murphy, age 26, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 13 for Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Resisting Arrest, and Assault & Battery on a Police Officer. Brittany Barry, age 24, of Webster was arrested during the same incident for Resisting Arrest, Disturbing the Peace, and Disorderly Conduct.

Jonathan E. Gouin, age 41, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 13 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

STEAM Kids – Thursdays from 3:30-4:30PM

Join Miss Emily in a weekly STEAM event. That is... Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics! Each week there will be a new project to tackle from slime making and catapult challenges, to board game development and bath bombs. Every week contains some take home element!

These events are best for children 7-12, but siblings are always welcome. Some events may have a limited number of places, in this case children between 7-12 will have preference. Caregivers must remain for the duration of the event.

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

Community Connection

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

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Don't be a source of misinformation

There is never a good excuse to not be informed about what is happening in your town or school district. In this day and age, with technology at our fingertips, information is readily available in a matter of seconds. Public hearings are always posted in local papers, town halls and libraries as well. Minutes from meetings are also easily accessible on town and district websites. School districts are constantly emailing information home to parents on a daily basis. Finding information could also be as simple as calling a family member or friend who tends to always be in the know. If people remain unaware of what is going on, they only have themselves to blame.

Further, do not post misinformation on social media. If you don't understand a situation completely, refrain from posting about it, until you do, unless of course your post is an inquiry. Posting misinformation does two things — it makes you look uninformed and unintelligent, and second, it passes on misinformation to others who might believe that what you're posting is true. Fact check or find out more information before blindly posting things you know nothing about. Would you give a book report without first reading the book?

While being informed is key to being a productive member of your community, keep in mind to not overwhelm yourself with too much negative news. Be sure to check the news twice a day, then turn it off. Now, if you're a news junkie, and are unaffected by too much negativity, then of course, have at it.

Be sure to avoid news on social media as it's often biased and filled with misinformation. Make sure your news sources are reliable.

Experts say that when people consume too much information, it's hard to process it in a meaningful way. It can also make it difficult to remember all of the facts. In order to properly think about new information, you need time to process it and compare it with other facts you know. You need time to reflect and form an idea or opinion that logically makes sense.

Instead of letting hours go by doom-scrolling, spend some time outdoors or with friends and neighbors. By doing so, you're engaging with fellow Americans in a positive, productive way.

LETTERS

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We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

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Mail your letters to the Webster Times, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.


You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



VIEWPOINT

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

Giving thanks in all circumstances

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”



Re-read these words from Holy Scripture - the will of God for us is to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give to give thanks in all circumstances.”

God's will for us is to be connected with Him in prayer, and thus be filled with joy and thanksgiving. His will is not for us to complain about life, to grumble about what we don't have, to whine about our circumstances, or to compare how others may have something we don't. Our Lord Jesus wants us to face life with joy – His deep, inner joy that abides despite any disappointments and struggles. Christ wants us to confront life not with pessimism and negativity, but with thanksgiving and gratitude!

How beautiful it is to live lives of gratitude and thanksgiving. Living with such a spirit transforms our whole perspective on life. We won't focus on what we don't have, or on what others have. Instead, we thank God for each and every blessing and strive to share those blessings with those who don't have what we have! We understand life itself as the greatest gift - the world around us; nature and beauty; love and family and friends; health and well-being; our Lord Jesus Christ and His beloved Church; faith and the meaning of life it gives us; the opportunity to experience the Kingdom of God here and now. Life is the most precious gift and we thank God daily for all His blessings.

Living lives of gratitude means even giving thanks to God when we face the unexpected and tumultuous challenges and tragedies of life, for when we face life's challenges with gratitude, we will learn new perspectives and grow to new heights.

I remember watching a “CNN Heroes” program which highlighted a woman who was a breast cancer survivor: “When I faced this challenge in my life,” she said, “I didn't ask God “Why Me?” but

instead “What for?” And then I discovered how I could turn this challenge around into a blessing for others!” She responded by realizing how women don't have health insurance, and because of this, never do any testing to detect early stages of cancer. As a result of her own illness, she began mobilizing volunteers who go door to door throughout low income neighborhoods – to tens of thousands of homes – offering to these women free testing to help them detect early stages of cancer.

Not ‘why me’ but ‘what for!’ That reflects an attitude of gratitude!

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Here is an important secret of life, and an imperative attitude for the Christian journey. If we learn to rejoice always, and give thanks in all circumstances, then we will be people filled with a positive spirit. No problem can ever overwhelm us. Nothing will defeat us. We won't allow the negative and unexpected events of life to control us.

We will have cultivated an attitude of gratitude.

Of course, this isn't always easy. Our problem is that we forget to rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances. In fact, we often are tempted to do the very opposite. We complain. We worry. We get anxious. We become angry. We forget about God's role in our lives and ignore the greatest source of comfort and inspiration – our faith.

In order to cultivate gratitude as an ongoing perspective of life, we have to understand gratitude not as a spontaneous emotion, but as a spiritual discipline to be lived every day. As Henri Nouwen taught, “The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and all I have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated.”

Just like with other spiritual disciplines, it takes effort. Christ teaches us to forgive one another even up to 70 x 7. We are called to forgive even love our worst enemies. This

is surely one of the most challenging commandments and disciplines in our lives. When we forgive and love in such a manner, it isn't simply an emotion that naturally pops up in our lives. It is a discipline which we cultivate, and then we learn to forgive even when our emotions don't agree with our actions. In fact, this is how we develop all our spiritual disciplines, whether of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving.


In like manner, we develop a daily discipline to look for ways to express our gratitude. We develop “eyes of gratitude.” We see everything in life as a gift from God, and learn to thank Him continuously throughout the day for things both small and great. When we are tempted to look at something as a problem, a nuisance, a matter of great anxiety and worry, we instead put on our “eyes of gratitude” and thank God for whatever new challenge He has placed in our lives. Without God the problem may be a serious issue. With God, we remember that all things are possible, and that He is with us in the midst of whatever we face. And thus, we can express gratitude. We can “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

We understand an example of how to cultivate these “eyes of gratitude” from Saint Paisios the Athonite. Compare the fly with the bumble bee. The fly will go into a garden with many beautiful flowers and be attracted to a pile of feces in the midst of the beautiful flowers. In contrast, the bumble bee will go into a garbage heap, with all kinds of rotting trash, and yet, if there is a rose or beautiful flower somewhere near that heap, the bee will fly to it and spend its time around what is beautiful.

The fly is attracted to the waste of this world, while the bee discovers the rose in the midst of trash and gives thanks.

Let us cultivate our own eyes to see the roses of life that are all around us. Let us constantly be aware and offer thanks for the blessings seen and unseen that surround us in our lives. And in this way, let us “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances” remembering that this is “the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Managing your retirement plan under a new employer



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a valuable asset. But sometimes things happen that can affect the status of your plan. So, for example, if you work for a hospital that changes ownership, and you have been participating in a 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) retirement plan, what should you do with it now?

Basically, you have four options:

Cash out your plan
You can simply cash out your plan and take the money, but you'll have to pay taxes on it, and possibly penalties as well. So, unless you really need the funds and you have no other alternative, you may want to avoid liquidating your account.

Roll your account into your new employer's plan

If it's allowed, you can roll over your old 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan. Before making this move, you'll want to look at the new plan's investment options (which should be numerous) and fees (which should be low). If you move the money directly to the new plan, you won't be taxed at the time of the transfer, and your funds can continue to grow tax-deferred.

Leave your plan with your old employer

If your account balance is above a certain level, you may be able to leave your plan with your old employer's plan administrator. You won't be able to contribute any more money to the plan, but if you like the investment options you've chosen, keeping the money in your old plan might be a viable choice.

Move your account into a traditional IRA

One possible advantage to moving your 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) into a traditional IRA is you'll open up a world of new investment options, because you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of vehicle, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and exchange-traded funds. And if you already have a traditional IRA, you can combine the new funds with the old ones, making it easier to track your holdings. As is the case with leaving your money in your old employer's plan or transferring it to a new plan, you'll continue to benefit from tax-deferred growth. Keep in mind, though, that IRAs have costs, too, possibly including transaction costs to buy or sell new investments. (One more thing to keep in mind: When you want to move a retirement plan to an IRA, you may want to make a direct rollover, so the old plan's administrator moves the money directly into the IRA, allowing you to avoid immediate taxes. If you were to make an indirect rollover, you'd get the money yourself, but your old employer would have to deduct 20% for federal taxes, and you'd have to deposit the entire balance, including the withholding, into your IRA within 60 days.)

Which of these choices is best for you? There's no one “right” answer for everyone. You'll want to consider all the options and possibly consult with your tax advisor and financial professional. But do all you can to protect your retirement plan – you've worked hard to build it, and you'll need to rely on it to help you pay for your years as a retiree.

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.

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news@stonebridgepress.news



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our children will pay the price for our greed

To the Editor:
It is with utter dismay that our world leaders, who all well understand and acknowledge the existential threat that climate change will pose to all of us, are so addicted to the money and power that fossil fuels gives them, that they can walk away from COP26 in Glasgow without any consensus to end this insanity. Even the dinosaurs managed to keep the planet livable for over 140 million years, but homo sapiens are about to destroy it all, having been around for just a fraction of that time, maybe 20,000 years. Who is smarter?

It is not like we do not have the financial or technical assets to solve this problem. We are supposed to be the world leaders on what is morally right, yet we could not even join other coun-

tries to stop using coal, probably the worst CO2 emitting way to produce electricity. Even in our own state, where the Governor signed on to a 2050 roadmap to reach net zero, he has consistently been a cohort to environmental criminals by signing off on fossil fuel power plants and pipeline infrastructures, that have a lifespan that will take us well beyond the 29 years to 2050. If we do not start now, we will never get to finish line in time to stop a catastrophe.

People are already dying, but unless the grownups in the room start taking some action real soon, it is our children and grandchildren that will have to pay the price for our greed today.

GERRY FRANK DUDLEY

Field dressing your deer

As deer hunting goes into full mode on Nov. 29 for shotgun this year, many hunters are eager to head out into the woods in search of their trophy buck while others will be happy to harvest any deer that is legal game. Not every deer hunter is looking for a trophy, and are just happy to harvest a deer to pack some venison into their freezer for the coming months. The old story that venison is better eating for you than farm raised meat is repeated every year, and may be true.

For those that dislike venison, they more than likely have never tried, it or were given venison that was improperly handled and processed. It all starts in the field! Field dressing is where most venison is ruined with the improper handling and knowledge of the cleaning process. The inner parts of the deer need to be carefully removed without breaking the urinary sack or the stomach.

It is best to have two men lay the deer upside down one holding the legs apart while the other carefully make an incision from the chest cavity to within six inches of the



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

urinary sack. Carefully reaching up into the chest cavity using a sharp knife and gloves, you can slowly cut the heart and liver free. Continue cutting the inner parts free of the cavity until enough is loose. Rolling the deer onto the side you can extract most of the inner parts by carefully pulling on them and cutting them free. Removing the urinary sack can be done while slowly cutting around the sack, being careful not to spill any on the meat. There are videos on YouTube on field dressing your deer, and they can ensure you that you do it properly.

Now that you have a deer to remove from the woods, you should be in good shape to drag the deer out to your car. If not, you need to get help. Deer carriers also work well, but an extra hand from a friend makes things a lot easier.

Wait! You forgot to wrap up the deer liver

and heart for transport. These two organs are delicious to eat, and should not be left behind for the wild animals. If you do not eat them, give them to a friend or local Rod & Gun Club for their wild game supper.

Hanging the harvested deer for a few days in a cooler will improve the taste of the meat, but you need to ensure the deer is kept cool until processing. Never hang a deer in a tree, especially if rain is predicted. I hung my first deer in a pine tree for a few days. It rained a couple of the days, but I did not think it would hurt to hang it there. When I started to process my deer, I brought a couple of steaks into the house for supper. All of the meat was tainted with pine sap, and it tasted as though it was soaked in turpentine! What a waste!

Many hunters bring their deer to a meat processor, and have it properly cut to their specifications. Roasts, steaks, sausage, hamburger & stew meat are going to supply your family and friends with some good eating in the coming months, but it needs to be properly cared for and processed. It is best to use a vacuum packaging



Courtesy
This week's picture shows Jeff Graves with a salmon he caught a few weeks ago on the Salmon River. Fishing was slow but everyone had a great time.

machine for all meats and fish. One of the top-rated machines are the Nesco VS-12 from Amazon which cost \$100. The Mueller Austria Vacuum Sealer is a bit cheaper, at \$60 from Amazon.

You can also freezer wrap your meat in a good freezer wrapping, ensuring that you squeeze all of the air out, which is responsible for freezer burn. Be sure to label all of your meat before placing it in the freezer. If properly processed and wrapped with freezer wrap, your meat should stay good for at least six to 10 months. With the cost of meat rising every day, a freezer full of venison will keep your family well fed. Do not forget to share some venison with the landowner!

Rabbit hunting locally is providing a bit of hunt-

ing for hunters that own a good beagle. The upswing in rabbit populations this year is promising a better season for the once popular sport, and they are good eating. Snowshoe hare are still providing some hunting North And West of the valley.

Take a kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Coffee Hailed as “Virtuous Vice”

The humble cup of coffee.

It's a simple pleasure that baristas elevate to an art, painters depict on canvas, and philosophers have sung the praises of throughout the ages. So what's so virtuous about the everyday cup of Joe we sip every morning? Plenty, according to reliable health studies which show a steaming mug of java may go way beyond a satisfying pick-me-upper. If your daily dose of caffeine has become nothing more than a breakfast ritual, the following coffee facts may prove to be more of an eye opener than that morning cup of coffee!

* Joe Jogs Memory: If you love your coffee, you now have another excuse to drink high octane java! Here's the latest buzz on caffeine: A cup of joe can jog your memory, especially if you're over age 65, say researchers at the University of Arizona. In a study, memory performance declined significantly between morning and afternoon in seniors who didn't drink coffee or drank decaf. Those who had a cup of the high octane stuff showed no such effect.

* Doge Diabetes: According to WebMD, one to three cups of coffee per day can reduce risk for diabetes by up to nine percent. Up the cups to six or more daily and men's risk for diabetes is cut by 54%, while woman's is reduced by 30% as compared to non coffee drinkers.

Further, a 2018 study of adults aged 20-70 years with low levels of coffee consumption (the majority consuming 1 cup of coffee per week) suggested that a lower risk of both pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes was observed in coffee drinkers compared to non-drinkers.

* Drink to Think: A decades long study by the University of Bristol revealed coffee drinkers really may be better thinkers! The report said a cup of coffee can help in the performance of tasks, requiring sustained attention. It further helped enhance a person's ability to perform these tasks, during

low alertness situations such as at night or when a person has a cold.

* Buzz Boost: Did you know a safe caffeine buzz can give your workout a boost? According to the American College of Sports Medicine, consuming caffeine equivalent of between two to six cups of coffee one hour prior to exercise, increased both the endurance and performance of athletes during both prolonged and short-term exercise sessions. If you drink caffeinated beverages, drinking one before your workout may help you run or walk a little farther or cycle a little longer. Studies have shown that moderate caffeine intake about 300 milligrams, the equivalent of three cups of drip coffee, may be safe in most adults. But be sure to drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to remain adequately hydrated.

** Jovial Java: Are you aware caffeine can also be an effective antidepressant? Just don't drink more than a couple of cups of coffee a day or the effect can be counter-productive.

* Steam Therapy: Taken in normal doses, caffeine has shown to have several other beneficial effects: Home remedy books advise drinking a cup of hot steaming coffee to suppress an asthma attack while waiting for proper medicine to kick in. The caffeine acts on the bronchial tubes contributing to the expansion of the muscles, thus relieving the severity of the attack in some cases.

* Halt Headaches: Before you reach for a pain pill, try drinking a cup of strong coffee to combat your migraine or tension headaches. Caffeine has long been used in over the counter pain relief products because it dilates the blood vessels, helping to relieve migraine pain. In addition, coffee is a diuretic, helping to eliminate toxic substances from the body.

** Java Rx: Did you know medical data shows coffee is rich in antioxidants? In fact, a well known



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

study from the University of Scranton proclaimed coffee America's number one source of health boosting antioxidants! Here's the scoop: The beneficial "free radical sweepers" are also found in coffee aroma after brewing. According to research carried out in Switzerland by the Lausanne-based Nestle Research Center, consuming coffee up until 20 minutes after brewing will deliver 300 phytochemicals, (antioxidants), and can stay in the human system up to one month.

Prefer your coffee sans the caffeine? You'll reap the same health rewards as decaf has the same antioxidant benefits as regular coffee!

* Reduced Risks: Several studies indicate that people who drink coffee on a regular basis are up to 80% less likely to develop Parkinson's disease. According to research performed at Vanderbilt University's Institute for Coffee Studies, it's the caffeine that offers the protection. In fact, VU reported based on this evidence drugs to treat Parkinson's, containing a derivative of caffeine are currently being developed.

Want more? Additional research reveals compared to not drinking coffee, at least two cups of coffee daily can translate to a 25% reduced risk of colon cancer, a significant drop in liver cirrhosis risk, and nearly half the risk of gallstones!

*** 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.

FCC Oxford to hold annual Holiday Tea Saturday

OXFORD — The First Congregational church of Oxford will host its Annual Holiday Tea and Gift Center Saturday, Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Luncheon starts at 10:30 a.m. Tea and goodies available all day. For more information, go to www.firstchurchoxford.com.

Friday's Child



Photo by Shaanon Cabral

Liana
Age 15

Hi! My name is Liana and country music is my favorite!

Liana is a talkative girl of Caucasian descent who loves reading and writing. She even hopes to become an author when she grows up! Liana is also interested in arts and crafts projects, and her favorite genre of music is country. In school, Liana has developed a great deal of confidence in her-self, and her teachers report she is doing well.

Liana is legally free for adoption and can be placed in an active one or two-parent family where there is at least

one female caretaker. She should either be the youngest or only child. The ideal family for Liana is one that is patient and provides consistent structure and follow-through in her everyday life. It would also be beneficial if her future family maintained some level of contact between Liana and her sister.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



Tips for buying antiques and collectibles

In my recent columns, I offered tips for selling your antiques and collectibles. I realize many of you enjoy the thrill of hunting for items for your collections, so today's column will focus on tips for collectors.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

I received a question at a recent presentation which made me think more about how collectors can find items for their collections. The person who asked the questions collects pocket watches. He said that he frequently goes to estate sales and tag sales but only occasionally finds pocket watches. When he goes to antique shops, he sometimes finds booths that are full of pocket watches and wonders how dealers are able to find large collections of watches that can fill a booth in an antique shop.

Whether you are collecting pocket watches or have a different item you're hunting for, there are some things you can do to improve your odds of making that next great find. I'll discuss pocket watches in this column because that's what the person who asked the question was interest-

ed in, but these tips apply to any type of antique or collectible.

The most important step is to learn as much as you can about the items you are interested in collecting. You can find books on almost any area of collecting to increase your knowledge. You can also find plenty of websites full of information. For example, a web search for "collecting pocket watches" produced nearly eight million results. Many dealers like sharing their knowledge and passion for what they sell. If you find someone who specializes in what you collect and it is a slow time during a show, they'll likely be very happy to answer your questions and offer advice to a fellow collector. If there is something specific that you collect, they may even contact you if they happen to find items that may interest you.

When I answered the question about where dealers get their inventory, I explained that there are many different ways and dealers often use a combination of methods to acquire items. Some

dealers are also collectors and sell items for extra cash to purchase items for themselves. Many purchase items from estate sales and auctions. When people see that a dealer at a show or in a shop specializes in specific such as pocket watches, they may be inclined to bring their watches specifically to that dealer to sell.

My advice for collectors who are looking for specific items is to cast a wide net in your search. Visit local antique shops and speak with the owners. Go to estate sales, tag sales and flea markets. Websites like estate-sales.net and estatesales.org list local sales. These sales are primarily run by estate sale companies, but you can find smaller sales run by individuals in the classified ads of this publication and other newspapers. You can also find live and online auctions on auctionzip.com.

Before I became an auctioneer, I spent Saturday mornings at estate and yard sales and Sundays at flea markets and antique shows looking for things for my personal collection. I rarely found the local sports and railroad memorabilia that I was looking for, but I was able to find many other



items that other collectors might be interested in. I sold items I didn't collect and had some additional funds to buy things for my collection. Even though the weather is getting cooler, there are still plenty of sales running and you can always buy or bid online. Happy hunting!

online auctions running. Session I with gold jewelry, diamonds, gold coins and Rolex watches ends Nov. 30. Session II with sterling silver, paintings and other artwork, silver coins, sports cards, comic books and other antiques and collectibles ends on December 1st. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: [https://central-](https://central-massauctions.com)

massauctions.com

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

We currently have two

LEGALS

TOWN OF DUDLEY Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter in Room 321A at the Dudley Municipal Complex Building, located at 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA, regarding real estate tax classification. Selectmen will be asked by the Dudley Board of Assessors to select a residential factor which will determine the percentages of the tax burden to be borne by each class of properties in the town for FY2022. Written and oral comments will be accepted from the public during this meeting. November 19, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO21P3585GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Kaighden Aleczaender Bedard
of Oxford, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **11/01/2021** by **Christian M Bedard of Oxford, MA** and **Mark A Bedard of Oxford, MA** will be held **11/23/2021 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located Worcester Probate and Family Court.
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right

to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: November 2, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 19, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO21P3268GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
James Newell
of East Douglas, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **09/30/2021** by **Karen Newell of East Douglas, MA** and **Mark Towle, Jr. of East Douglas, MA** will be held **01/07/2022 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **CR1, Worcester Probate & Family Court, 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: November 5, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 19, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO21P3621EA
Estate of:**

**Alexander Tsouvalos
Date Of Death: 0September 23, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Corrine Tsouvalos of Webster MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Corrine Tsouvalos of Webster MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory

and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
November 19, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P0629EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
Daryl Ronald Faneuf
Date of Death: 01/05/2021**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by:
Donna M. Oliver of Woodstock CT and **Erin M. Healy of Quinebaug CT** requesting that court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
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 12/07/2021.** 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.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 01, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 19, 2021

TRUST YOUR NEIGHBORS ~ StonebridgePress.com



Mums, a traditional fall favorite

The rich colors and fall bloom of Chrysanthemums represent fall for many. It's also the November birth flower symbolizing cheerfulness, optimism, and friendship. Add a few to your indoor décor and help improve the indoor air quality in your home.

This traditional favorite is often overlooked for other newer introductions. Mums' long vase life, variety of flower shapes, and array of colors have helped it maintain a role in flower arrangements, gift plant sales and fall gardens.

These plants begin to flower based on day length. As days shorten and nights lengthen, the plants begin to flower. Those grown as gift plants, often called florist mums, or for cut flowers usually require the longest periods of uninterrupted darkness or shorter days. Growers can force them into bloom any time of the year by covering them to create the shorter days that initiate flowering. When these mums are grown under natural daylight they flower in late fall or early winter.

Maximize your enjoyment of potted gift mums by selecting plants with deep green leaves and only a few open flowers. Then enjoy watching the remaining

buds burst into bloom.

Place the plant in a cool, brightly lit location free of drafts that can cause buds to drop. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water. Or reduce maintenance by placing pebbles in the bottom of the foil wrap, decorative basket, or saucer. The excess water collects in the pebbles below the pot and eventually evaporates, increasing the humidity around the plant.

Remove faded flowers to keep your plant looking its best. Once it's done blooming, you can enjoy the greenery or add the plant to the compost pile. Keep in mind florist mums may not thrive or flower in the garden like those sold as hardy or garden mums.

Grow mums headed to the garden in a sunny window and water the soil thoroughly whenever it starts to dry. Wait for the danger of frost to pass before moving the mum outdoors. Pinch the plant back to four to six inches throughout June to keep it tidy and compact. Those with long growing seasons can



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

continue pinching plants through mid July. If lucky, you will have flowers before the snow flies.

Next year, consider planting a few mums in the garden for an added blast of fall color. Garden mums are sold at nurseries and garden centers each fall. They may be hardy and suited to the area, but all the energy is directed to the flowers. This leaves little to establish a hardy robust root system for winter survival.

Those sold as perennial mums are usually hardy enough to survive the winter and flower early enough to provide weeks of color in the garden. Increase your success by planting them in spring. This allows the plant time to develop a robust root system before it begins flowering in the fall.

As the holidays approach, celebrate the season with a potted chrysanthemum or a few flowering stems. Then plan on adding some perennial mums to your garden next summer.

Melinda Myers has written more



Melinda Myers

Mums add beauty and fall color whether growing them indoors or in the garden.

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

PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave.,
Dudley, MA 01571 ~ 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.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GROUP

Mondays @ 5:00PM

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

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

Free; registration required.

POKEMON CLUB

Tuesdays @ 3:30PM

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

LEGO CHALLENGE CLUB

Wednesdays @ 3:30PM

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

ADULT BOOK GROUP ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Monday, November 15 6:00PM-7:00PM

Are you interested in joining our adult book group? Come to this meeting to help plan which titles we'll read and when we'll schedule our regular meetings.

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

MUSIC TIME WITH DEB HUDGINS

Thursday, November 18 10:30AM-11:00AM

Join Deb Hudgins for this thirty minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, stories, and more!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES

Friday, November 19 11:00AM-12:00AM

Music, songs, and movement designed for ages 3-6!

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

ADULT CRAFT WORKSHOP: MAKE A HOLIDAY CRAFT

Saturday, November 20 10:30AM-noon

Join Library staff for a fun crafting workshop where you'll have the opportunity to make a variety of holiday crafts. All supplies will be provided – just bring your creativity!

Free, but space is limited, so please register. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

BAUBLES AND BLING SALE

Friday December 3 and Saturday December 4

Support the Friends of the Library and do some holiday shopping at the Baubles and Bling sale, featuring a wide assortment of new and gently used jewelry including necklaces, bracelets, brooches, rungs, earrings, and jewelry boxes.

Have some jewelry that you no longer wear? Donate it to the Friends by dropping it off at the library before November 15th.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, December 6 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.

HEALING OILS OF THE BIBLE

Thursday, December 9 6:00PM-7:45PM

In the Bible, there are more than five hundred references to aromatic plants. Join us as anthropologist Christal Whelan presents the plants most valued in the ancient Middle East through relevant passages in the Bible. Essential oils extracted from these key plants were used for religious ceremonies, anointing kings, healing the sick, embalming the dead, and as perfumes and ointments.

Participants will have

the opportunity to sample twelve therapeutic-grade essential oils chosen to highlight the rich diversity of cultures, races, and ethnicities of the Biblical world and each participant will receive a kit with their own samples of oils to enjoy.

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

TEEN CANDY BINGO

Monday, December 13 6:00PM-7:00PM

All teens are welcome to come play candy bingo. We'll have pizza and soda too!

Free; open to ages 13-18. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

MUSIC TIME WITH DEB HUDGINS

Thursday, December 16 10:30AM-11:00AM

Join Deb Hudgins for this thirty minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, stories, and more! This program will be held via Zoom. Registered participants will receive the link 24 hours before the program.

Free; registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES

Friday, December 17 11:00AM-12:00AM

Music, songs, and movement designed for ages 3-6!

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, January 3 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.

YOGA WITH JULIE

Saturday, January 8 11:30AM-12:30AM

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

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

LEGO MASTER BUILDER DAN STEININGER

Monday, January 10 6:00PM-7:00PM

Dan Steininger is one of only eight official LEGO Master Builders

in the entire world and he wants to share what it's like to have his dream job. He uses humor, great storytelling, and hands on building to entertain and inspire.

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

REDUCING PAIN NATURALLY

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

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

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.

YOGA WITH JULIE

Saturday, February 5 11:30AM-12:30AM

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

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by 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.

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.

Maria Mironidis of Oxford is appointed to the inaugural Nichols College Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY — Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, has appointed Maria Mironidis of Oxford, MA as on of the 31 students to the inaugural Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC).

NSAC comprises students who have played significant leadership roles in the Nichols community. Their role is to advise the president and senior administration on issues related to the senior class and the college in general. In monthly meetings, the council will discuss plans, initiatives, and trends and issues in higher education.

"In addition to helping Nichols become a leader in higher education and enhance the overall experience for the community, NSAC participants will develop the communication skills that are vital to career advancement," said President Sulmasy.

He reported receiving an "overwhelming number" of nominations for this first council, adding, "These students should be quite proud of this appointment."

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.

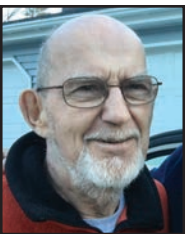


StonebridgePress.com

News, really close to home

OBITUARIES

Allen E. Cutty, 84



Allen E. Cutty, 84, of Webster died Saturday, November 6th in Harrington Hospital. He leaves his loving wife and best friend of 50 years, Frances (Daley) Cutty; and several nieces and nephews he was very fond of. He was predeceased by his ten siblings.

He was a 1955 graduate of South High School where he played football all four years; baseball his junior and senior years; and was a member of the Curtain Call Club. Allen was a veteran of the United States Air Force serv-

ing in England as a Statistical Clerk.

Allen worked for the City of Worcester for 22 years at Worcester City Hospital in the Computer Department as a Computer Operator, retiring in 1990.

Funeral services and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. O’CONNOR BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, 592 Park Avenue, Worcester is assisting the family with arrangements. To share a memory or leave a message of condolence please visit oconnorbrothers.com



Geraldine J. “Gerri” Siegmund 84



Dudley-Geraldine J. “Gerri” (Rothenburg) Siegmund 84, left this earth November 9, 2021 peacefully in her home. She was born in Webster; May 22, 1937 daughter of the late Irwin and Esther (Whalen) Rothenburg.

She leaves her daughter Karen A. Siegmund with whom she lived, a son Paul D. Siegmund and his wife Darlene and her grand-daughter Ami Siegmund, her

Former daughter-in-law Cindy Siegmund, her aunt Barbara Steege, cousin Brenda Geron, sister-in-law Judy Siegmund and her close friends Sheila Dudek, Merle Hultberg, Patty Smith and her oldest friend Jim Jodoin.

Gerri was predeceased by her husband of 61 years Paul R. ‘Dick’ Siegmund who died in 2019 and a son Brian K. Siegmund and a brother James Rothenburg.

Gerri was a graduate of Bartlett High School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital School of Nursing and attended Boston University as a Registered Nurse. She worked at Hubbard Regional Hospital and Harrington Memorial Hospital and later at Webster Manor Nursing Home.

She was a life- long member of Zion Lutheran Church, and was a kind, compassionate woman.

There are no calling hours.

Funeral Services at her request will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Second Chance Animal Services Adoption Center, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield, MA. 01515.

The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School St., Webster has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

To send an on-line condolence or share a memory of Gerri, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

Hazel S. Prouty, 95

OXFORD – Hazel S. (Strader) Prouty, 95, died Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the Overlook Masonic Health Center in Charlton. She was predeceased by her husband of 48 years, Donald O. Prouty who died in 1993. She is survived by her daughter, Cynthia L. Boisjolie and her husband Armand of Spencer; her brother, Donald K. Strader of Oxford; two grandchildren, Michelle Muise and her husband Jason, and their children Cameron, Colin, and Addison, and her granddaughter Amanda Comptois, and her children Hannah and Reilly; and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by a sister, Marion L. Matthews of Florida who died in 2018. She was born in Oxford, daughter of the late Lorne B. and Ellen L. (Keith) Strader, and was a lifelong resident of Oxford. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1944.

Mrs. Prouty worked in the cafeteria at Oxford and Sutton Public Schools for many years prior to retirement.

During World War II, she worked at Chaffee Brothers in Oxford making boxes for bombs used in the war. She was a longtime member of the Oxford United Methodist Church in Oxford, and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star – Clara Barton Chapter in Oxford for over 50 years. Mrs. Prouty was a member of the former Oxford Grange, the Auburn Grange, and the Pomona Grange. She was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed sewing.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Overlook Masonic Health Center, especially Kristin, Pat, and Dave, for the exceptional care given during her time there.

A private graveside service will be held at North Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oxford United Methodist Church, 465 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Norman J. Deptula, 91



WEBSTER – Norman J. Deptula, 91, passed away Sunday, November 7, 2021 in UMASS Medical Center in Worcester after a brief illness.

He leaves his wife of 59 years, Margaret (Hostak) Deptula; a nephew, Jeff Leonard; 3 nieces, Jane and Amy Leonard, and Edie McCausland. He was preceded in death by his sister Irene (Deptula) Leonard.

He was born in Clinton on November 8, 1929, the son of Joseph and Helen (Blaszczak) Deptula and moved to Webster in 1934. He graduated from Saint Joseph Parochial School in 1943 and from Bartlett High School in 1947.

Following his graduation from high school, Mr. Deptula enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 581st Signal Radio Relay Company. He participated in five major battles, including the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal with five battle stars, United Nations Medal for service in Korea, Korean War Service Medal, United States Navy Presidential Unit Citation, South Korean Presidential Unit Citation and Meritorious Unit Commendation. He attained the rank of corporal and was awarded an honorable discharge.

Upon leaving the service, he continued his education and received a bachelor degree from Boston University in 1956 and a master’s degree from Worcester State University in 1959. Norman taught in the Webster school system from 1956 until his retirement in 1990.

He was very active in the local Veteran’s community and held Life Memberships and Educational and Scholarship Chairmanships for forty years in the American Legion, Webster-Dudley Post Number 184, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post Number 654, and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter Number 53. He was also a member of the “Band of Brothers,” a detachment of members of the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council that provides military honors, a final salute to deceased veterans. In addition Norm was a founding member of the Chosin Few and the secretary/ treasurer and newsletter editor of its New England Chapter.

He enjoyed traveling with his wife Margaret and, in addition to being a talented writer, he was an accomplished violinist and a member of Father Pete’s Orchestra. In his spare time, he enjoyed working around his property, splitting wood, raking leaves, mowing the lawn and clearing snow.

Following cremation his burial with full military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veteran’s Council will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 18 in Saint Anthony’s Cemetery, Worcester Road. Everyone is required to wear a mask. Donations in his memory may be made to the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, 4 Veterans Way, Webster, MA 01570. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com



Richard N. “Rick” Martin, Jr., 69



DUDLEY – Richard N. “Rick” Martin, Jr., 69, died Thursday, November 11, 2021, in his home. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Gale A. (Bergen) Martin of Dudley; two daughters, Stacey L. Sitko of Dudley, and Kelly A. Johnson and her partner Leanne Forbes of Dudley; a brother, David Van Nevel and his wife Catherine of Oxford, PA; a sister, Frances Hyden of Stow; three grandchildren, Jocelyn Sitko, Jaxon Sitko, and Alyssa Forbes; and several nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by a sister, Paula Martin. He was born in Easthampton, son of the late Richard N. and Rosemary (Ahern) Martin Sr., and lived in Maynard and Marlboro before moving to Dudley 36 years ago. He graduated from Maynard High School in 1971.

Mr. Martin worked at F.W. Madigan Company in Worcester for over 10 years, retiring in 2011. After high school,

he did millwork for several years and later drove truck for A.J. Letourneau. He had a love for classic cars, and took great pride in his 1953 Chevy pick-up and 1965 Barracuda. He was a talented woodworker and loved using his skills on woodworking projects for family and friends.

Calling hours were Monday, November 15, 2021, from 5-8 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Due to health reasons, family is requesting that those attending wear masks to calling hours when offering condolences.

Family and friends were invited to gather at the funeral home on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, between 9:00-10:00 a.m., followed by family remembrances at 10:00 a.m. A funeral procession including Rick’s classic cars will follow to Waldron Cemetery in Dudley. Those attending were encouraged to drive their classic cars in the procession.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 220 North Main St., #104, Natick, MA 01760.

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



Judgement

Tonight, I was watching an independent movie made by a friend of mine who is a film director.

I think it’s a great movie, and although I’m not at liberty to promote it yet, I wanted to share something the lead character said that made my mind turn.

“We can’t judge somebody in their worst moment because everyone has the capacity for change, and anyone can change.”

I don’t know if it was the way the actor said it or the statement itself, but it got me thinking.

I initially found myself judging people who judge others. Then I realized I’m judging others for judging others, which led me to think about how judgmental I’ve been in my life.

I’ve been guilty of judging public figures, strangers, co-workers, friends, and family,

practically everyone, especially when I’ve witnessed one of their worst moments. I’ve written people off who probably didn’t deserve it.

After a few minutes of beating myself up and feeling guilty, I realized I was judging myself.

Does it ever end?

I suppose we all judge people. It’s only natural. We judge people the moment we meet them. The moment somebody walks through the door, we instantly make judgments about their appearance, their demeanor, the way they talk, the way they walk, the rumors we heard about them, and much more. How could we not?

Is all judgment bad? If we don’t judge a person’s character the right way, sometimes it could lead to disastrous consequences. That’s not the type of judgment I’m attempting to write about.

What is judgment? Is it just an opinion based on the present moment, or is it a conclusion about someone that causes us to think about them or mistreat them?

How often does our judgment allow us to give someone a second chance? How often do we judge people in a way that

causes us to write them off?

When I judge someone based on a rumor I heard, their physical appearance, the way they talk, or even something I know they did when they were younger, is that fair?

What happens when we witness someone’s worst moment? Is that their true character shining through, or are they just having a bad day?

People act the way they do because of a combination of factors, and we don’t know what they go through that leads them to behave the way they do. We usually aren’t seeing the complete picture. People are more complex than that.

I don’t think it’s possible to live a life where I never judge anyone, but how often have I judged someone to find out later I was wrong?

How often have those judgments led me to a negative mindset where I’m holding a grudge against a person and thinking negative thoughts about them? Is it healthy for me to be carrying around negative opinions about people?

I think the evidence is clear that harboring negative thought patterns about others harms us in various ways and is often unfair to the person we are judging.

Although real change sometimes takes years, we all are capable of change. I would hate to be judged because of something I did or said ten or twenty years ago; although I’m the same person, I am pretty different now. I have different opinions, different behaviors, different thought patterns. I’ve changed quite a bit. I’m sure you have too.

Maybe when we’re reflective about our own lives, and we think about our own worst moments, it might allow us to give someone a second chance who maybe deserves one.

It’s been said our judgments about another person probably say more about our character than the character of the person we are judging. Is that true? I’ll leave it for you to decide.

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OXFORD
continued from page A1

the “torrid pace of residential [development],” noting CIP has actually grown 21 percent as well.

As he does every year, Pepka laid out what options the selectmen had regarding potentially splitting the tax rate, something few town (but most cities) do. He noted the law allows town to shift some of the burden from residential to CIP, but not vice versa. Had they opted for the maximum legal shift, that

would have resulted in a residential rate of \$15.37 and a CIP rate of \$19.39.

“Every penny you take off the residential rate, you add four cents to the [CIP] rate,” he said.

In other business, the board set Jan 4 as the date for a special election specifically to deal with the proposed \$5 million debt exclusion for roadwork. Town Manager Jen Callahan said she’s planning a second public forum to explain the plan and answer questions for the first full week of December.

She also provided a

lengthy update on the Access Oxford situation. After summarizing the non-profit’s history since its 2003 incorporation, including a lot of back-and-forth communication in early 2020, she noted the station formally dissolved that spring. That happened even though Access Oxford had enough money to keep running for at least two more quarters. Some of the firm’s equipment was not transferred to the town, which officially owns the three access channels under a legal contract with Charter

Communications (who funds them), she said.

Subsequently, the town hired a contractor to provide cable video services, but she said he did not have access to some of the equipment nor the license agreements Access Oxford had been using. Additionally, part of the problem is that the cable budget is allocated based on last year’s report, unlike most other town departments. Since there was no final report filed with the attorney general or Secretary of State prior to dissolution, “nothing shows where

the money went ... and I would not want to speculate,” Callahan said.

In her manager’s report, she observed that the town is seeking to identify the owner of a YouTube account called “Access Oxford Unofficial” and get them to stop using the town’s seal without authorization. She said the lawyers sent YouTube a request to remove that account, but the company refused to do so, claiming they were “not in the position of mediating a trademark dispute.”

She also announced

the “very early” stages of a proposal to bring a 345,375 square foot “light industrial distribution facility” called Oxford Logistics Center to a property at the corner of I-395 and Depot Road. The site plans to have parking space for 304 employees and 235 trailers, plus 104 loading docks.

Despite its name, the project is not a town effort; it’s coming from a private entity who does not yet wish to be named.

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

FOOTBALL
continued from page A1

tournament’s Final Four, where they will tangle with No. 10 Randolph High (6-4) on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Lincoln-Sudbury High at noon.

“I’m so happy for the team. We worked

SCHOOL
continued from page A1

cy – Mass School Building Authority – is sending staff to video Bartlett and present the project to districts statewide, she said.

Business Manager Monique Pierangeli noted the School Building Committee is “starting to narrow down options” for its submittal in January.

She also said Park Ave School is dealing with replacing a water tank that’s still under warranty. The company replaced it, but the district still needs to fund the estimated \$15,000 needed for labor. In this case, it’s unusually costly because it seems the building “was built around the water tank,” Pierangeli said. The administration is “looking at alternatives on how to take the [old] water tank out” and having some difficulty finding companies willing to do it, she added.

By contrast, she sees repairing the Bartlett auditorium lights and athletic fields as much easier, funding both using rental fee income.

Additionally, the committee accepted a donation of 27 winter coats for students from It Starts at Home, a local volunteer group. Goguen said the group is also holding drives for sneakers and holiday gifts in the near future.

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

so hard for this,” explained head coach Jeff Clarkson. “We’ve been plugging away — I have, my coaching staff — for seven years. It’s just been an amazing run this year. We kind of had the thought that we could do some things this year.”

The game got off to a slow start, with both teams exchanging early punts and no points being scored as play moved late into the second quarter. Then, with 2:11 to go until the half, Palmer quarterback Jack Letendre (9 of 26, 217 yards) threaded a slant pass to Chance Lee (3 receptions, 116 yards), who scampered 85 yards into the end zone. Michael Ziemba II then booted the extra point kick to give the now Panthers a 7-0 lead.

But Oxford’s response was quick and efficient. They engineered a 60-yard drive that culminated with quarterback Lucas Lambert hitting Connor Fantasia on an 18-yard touchdown pass to the left side of the end zone. Lambert then connected with Brett Morgan on the two-point conversion pass, and the Pirates jumped ahead with only 23 seconds remaining until halftime.



Oxford defender Connor Fantasia breaks up a pass intended for Palmer’s Brady Stahelski.

After a scoreless third quarter, Oxford extended its lead with 9:49 remaining. Facing a fourth-and-18 from the Panther 19-yard line, Lambert threw a pass into the right corner of the end zone. There, an open Jordan Deleon hauled in the pass for the score. Morgan then caught his second two-point pass, and the Pirates led 16-7.

“That is our game, our passing. We’re a spread team,” said Clarkson. “We have the horses, that’s why we run the ball, but when we can pass we obviously try to pass. And Lucas does a phenomenal job.”

“It was good play-calling, good execution, good all around,” Lambert (7 of 18, 116 yards; 16 carries, 68 rushing yards) said of the TD pass to Deleon.

Offensive coordinator James Royster was quick to note that the play-calling came from Lambert.

“All those touchdown throws tonight, he called himself,” said Royster. “Him and the receivers have great communication, we have great trust in Lucas and he does a great job.”

Oxford had a chance to put the game away later in the fourth quarter when they possessed the ball and were driving deep into Palmer territory. But Lambert’s pass was picked off near the goal line by Letendre, who appeared destined to find pay dirt. A hustling Darius Richardson caught Letendre from behind, though, and stripped the ball out of his hands. The Pirates recovered at their own 10.

“I see him catch the ball and made a heads-up play. I was in the back of the end zone and had to make a play,” Richardson, who credited his 100- and 200-meter runs during track and field season, said. “I just came over the topped and ripped it out.”

Oxford’s Jadan Morales (14 carries,



Darius Richardson of Oxford hauls in a 25-yard reception in the first quarter versus Palmer.

185 yards) did fumble the ensuing snap, and the Panthers (8-2) recovered, but under three minutes remained on the clock. Palmer’s Xavier Nava scored from 3 yards out with 1:01 to play to cut the deficit down to 16-13, but Deleon snatched the onside kick attempt to put the game away.

Two Lambert kneel-downs later and the Pirates were celebrating their trip to the Final Four.

“It’s amazing. I’m so happy for my team, my coaches, the school, the administration, the fans — everybody has been with us,” said Clarkson.

“We’ve been thinking about this since the preseason, and we made it happen. We’ve been going hard at practice every week, but this week is the Final Four, so we’ve got to go even harder,” added Lambert.

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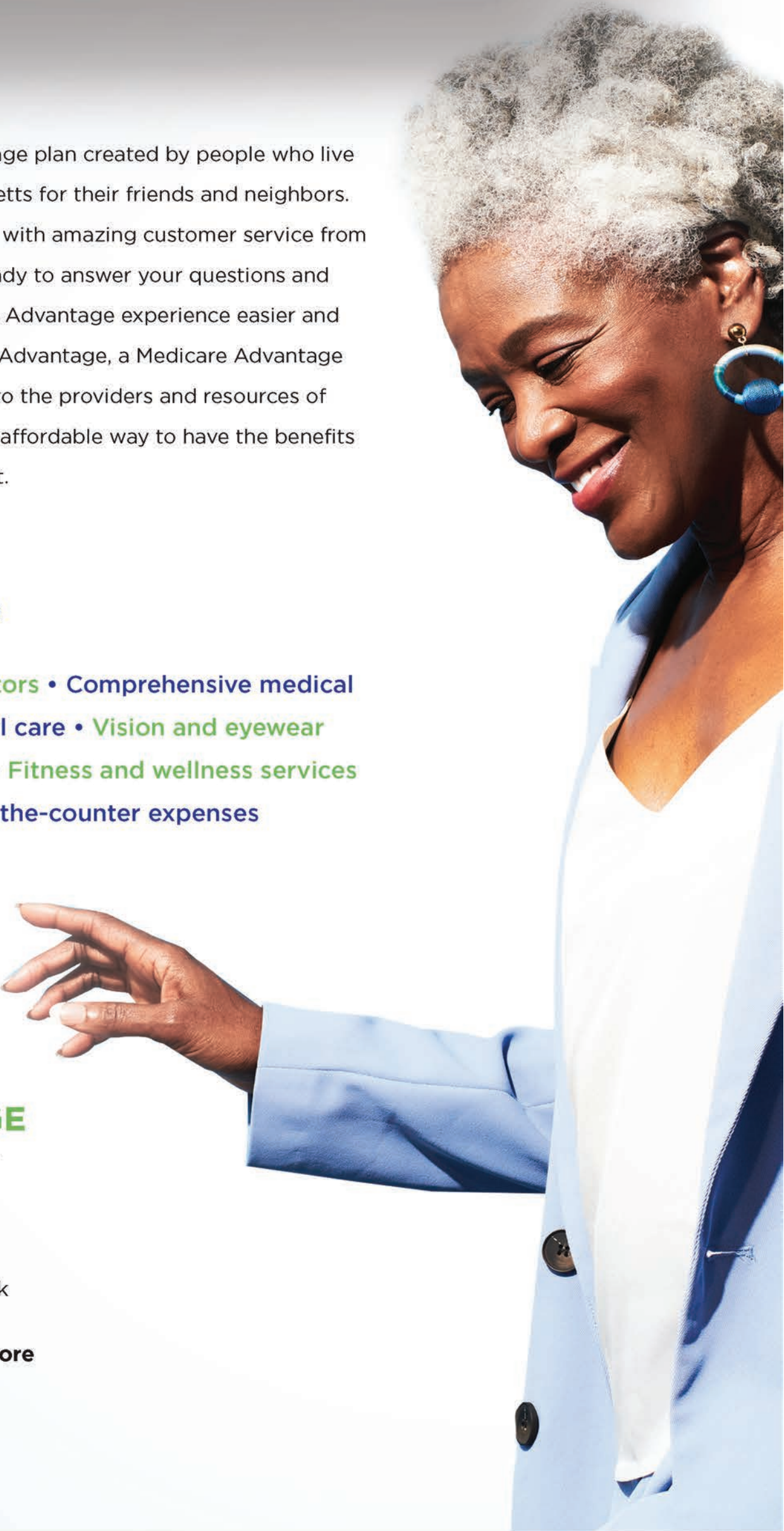


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GRIFFIN

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acknowledged that towns could make their own requirements for temporary food permits that tighten regulations on the local level. She explained that there are benefits and disadvantages to this approach, but it is an option if the Board of health wanted to explore it.

Griffin's final report involved the town's tobacco and food permits for permanent food establishments. These are currently one in the same and Griffin would like to see a different permit for tobacco and food respectively. She also touched on the potential for implementing new permits for frozen desert licenses and revising fees possible implementing a risk-based system.

Griffin is expected to continue to be part of Board of Health meetings going forward. She clarified that any changes to the fee schedule would not be implemented into the next renewal season.

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