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Friday, March 26, 2021

State gives Webster schools two choices for rest of year

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – The school system is in the middle of revamping its whole hybrid model after learning that the state no longer considers its 5.5 hours a day sufficient to meet “time on learning” requirements.

Superintendent Ruthann Goguen told the School Committee that at this month’s March 9 meeting, noting the change was triggered by a recent Department of Elementary and Secondary Education decision to give Commissioner Jeff Riley the authority to make such a determination.

To address it, the schools have been surveying all parents to identify if they’d rather do “full remote or full in-person.” Goguen’s March 17 newsletter online notes they’re still awaiting some responses.

Either way, the plan is to transition to full in-person anyway. The state is allowing districts to do it for grades K-5 on April 5 and Grades 6-8 on April 28. As of that meeting date, Grades 9-12 were still uncertain, but her newsletter states she plans to have them return April 28 as well.

“I personally think the department of education has it all backwards,” she said. “I believe the older students are the students who really need to be in school right now. They’ve really disconnected from their peers, disconnected from engagement.”

That’s partly because they often have jobs and, unlike younger students, aren’t typically supervised as much by parents, she added. Student representative Vivian Poplawski has also raised concerns about such disengagement and low student morale several times in recent months, although she noted the recent return of afterschool activities has helped the situation.

Goguen said the administration is “strategically putting desks back in the classrooms” to see if they can fit everyone with the new three-foot spacing requirement “and what the next steps are if they don’t.”

But the state is still requiring six-foot spacing for any eating, be it in class or cafeterias. That’s going to be a notable issue at Park Avenue School, where she’s identifying a place for a “makeshift cafeteria” to be used alongside the regular one. Right now, staff eat there while students eat in classrooms, and she noted the change will likely need new staff and possibly furniture. She also said she’s working with DESE on whether they’ll still honor the waiver granted last August that allowed Webster to have a half day Friday for teacher training.

Another waiver that might be at issue regards Grade 5, which is included in the state’s first opening date. In Webster, though, it’s at the Middle School, so the administration is also determining whether there’s enough space at Park Avenue to house those kids. Application for that waiver was due March 22, Goguen said.

Also in process are several activities related to the Bartlett building project. For some time, staff has been exploring its educational goals and space needs for them, and how new efforts like advanced manufacturing and health and human services can tie into existing subject areas. That includes an effort to lay out Bartlett efficiently in what Goguen termed “neighborhoods,” where different classes share an open area for project work. In the near future, there will be parent and community forums with the architects, with results of all these things going to the Mass School Building Authority in April.

Business Manager Monique Pierangeli said the work

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Courtesy

THANK YOU

There aren’t enough thank you’s to express what has taken place at the Food Drive held by the TMD Small Business Group, Black Tavern Historical Society, and First Congregational Church of Dudley UCC this past weekend. The tap-room is twice as full as last fall’s food drive. We have also collected \$765 in cash donations and gift cards. All of our food pantries and charities will benefit from your generosity.

Dudley reflects on a year with COVID

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – It’s been more than a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began in the United States causing towns across the country to scramble to adjust to pandemic protocols while still providing services to their residents for an uncertain future.

Now, a year later, vaccinations are on the rise and COVID numbers are

dropping giving hope that we are finally reaching the conclusion of the pandemic. With that in mind, communities are looking back on a trying year and the response that it took to keep their towns functioning while also keeping residents and staff safe from infection. The response in Dudley is being touted as an effective call to action by Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda who com-

plimented everyone from town government officials to emergency management, town employees and citizens for effectively responding to an event none of them had seen or expected in their lifetimes. He also gave credit to the unsung heroes of the town, those in the health department who helped lead the town by applying CDC guidelines and pandemic protocols. “The unsung heroes

for the last year, the sleep-deprived full-time worriers and advocates, leaders and soldiers throughout the entire pandemic have been the members, staff and assistants of the Dudley Board of Health, in particular our Public Health Nurse, Roberta Johnson, our Health Agent, Jamie Terrie and Board Chair, Jen Cournoyer. They

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\$40.8 million budget proposed in Oxford

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – When this year’s Town Meeting comes May 5, voters will be called on to consider a \$40.8 million budget, among many other things to be determined.

Town Manager Jen Callahan presented it to the Selectmen March 16. It splits like this: half for the schools, 19 percent for employee benefits, 10 percent public safety, 9 percent public works, 6 percent general government and 6 percent every-

thing else.

The “biggest change in terms of an increase” falls under human resources, she said. There, Callahan is seeking to create a new payroll/benefits coordinator position to free up the current HR specialist to do more training and other things “that are helpful in improving the climate in our workforce.” In time, that job might also cover the schools.

Other proposed job changes are scattered through the budget.

Callahan is budgeting to add a catalog/technology librarian; a reading specialist, curriculum director and STEM and language teachers in the schools; increase hours for certain jobs; make the new senior center chef permanent; and fund the promotion of two EMTs to paramedic. But she’s also seeking to eliminate a part-time senior accountant and a land department administrative assistant. Beyond those, it gives routine step or contractual increases to

various staff and restores several administrative assistants, library pages and lifeguards who were cut due to Covid closures.

Other items include reducing tax title attorney fees, electrical costs in various departments (sometimes due to recent conversion to LED lights, but with a hike for DPW), and the Town Clerk’s line as a whole (since there’s only one election this year; this is cyclical). General increases include \$605,000 to the

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St. Joseph students reflect on legacy of school’s namesake

WEBSTER — The Catholic Church celebrates two feast days dedicated to St. Joseph: March 19 - Joseph, the Husband of Mary and May 1 - Joseph, the Worker.

In addition to these feast days, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St. Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in December 2021. The purpose of this special proclamation is to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St. Joseph as the patron of

the Universal Church. Also, St. Joseph is considered the patron saint of fathers, the dying, and social justice, but to the many students who attend St. Joseph School in Webster, he is the patron saint of their church and school. Therefore, this is an exciting year for the students!

As part of the year-long celebration, pastor and headmaster, Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski (Fr. Gregory), recently spent time with students discussing St. Joseph’s role in Jesus’ life as well as the personal relationship that students can

have with St. Joseph. During his visits, Fr. Gregory presented each student with a small statue of St. Joseph that he blessed. He stressed that the statues should not be treated as a toy. Instead, he asked that the students treat the statues as an image of a great friend, someone who can help them by presenting their prayers and gratitude to Jesus, his Son.

The students reflected solemnly on Fr. Gregory’s words and

prayer. Many chose to keep their statues on their desks, while others carry their statues of St. Joseph in their school bags. Nevertheless, the students have a great sense of how St. Joseph can be an example in their lives. Through the courage and love he exhibited and as a father who taught the value, dignity, and joy of hard work, the students are proud to have St. Joseph as the patron saint of their school.

Courtesy

St. Joseph School Pre-K 4-year-old student, Shaelynn O’Dell, holds her statue of St. Joseph as Headmaster, Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski (Fr. Gregory) says a blessing.



Zoom boating safety courses offered

REGION — Our local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing four upcoming boating safety classes through the Zoom video conference platform, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, Adult-Boating, at <http://mcs.milford.ma.us> or (508) 478-1119 at least 6 days prior; keeping in mind that availability is limited and you will receive course materials prior, covered by the registration fee. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied online by a registered parent/guardian. For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

About Boating Safely Saturdays, April 24 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (\$45)

A one-day course developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and also for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Successful completion of the course will also temporally certify (until a proctored exam is completed) any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski for 16 & 17-year-old operators, on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Rhode Island residents born in/or after 1986 can also take the “Challenge Exam” for the RI Boater Education Card to operate motor vessels over 10 horse power, along with anyone, any age, from any state, wanting to operate a PWC on RI waters. It will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory. Several of the boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. The Zoom ABS class is limited to 20 students.

Suddenly in Command Wednesdays, April 14 7 – 10:30 p.m. (\$5)

Imagine you are out on the water when the boat’s captain somehow is incapacitated or falls overboard and can’t swim back to the boat. Are you prepared to take basic actions to get help, stop or start the engine and take the helm? A little knowledge could save lives and make you feel more comfortable boating when you’re not generally at the helm.

Misfortunes can and do happen while on that fishing, diving, adventure, or party charter. Being out on your own boat with that significant other at the helm, or going out on a friends’ pontoon boat can also turn to horror if the skipper is suddenly out of commission. This is a boating safety primer for those not generally at the helm but would like to know what to do, to be better prepared.

Bay Path student helps neighbor with cancer



Khamphan Houatchanthara

CHARLTON — What started as small acts of kindness in February quickly grew into something bigger.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy student Khamphan Houatchanthara makes it a point to walk with faculty to the parking lot, making sure faculty is not alone and feels unsafe at the end of long lectures at night. Kindness is inherent with the Southbridge resident and when she learned of a neighbor who was diagnosed with cancer, she verbalized her desire to do more than just pray for the said neighbor. Houatchanthara picked up (and delivered) prescription medications (and over-the-counter pain medications) multiple times. With her boyfriend’s help, they cleared the neighbor’s driveway after a snowfall. She also brought the neighbor to the emergency department at Harrington Hospital for medical assistance. Houatchanthara then invited her family, friends, and co-workers at Simon Says Pizza Chef to join her in support of her neighbor, so her neighbor can focus on treatment, recovery, and healing.

Houatchanthara with the assistance of an anonymous donor launched a fundraiser. New and previously loved totes, satchels, and pocketbooks from designers Kate Spade, Tory Burch, Michael Kors, Stella McCartney, Juicy Couture, and Vera Bradley were donated for the cause. Money raised will be used to support her neighbor who is being treated for cancer at the Dana Farber Cancer Center. The fundraiser totaled over a thousand dollars. The funds will help with utility bills and other essentials.

“I am so happy to help. A loss of income due to cancer and its treatment can lead to financial strain,” said Houatchanthara. “Our fundraiser allowed my neighbor to focus on healing and relieve some of the stresses.”

Houatchanthara is on track to graduate this June with the Practical Nursing Class of 2021. When not busy with academics and clinicals, Houatchanthara is also an active member of the UNICEF Club raising awareness for children’s advocacy. Everyone has a friend, neighbor, family member, or colleague who has been impacted by cancer. Houatchanthara hopes cancer patients have someone in their community standing with them. Even when it starts as just a small gesture of kindness.

School District to provide meals for remainder of year

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – As the Dudley Charlton Regional School District returns to in-person learning throughout the next few months, parents and students can rest assured meals will not be a problem.

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu provided an update for both the regional school committee and parents during a March 10 meeting that revealed lunches and breakfasts will be providing breakfasts and lunches to students through the month of March and beyond, as they have since students returned to the classroom in the fall.

“The district food service program is preparing for the upcoming changes to the schools. Beginning on March 15, the district will continue the practice of sending home lunch with students, plus breakfast for following morning. This will occur daily Monday through Friday. If a child does not want to take that lunch, they do not have to,” Mathieu said.

Families that have chosen to remain in remote learning will be contacted to receive meals as well, likely on a twice-a-week schedule. Non-perishable food that is refused by students will be donated to local food banks and pantries.

As the state continues to reopen after a year of COVID-19 protocols districts like Dudley-Charlton have begun to allow students back into the classroom on a more consistent basis. On March 15, a full week half-day schedule of in-person learning was to begin. In April kindergarten, elementary and middle schoolers are all scheduled to return to full-time in-person learning at different times during the month while Shepherd Hill Regional High School is expected to return to full learning in early May.

Mathieu said students can rest assured they will be fed, and parents won’t have to worry about the expenses as free meals will be provided throughout the rest of the school year, however the experience might feel quite a bit different from the more social events that lunch time used to be.

“Unfortunately, it won’t be the same experiences as has occurred in the past. However, everybody is working to make sure it’s a different memorable experience going forward,” Mathieu said. “It’s important to note for everybody that lunch will remain free through the rest of the school year. There is no expectation that this federally funded program will continue into the next school year but any advocacy in that area would certainly be welcome.”

Sturbridge-Part-Time Reception-Processor

Small insurance agency in Sturbridge, MA looking for a Part-time morning receptionist 9am-1pm M-F.

Needs to be processor reliable, organized, personable, detail oriented individual, who can maintain a flexible schedule.

Must have good working knowledge of word, excel and outlook.

Email resume to:
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Office Assistant Position

Solair Recreation League in Woodstock CT has one or two hourly positions for an office assistant. This position involves greeting guests, accepting payments, scheduling reservations, working with our office manager to help with paperwork, mailings, etc. The successful candidate should be able to work with limited supervision, have a working knowledge of personal computers (Windows 10, familiar with MS Word), and good customer service skills. We will work with the successful candidate on a fixed schedule which will include weekends. Up to 38 hours per week are available. Training will be provided for our scheduling and reservations software. Weekend hours are required.

Please send your resume and wage (hourly rate) requirements to
Jobs@SolaiRRL.com

Applications available for Webster Lions Club scholarship

WEBSTER — The Webster Lions Club is currently accepting applications for the George Sellig Memorial Scholarship. The winner will be selected based on the student’s academic performance, community service and financial need. The \$1,000 award is presented each year to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Webster, and will be continuing his or her education in an accredited college program.

The scholarship is named in honor of former Webster Lions Club president, George Sellig. Mr. Sellig was once a teacher at Tottellote Memorial High School, a Webster Selectman and a superintendent of the former Webster-Dudley School Union.

Applications are available at the Bartlett High School and BayPath Regional Technical High School Guidance Departments or by contacting Dr. John Kalinowski at 508-943-7434. Applications are due by May 1.



PACC.

Polish American Citizens Club

will hold a members meeting on
**Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 1:PM @
37 Harris St. Webster, MA. 01570.**

It is imperative that you are present.
The future of PACC will be decided.

ALMANAC

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Fridays.....8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Evening appointments if needed.
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OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
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WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850
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Traffic stop leads to drug-related arrest in Dudley

DUDLEY — On Saturday, March 20, at approximately 1:02 a.m., Dudley Police Officer Mariano Conte was conducting traffic control on West Main Street (Route 197) at the intersection of Mason Road. At this time, he observed a Red Saturn Vue traveling eastbound on West Main Street. The vehicle was found to have license plates attached to it which belonged on another car. A motor vehicle stop was conducted. Dudley Officer James Rivera arrived to assist.

During the investigation, officers identified a passenger in the vehicle as Joshua Bullard, Age 31, of Dudley. Mr. Bullard was discovered to have in his possession two knives, approximately 57 grams of a substance believed to be crack and powdered cocaine, and some 12 grams of what is believed to be Heroin. There was also drug paraphernalia present, along with over \$3,000 in cash. He was taken into custody and charged with Trafficking Class B Cocaine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Class B Cocaine, and Possession with Intent to Distribute Class A Heroin. He is held on \$25,000



bail for a court appearance at Dudley District Court. The owner of the car, name withheld at this time, was issued a criminal citation for illegally attaching plates as well as an unregistered, uninsured motor vehicle.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

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

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 12-29.

Anthony D. Reyes, age 29, of Worcester was arrested on March 13 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Michael Dennis Vaudreuil, age 49, of Dudley was arrested on March 13 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Speeding in excess of the posted limit, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Shawn W. Cierpich, age 49, of Dudley was arrested on March 14 for a Marked Lanes Violation, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (second offense), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation, Failure to Wear a Seat Belt, and operating a vehicle with no inspection sticker.

Brenda Ivette Cruz, age 40, of Southbridge was arrested on March 16 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 14-20.

Stephen J. Radlo, age 35, of Plainfield, Conn. was arrested on March 15 in connection with a warrant.

David Raymond Meola, age 38, of Webster was arrested on March 15 in connection with a warrant.

Brent J. Halley, age 33, of Webster was arrested on March 16 in connection with a warrant.

An 18-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 17 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 37-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 17 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 40-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 19 for Disturbing the Peace.

Shelby M. Hegarty, age 26, of Webster was arrested on March 20 in connection with a warrant.

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STORYTIME ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Wednesdays at Noon

Join Miss Lida for a live storytime on Facebook, every Wednesday at noon, and then stop by the library for a free take-and-make craft kit!

No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video. Can't tune in at noon? Recordings of each week's storytime are available on the Facebook page beginning Wednesday afternoon.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

First Friday of every month at 11:00AM

Join Deb Hudgins on Facebook for Music and Movement, one of our most popular programs! Nothing gets kids on their feet and having fun quite like songs, dance and silly stories!

No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video.

SEED EXCHANGE

Throughout the month of April Have leftover tomato seeds you don't know what to do with? Want to try growing flowers? Changed your mind about that kind of squash? The Pearle is hosting a seed exchange during the month of April – take some seeds to try, leave the seeds you don't need, and get gardening, just in time for Earth Day! Exchange boxes will be in the library lobby and all are welcome to contribute flower or vegetable seeds or take some seeds for growing in your own garden.

GROWING A SUMMER SALAD WITH BLACKSTONE VALLEY

Thursday April 8 6:00PM-7:30PM

Is there anything better than a fresh summer salad? Join Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens for this Zoom presentation where they will cover all the basics of growing your own lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

Free; registration required. Participants will be emailed a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN COMPOSERS

Thursday May 6 6:00PM-7:30PM

Historian Jeffrey Engel will highlight the lives and the music of several distinguished female composers/concert pianists who attained recognition and success during the nineteenth century in this Zoom program.

There have always been women composers. As far back as the seventh century BC, Sappho, the Greek lyric poetess, played her own accompaniments on the barbiton and the pektis. Throughout the twelfth century there were female troubadours and during the sixteenth, madrigal composers. Francesca Caccini (1587-1638) is thought to be the first woman to write an opera and Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre (1663-1729), the author of an early ballet. It is not until the end of the nineteenth century, however, that significantly more women begin to enjoy public performances of their music and become professional composers. Perhaps you've heard of Teresa Carreno, Sophie Menter and Clara Schumann?

Free; registration is required. Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Dudley Woman's Club to meet April 8

DUDLEY — On April 8, the Dudley Woman's Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Our Father's Table Restaurant in No. Grosvenordake, Conn. on Route 12. Our scholarship recipients will be announced, and their scholarships awarded to them this evening.

Our voluntary giving project this month is mask donations including children's masks for the Webster/Dudley Food Share Program. In addition, we are also seeking contributions for our Sunshine Baskets.

The Dudley Woman's Club is open to all women from Dudley and surrounding towns, and we welcome your attendance. Join us for this fun and lively evening, be our guest and discover what our Woman's Club is all about. For more information please send an email to DudleyWomansClub@gmail.com, contact Andrea at 508-868-7110 or visit our Web site: <http://DudleyWomansClub.org>.

Dudley Conservation Commission to hold public hearing

DUDLEY — A Public Hearing will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main St., at 6:15 p.m. on March 31 to consider a Notice of Intent of Jeffrey Wolcott for the property located at: 116 Pierpont Rd. for Shed Replacement.

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Dudley Conservation office on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-8011.



REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$325,000, 4 Central Ave, Wisniewski, Daniel E, to Market Properties LLC.

\$314,450, 152 W Main St, Dupont 152 W Main St LLC, to Panagiotou, Kaitlyn R.

\$140,000, 2 Warsaw Ave #3, Patterson, Joseph, to Watson, Joseph A.

Oxford

\$395,000, 20 Prospect St, Hampton, Larry L, to Mangano, Matthew.

\$341,000, 2 Merriam District, Rabidou, Deborah, and Rabidou, John, to Provencher, Samantha A, and Grieve, Nicholas R.

\$310,000, 8 Howe Ave, Howlett, Casey K, and Dubovsky, Tyler, to Holland, Julianne.

\$305,000, 12 Harwood St, Paradis, Justin A, to Snider, Julie M, and Francis, John A.

\$265,000, 5 Tremont St, Martin, Kyle R, and Martin, Kayla, to Mann, Tyler.

\$225,000, 624 Main St #D, Crescent Builders Inc, to Watson, Mireya.

Webster

\$1,125,000, 21 Bay View Rd, Northeast Vent Grp& Rlty, to Riley, Lynn E, and Riley, Gregory L.

\$345,000, 11 Genevieve Ln, Greenhalge, Anthony J, and Greenhalge, Lorri, to Wennerberg, Erica M.

\$275,000, 131 Thompson Rd, Thompson RT, and Lorkiewicz, Stephen M, to 131 Thompson LLC.

\$229,000, 44 2nd Island Rd, Chobot Eleanor E Est, and Gibeault, Connie-Jo, to Falcone, Jason S.

\$154,500, 10 5th Ave, Pittotino, Joseph, to Blondin, Kevin S.

\$95,000, 32 Crosby St, Larochele, John G, and Larochele, Margaret L, to Larochele, John A.

\$85,000, Wakefield Ave, Dziedzic, James, to Jose, Kevin.

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MARIANAPOLIS PREP SCHOOL ANNOUNCES TRIMESTER 2 HONOR ROLL

THOMPSON, Conn. – Below are the students who have earned their place on the Trimester 2 Honor Roll.

Head of School List
Olivia-Mae Acquaaah-Harrison, Charlton; Oyetola Ajayi-Obe, Worcester; Abigail Alicandro, North Oxford; James Alves, Uxbridge; Jenin Ayyash, Worcester; Kaitlin Baca, Webster; John Barnwell, Danielson, Conn.; Callista Bibeau, Danielson, Conn.; Abigail Boria, Charlton; Benjamin Bouchard, Douglas; Celia Bouchard, Douglas; Samuel Bouchard, Douglas; Campbell Braun, South Grafton; Jessie Calkins, Charlton; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, Conn.; Dominika Chmielewski, Webster; Lauren Conde, Danielson, Conn.; Sidney Corriveau, Brimfield; Jasmine Creighton, Webster; Anna Czechowski, Webster; Giana DeCesare, Chepachet, R.I.; Alexandra Delano, Charlton; Joseph DiPietro, Worcester; Danielle Doiron, Charlton; Fiona Doiron, Charlton; Ava Fabiano, Killingly, Conn.; Chiara Faiola, Auburn; Felicia Fongemie, Ashford, Conn.; Barbara Forgues, Shrewsbury; Fabian Gabriel, Zlin, Czech Republic; Ashley Giorgio, Millbury; Xiayuan Gong, Wuxi, China; Isabella Gonzalez, Plainfield, Conn.; Madelyn Grundstrom, Moosup, Conn.; Emily Hammond, Sutton; Angelina Hargrave, Charlton; Sophie Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Thu Hoang, Hai Phong, Vietnam; Maura Hoban, Millbury; Patrick Hoban, Millbury; Kaylynn Horan, Putnam, Conn.; Nghi Huynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Mackenzie Jutras, Greenville, R.I.; Ethan Kalmin, Dudley; Claire Kelleher, Auburn; Avery Kurzontkowski, Shrewsbury; Kate

Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Molly Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Linh Le, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Abigail Leahy, Leicester; Lauren Lemire, Southbridge; Chengxun Li, Xiamen, China; Zachary Litke, Brooklyn, Conn.; Alana Lorusso, North Oxford; Sydney Lundt, Woodstock, Conn.; Bridget MacDonough, Grafton; Ian MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Kiera MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Szymon Mamro, Webster; David Mankarios, Webster; Delia Marchand, Holden; Salvatore Masciarelli, Northbridge; Wednesday Maskova, Sestajovice, Czech Republic; Tessa McCabe, Douglas; Benjamin McGarry, Thompson, Conn.; Conner McLeod, Foster, R.I.; Keegan McLeod, Foster, R.I.; Emma McQuiston, Webster; Katherine Melnick, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Sara Michailides, Chepachet, R.I.; Ayame Mizuno, Nagoya, Japan; Luciana Najjar, Northborough; Michael Nesपाल, Celakovice, Czech Republic; Abbie O'Brien, Plainfield, Conn.; Hayley O'Connell, Webster; Collin O'Connor, Sutton; Declan O'Connor, West Boylston; Riley O'Connor, Dudley; Jenna Olivieri, Douglas; John Perverler, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Long Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Katrina Piekieniaki, Dudley; Morgan Polinski, Webster; Wiktor Potem, Webster; Sophia Rabor, Dayville, Conn.; Jill Reardon, Fiskdale; Brianne Rett, Uxbridge; Olivia Richardson, Lincoln, R.I.; Emma Russell, Brooklyn, Conn.; Anthony Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; Thomas Santos Soares, Porto Alegre, Brazil; William Savoie, Northbridge; Cassidy Semo, Dudley; Trinity Semo, Dudley; Emily Shamback, Sterling, Conn.; Andrew Shultz, Oxford; Zachary Stoddard, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Maya Summiel, Dayville, Conn.; Lily Tessmer, Lancaster; Violeta Torres, Plainfield, Conn.; Daniel Twohig-Mann, Douglas; Rachel Ullstrom, Auburn; Isabella Vigliotti, Worcester; John Vigliotti, Worcester; Caroline Vigneault, Southbridge; Caroline Villa, Auburn; Tram Vo, Phan Thiet, Vietnam; Emily Walsh, Thompson, Conn.; Yunpeng Wang, Shenzhen, China; Kyle Woodruff, Southbridge; Wenyang Yuan, Beijing,

China; Abdullah Zameer, Woodstock, Conn.

Dean's List
Isata Bah, Shrewsbury, United Kingdom; Greyson Baldaro, Oxford; Lillian Belsito, Millbury; Grace Booth, Webster; Vincent Bourgeois, Thompson, Conn.; Patrick Brooks, Worcester; Zuzana Cejkova, Jindrichuv Hradec, Czech Republic; Xander Cook, Uxbridge; Sydney Duby, Worcester; Daniel Ducharme, Worcester; Olivia Duquette, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Nicholas Fennelly, Charlton; Courtney Fleming, Douglas; Gabriela Fung, Colchester, Conn.; Lily Givner, Oxford; Timothy Hall, Plainfield, Conn.; Audrey Hammond, Sutton; Lily Hayes, Danielson, Conn.; Garret Hippert, Brooklyn, Conn.; James Hoban, Millbury; Ehmil Johnson, Auburn; Qualim Johnson, Auburn; Thomas Kennison, Somers, Conn.; Caroline King, Rochester; Haruna Kobayashi, Nagoya, Japan; Olivia Kowalski, Charlton; Juhyoung Lee, Seoul, South Korea; Kaya Lukasek, Webster; Yihui Luo, Lian Yun Gang, China; Claire Marchand, Holden; Charles Mukweva, Harare, Zimbabwe; Luis Arturo Perez Povedano, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Linh Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Elena Polsky, Thompson, Conn.; Alek Popovich, Charlton; Emma Raps, Webster; Grace Rhoads, Stafford Springs, Conn.; Morgan Royston, Oxford; Kailey Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; Alex Spetseris, Webster; Matthew Tomasino, Leicester; Chinh Tong, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Owen Trainor, Brooklyn, Conn.; Thang Tran, Da Nang, Vietnam; Ashley Vandenbrouck, Oxford; Maggie Vo, Worcester; Elizabeth Walker, Thompson, Conn.; Anna Wildes, North Uxbridge; Xingyu Zhu, Wenzhou, China; Yutian Zhu, Hangzhou, China; Anthony Zurowski, Plainfield, Conn.

Honor Roll
Andrew Andrianopoulos, Worcester; Emma Blanchard, Dayville, Conn.; Rayliana Bonnell, Oxford; Shaylan Cashman, Charlton; Claire Crossman, Oxford; Donovan Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Thomas Joiner, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Zachary King, Plainfield, Conn.; Camille Larson, Charlton; Michael Levesque, Narragansett, R.I.; Sydney Masciarelli, Northbridge; Colby Mayen, Dudley; Andrew Peck, Paxton; Ana Ros Tejerina, Las Rozas de Madrid, Spain; David Splaine, Rochdale; Wondimu Weinberg-O'Brien, Worcester; Tyler Whiteley, Foster, R.I.; Jessica Wright, Millbury

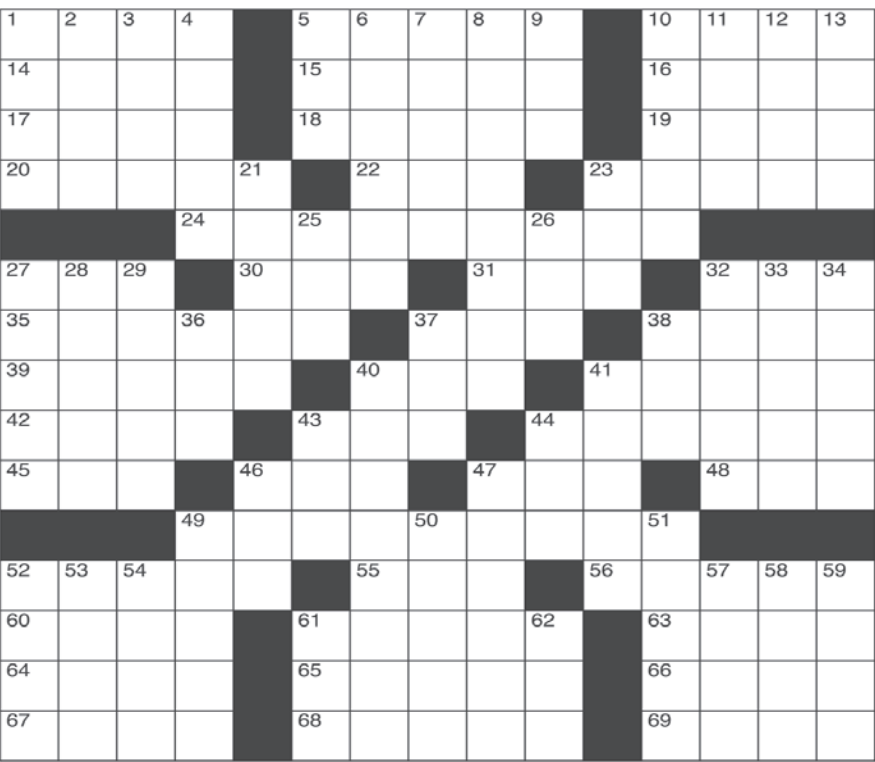
WORCESTER ACADEMY ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL AND HEADMASTER S LIST

WORCESTER — Worcester Academy proudly announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster's List for Semester 1 of the 2020-2021 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each of these Worcester Academy students has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Among the students are:
Joseph Berberian of Webster, Class of 2023, First Honors.
Michael Berberian of Webster, Class of 2021, First Honors.
Christopher Best of Webster, Class of 2023, Second Honors.
Sophia Buffone of Oxford, Class of 2024, Headmaster's List.
Deryn Flynn of Dudley, Class of 2022, Headmaster's List.
Andrew Grniet of North Oxford, Class of 2024, First Honors.
Matthew Grniet of North Oxford, Class of 2022, Headmaster's List.
Maria Holland of Webster, Class of 2022, First Honors.
Sydney Ryder of Oxford, Class of 2023, First Honors.
Mackenzie Ryder of Oxford, Class of 2021, Headmaster's List.
Jason Stien of Webster, Class of 2024, Second Honors.
Joseph Thompson of Dudley, Class of 2021, First Honors.

About Worcester Academy
Worcester Academy is an acclaimed independent school overlooking the thriving city of Worcester, Massachusetts. A proud community of explorers and collaborators, we prepare our students not just for college, but for life; through an expansive curriculum that balances problem-solving with communication skills, independence with connection, and hard work with fun and creativity. Our students benefit from an experiential education that expands their perspectives, builds their character, and deepens their understanding through community engagement and real-world application-enabling them to "Achieve the Honorable" (the Academy motto) with their classmates and peers; in the Worcester community; and throughout their lives.

For information, contact Director of External Communications Neil Isakson at 508-459-6918 or neil.isakson@worcesteracademy.org.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Volcanic crater
5. Long times
10. Swedish rock group
14. Having the means to do something
15. Rods or spindles
16. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
17. Missing soldiers
18. Measuring instrument
19. All of the components considered individually
20. Play “__ Irish Rose”
22. Gene
23. Barrels
24. London-based soccer team
27. Feline
30. Breed of sheep
31. Body part
32. Doctors’ group
35. One who follows the rules
37. Cigarette residue
38. Ancient Greek sophist
39. Polish yeast cakes
40. Promotional materials
41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
42. Completed perfectly
43. Photo
44. A peninsula in SW Asia
45. The common gibbon
46. Disfigure
47. Ribonucleic acid
48. Japanese honorific
49. Pieces of music
52. Expressed pleasure
55. Having ten
56. Type of sword
60. Humble request for help
61. Eating houses
63. Italian Seaport
64. Cain and __
65. Measure the depth
66. U. of Miami’s mascot
67. Political outsiders
68. Greek sorceress
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Mother
2. Jewish calendar month
3. Jai __, sport
4. Establish again
5. Swiss river
6. Racetrack wager
7. __ but goodie
8. Closeness
9. Soviet Socialist Republic
10. At right angles to a ship’s length
11. Women’s undergarments
12. Mountain stream
13. Expresses pleasure
21. Painful places on the body
23. Automobile
25. Scandinavian god of battle
26. Expresses surprise
27. Secret political clique
28. Yields manila hemp
29. River in central Italy
32. Brain injury science acronym
33. Mental illness.
34. A person from Asia
36. Father
37. General’s assistant (abbr.)
38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style
40. Large terrier
41. Hillsides
43. Golf score
44. Not or
46. Type of student
47. Flower cluster
49. Closes tightly
50. Saudi Arabian desert
51. Famed vaccine developer
52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
53. Actress Jessica
54. Pay attention to
57. Beloved big screen pig
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Cost per mille
62. Helps little firms



Friday's Child



Alijah
Age 13

Hi! My name is Alijah and I want to learn Spanish!

Alijah is a social, engaging and polite boy of Cape Verdean descent. His favorite activities include playing sports, board games, card games, and admiring the latest and greatest footwear like hot pink Nike Foams. He also likes cooking, baking, and swimming. Alijah enjoys showing off his basketball and football skills. He prides himself on being a good mentor to younger children and seeks out opportunities to do so.

Alijah does benefit from accommodations listed on his IEP to assist him with more emotional/social supports. He does well in school and is performing on grade level. Alijah is hopeful that he will

be able to step down to a less restrictive setting in the near future.

Legally freed for adoption, Alijah will do best in a family with two parents who will be able to give him the one-on-one attention that he craves and provide him with structure and clear rules. Since he is a great mentor to younger children, his team is seeking a family with younger children in the extended family for him to be a role model to but for there to be no other children or only older children in the home to ensure Alijah's needs receive the attention he deserves. He would also love for his future family to have pets or be open to adopting a pet. It is very important to Alijah that he is able to maintain contact with his eight siblings who are also looking to be adopted.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

State launches new mass vaccination registration system

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION – Officials recently unveiled a new preregistration signup tool available for the state’s seven mass vaccination sites.

Launched last week, the new system will make it easier for residents to request and book an appointment at a mass vaccination site. More venues will be added to the preregistration system in the coming weeks, officials said.

The new preregistration system replaced the state’s original online booking program, which was fraught with problems. The Web site crashed on multiple occasions, and residents had significant issues with attempting to schedule

appointments.

Gov. Charlie Baker and his team are hoping for a smoother experience with the new model.

“Available appointments will be offered to residents based on their vaccine eligibility and the availability of appointments at mass vaccination sites nearby,” read a statement released by Baker’s office.

The state’s COVID-19 vaccine scheduling hotline will remain in place to help residents without internet access, as well as those who have difficulty navigating the new preregistration process.

In total, the state now has 170 public vaccination sites offering appointments. More information on vaccine

sites can be found at: vaxfinder.mass.gov.

The new preregistration tool is available at: www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine. Eligible residents must complete an online form to request to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site.

After completing the form, residents will receive a confirmation via their preferred method of contact (text, email, phone). They will also receive a weekly update about their status. Residents may opt out of their preregistration at any time if they secure an appointment elsewhere.

“When an appointment becomes available at a mass vaccination site, the resident will be notified and will have 24 hours

to accept the appointment once it is offered to them,” read the statement issued by Baker’s office. “If an appointment is not accepted after 24 hours, the resident will go back into the queue to wait for another appointment.”

To accommodate older residents and others who are unable to use the form, the new preregistration process allows family members, caregivers, or other companions to fill out the form on behalf of a resident.

Individuals who do not have internet access can call 2-1-1 to preregister.

Residents are thanked for their continued patience during an unprecedented time. State officials are hopeful that supply issues will start to improve over the coming weeks.

“Due to high demand and limited supply, there

are only a small number of appointments for eligible residents,” Baker said. “Given the limited number of available appointments due to constraints on vaccine supply, it could take several weeks for eligible, preregistered residents to receive a notification about an available appointment.”

Weekly state allocations of the vaccine are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses.

In addition to the state allocation, the federal government distributes vaccines to CVS Health sites as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership. These quantities fluctuate on a weekly basis and are not counted toward the state’s weekly allocation, officials said.

For residents who don’t wish to attend a mass vaccination site, appointments are also being booked at more than 160 other public vaccine sites across the Commonwealth. The state has also allocated a supply of doses to certain healthcare providers, hospitals, and community health centers that will provide instructions to their patients on the vaccine process.

In other vaccine news, approximately 400,000 K-12 educators, childcare workers, and K-12 school staff members are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts. State officials want to ensure that all school staff members have a chance to be vaccinated before schools reopen next month.

Dudley EDC preparing for Rapid Program rollout

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Dudley is one of 125 towns included in the Massachusetts Rapid Program which has the Economic Development Committee in town making preparations for a long road ahead in 2021.

On March 16, EDC Chairman Brian Labrec said that the town is working with representatives from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to identify key projects that could facilitate and accelerate businesses coming back online in 2021. While the Rapid Program’s launch has been delayed, the EDC is wasting no time in preparing to work with CMRPC representatives to identify what projects will be prioritized in Dudley.

“It’s a six-month endeavor. The kickoff was delayed a month so now it’s going into August to have projects identified,” Labrec said. “We were granted \$30,000 to work with CMRPC in this study effort. The folks who are facilitating it are

sensitive and understand that monies will have to follow this initiative. The anticipation is that there will be some monies there to fund some of the projects, but we’re one of 125 towns throughout the commonwealth who were awarded these monies to work with a consultant. It appears well organized, and the matchup has been made.”

Town Planner Bill Scanlon sat in on a conference call with state officials prior to the meeting to discuss the Rapid Program and brought some information to the committee including some details on how the study will involve input from a wide array of entities within the town itself.


“We now know that there’s sort of a standardized approach to this process that all of the participating communities will follow. The first step will be a survey and there’s a standard survey for that the state has prepared that all the towns will use. They’ve also prepared some standard outreach material to publicize the survey,” Scanlon

said. “The state will also have what they call subject matter experts who will be available to each community to consult with on the projects that are within their particular area of expertise.”

The EDC itself will have to make adjustments to accommodate the CMRPC when the time comes as Labrec noted that the EDC’s current meeting times don’t synchronize well with the availability of CMRPC officials. Other members of the committee said they could make adjustments where necessary and that eventually there may be a pattern that forms that facilitates a more permanent new meeting time to allow the public and CMRPC to be involved. Regardless, Labrec stressed that the EDC will play a vital role in bringing the study to town and deciding which projects are examined.

“We’re the quarterbacks for this program for the town of Dudley,” said Labrec. “I think there’s going to be some expectations on our part to help along the way here and I don’t quite know what that’s going to entail.”

Webster Public School Department



Cafeteria Worker, Park Ave - 2 Positions

Schedule: M-F 10:00-1:00 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.

*these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms
Start Date: ASAP

Cafeteria Worker, Webster Middle School - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 8:00-11:00 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

*this position is primarily a kitchen prep position

Breakfast in the Classroom Worker, Park Ave - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 7:30-10:30 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

Cafeteria Worker, Bartlett High School - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 9:30-12:30 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

Please apply to: Attn: Lori Marrazzo
Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570
For questions about positions please call or email Ellen Nylen at 508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or enlylen@webster-schools.org
*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.



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Post winter care for your lawn



Snow mold appears as circular areas of matted brown grass sometimes found with gray or pink cobweb-like growth over these areas.

As winter gives way to spring, take a walk around the yard. Check the lawn for damage and provide a bit of early season care to help it recover from winter.

Use a leaf rake to lightly lift and separate the matted grass blades. This helps speed drying, increase airflow, and reduce the risk of pink and gray snow mold developing and damaging your lawn.

These fungal diseases are most common when heavy snowfalls or ice cov-

ers non-frozen turf or after late winter snowstorms. The damage is usually seen where snow lingers late in the season.

Symptoms appear as circular areas of matted brown grass. You may even see a gray or pink cobweb-like growth over these areas. Fortunately, lawns eventually recover. Reduce the risk of future problems with proper timing of lawn fertilization.

Remove any leaves or debris that ended up on the lawn. Large leaves on

the grass capture moisture and prevent sunlight from reaching the plants below. Use leaves you collect as mulch in the garden or add to the compost pile.

Look for vole trails in the lawn. These small rodents travel beneath the snow and over the grass in search of food all winter long. Their travels create trails of bare or dead grass. The surrounding grass will eventually fill in the damaged areas. Speed recovery by sprinkling grass seed over the trails. Just mix a handful of grass seed in a mop bucket of topsoil to make a lawn patch. Sprinkle the mixture in the trails, gently tamp and water.

Check areas along walks, drives and the street for deicing salt damage. Even if you don't apply deicing salts, passing cars can spray it onto your lawn. Your car also brings home salt as it travels along salted roadways, depositing salty snow onto the drive.

Make sure these areas receive sufficient water this spring. Regular spring showers often do the job. Thoroughly water these areas during dry springtime weather to help wash the salt past the grass roots into the soil below. Consider shoveling first and using plant-friendly deicing salts in the future. This will reduce the need for deicing salts and reduce the time and money spent repairing salt-damaged plants.

Use this time to sharpen your mower blades. Using sharp blades to



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

cut the grass results in a healthier and better-looking lawn. The clean cut made by a sharp blade closes quickly, reducing the risk of disease problems. Sharp blades also save time as you can cut the grass more efficiently. And speaking of savings, your mower will consume 22% less fuel and the lawn will use up to 30% less water when using sharp blades.

Soon it will be time to mow the lawn. Mow high and often, leaving grass clippings on the lawn to add organic matter, moisture, and nutrients to the soil. Always sweep clippings off walks and the drive to keep this valuable organic matter out of waterways.

Take care of winter damage now before the even busier garden season begins. Investing time now helps improve your lawn's health and beauty, allowing you more time to enjoy the summer.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *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 also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Community Legal Aid wins unemployment suit

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION—Unemployed residents are hoping to receive their benefits soon, following a successful class action lawsuit.

The Community Legal Aid organization recently won its court case against the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), the state agency that administers unemployment insurance benefits in Massachusetts.

Representing several Bay State workers, Community Legal Aid filed a motion for a preliminary injunction late last year in Worcester Superior Court. The motion sought to require the DUA to resume pro-

cessing unemployment claims, thousands of which have been on hold for several months pending review.

Because the DUA was flooded with fraudulent unemployment claims during the pandemic, the agency adopted an emergency policy that put most claims on hold until they could be individually vetted. While this allowed for more fraudulent claims to be flagged, it also caused legitimate unemployment claimants to go multiple months without receiving their benefits. This left families statewide in financial turmoil throughout the winter; many residents were forced to contact their legislators to seek assistance after failing to

reach DUA agents over the phone.

On March 2, a Worcester Superior Court judge agreed with Community Legal Aid's motion, ordering the DUA to follow all processes required under Massachusetts law.

"This injunction will stop a number of practices of DUA that have been extremely harmful to large numbers of people who have filed claims for unemployment benefits," said Community Legal Aid's Litigation Director, Leigh Woodruff. "This includes claimants being put on hold for extended periods, approved claimants having benefits stopped because of redeterminations with-

out any opportunity to be heard, and claimants having current benefits stopped to recover old overpayments that are actually under appeal."

Adding to the stress of the pandemic, thousands of residents not only saw their unemployment benefits put on hold over the last year, but they also received notices that they owed the state money. Residents were then forced to contact the DUA and prove the legitimacy of their claims to an adjudicator, often waiting several hours on the phone.

Many residents were not even given an opportunity to appeal the DUA's findings.

"Under this order, the DUA can no longer put claims on hold and leave

families in limbo, without income or any way to appeal for months on end," Woodruff added.

The clients represented by Community Legal Aid for its case against the DUA were all workers whose employment had been affected by the pandemic. The DUA had initially approved these plaintiffs' unemployment claims and began paying them benefits, but the payments were later stopped.

"Before taking these actions, the DUA never notified the plaintiffs of any problems," read a statement released by Community Legal Aid. "With the preliminary injunction, the court has ordered the DUA to stop these practices because

they deprive workers of benefits without due process in violation of federal and state law."

Community Legal Aid has reached out to the DUA, asking how the agency intends to comply with the court's order. The New Leader also sought comment from DUA officials, but no response was given as of press time.

Community Legal Aid provides free civil legal assistance to low-income and elderly residents of western and central Massachusetts. To learn more about the organization, visit www.CommunityLegal.org.

SCHOOLS

continued from page A1

will lead to three proposals: "just fixing the shell" of Bartlett, a full renovation, and a new building. The process will involve a lot of "back and forth" with MSBA and "multiple updates."

She also noted the district is receiving \$135,925 in Covid aid, based on \$25 per student. Goguen said she'd like to use those funds to buy some more Chromebooks, cleaning supplies and maybe lunch furniture, and hire a middle school adjustment counselor and a high school academic interventionist, with the latter specifically "to help our seniors cross the finish line." Both new jobs are in next year's budget, and will be funded that way or by ongoing Covid money.

The committee voted unanimously to support hiring both now, to approve changing the business manager's job description to assistant superintendent of business and finance, to invoke the optional two extra years of the busing contract (rather than go out to bid now), and to pay the bus company 75 percent of its normal rate for unused days this year.

Pierangeli told them the district will be getting \$673,331 as its 70-percent share of the town's revenue for budget purposes. That means the town is asking it to reduce its budget request by \$454,378 to about \$22.36 million. To offset some of those changes, she's looking at using grants and Covid money for some health, mental health and special education needs.

Goguen noted this is still "an early phase of budgeting" and it always "evolves." She praised the town's willingness to cooperate.

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

www.StonebridgePress.com
In Print and Online

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

deserve the highest praise for leading the Town safely through this pandemic," said Ruda. "They provided the support to public safety that kept them protected to the extent possible from accidental exposure, they provided the 'compassionate' enforcement that kept businesses honest if required. They contacted all residents that tested positive to offer support and advice, to provide for the extensive contact tracing that was required to protect us from further exposure. They advised me on how to continue delivering services to the public in a way that was safe for residents and staff. They secured and delivered the vaccines, they planned and set-up the local and regional clinic, they oversaw the Board of Health Assistants in duties that included screening and registering residents and serving them at the drive-thru window."

Ruda credited numerous individuals in the town for their effective work adapting to the situation and leading the town in different ways. He complimented Library Director Drucilla Carter and Your Services Librarian Lida Carroll for evolving into "outreach officers," Board of Selectmen Administrative Assistant Michelle Jarvis for becoming a "public resource officer," the firefighters and paramedics for taking on an unknown virus in spite of the anxiety, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Dean Kochanowski for working closely with the Board of Health to deliver vaccines and manage PPE, police officers and Chief Steve Wojnar for handling public needs with kindness and gentleness especially as other social movement took hold during the pandemic, the highway staff for helping the town adjust to social distancing formats and Town Clerk Lori Smith who with only a year of experience at the towns elected clerk had to help manage a new format for elections and town meetings. Ruda also complimented the people of Dudley themselves who have effectively adjusted to the "new normal".

On the public health side, Dudley Health Agent Jamie Terry, who took

her position seven months into the pandemic, said Dudley was effective in responding to the pandemic by realizing the resources needed to progress. She said Dudley has worked hard to stay ahead of the pandemic as best they can and continues to do so even as vaccines begin to roll out.

"The citizens in town have stood up to fight this battle alongside the Town. We have had very few complaints regarding masks wearing, we have had many offers to help from Town residents and we have had caring, concerned citizens come before the Board of Health to discuss businesses, events and sports in an effort to reduce incidence of virus transmission. Recently we were fortunate enough to work together to vaccinate 109 eligible seniors in Town through the Senior Housing facility allotments. The clinic was flawless, and the residents were well served," Terry said. "During the course of this year Dudley has also worked with our partners at Harrington Hospital. This partnership began focusing on testing efforts and needs during large exposures. We planned and implemented a great system. The partnership felt natural and really came together well. This partnership continues to expand. We are now supporting the vaccination center at the Southbridge Community Center and have helped roughly 900 eligible residents to obtain a vaccine appointment."

Both Ruda and Terry reflected on lessons learned from the pandemic saying the town has embraced a new respect for the partnerships they have both within and beyond town borders. The pandemic also put local and state public safety and emergency response efforts to the test forcing towns and the state to evolve and create more effective plans so that all parties will be ready if and when a health crisis emerges in the near or distant future.

"The strength behind our local public health partnership is such a phenomenal support," Terry said. "This partnership has allowed local health department to share ideas, resources, staff, and advocacy and truly provided a very strong public health voice. We've also learned we must remain patient, true to the guidance from the Department of

Public Health and be willing to roll with the punches. Information can flow in quickly with very little or no warning and it is key to be fully engaged all the time. In this local health role, we have each been placed 'on-call' for about a year straight. This is not a typical timeline for an emergency. I think we've learned just what we are made of during this pandemic."

"There are several take-aways," added Ruda. "First, public health and safety services and emergency management can only work if managed and delivered at the local level. The pandemic provided clear and incontrovertible evidence of that. Those critical services must be protected. Second, collaboration and communication across departments has to be ongoing and cooperative. Fiefdoms do not serve the public and do not serve the government. We were fortunate that very early-on, our internal departments were able to put any nonsense that existed aside and work together. Third, collaboration and cooperation has to extend out to include private and public entities, both local and beyond and must include regional and neighboring boards and governments. There is always the concern that when faced with similar crises, neighbors will close down and protect their own interests, but I have found that when faced with the same crises, neighbors tend to work together, better than ever to protect common interests. Finally, never underestimate the talent that is at your own doorstep. I have asked a lot of every employee in Dudley and empirically, employees have pleasantly surprised me at almost every turn."

While the end might seemingly be in sight, Dudley residents are asked not to rest on their laurels and to continue to take the pandemic seriously. Terry and Ruda both said vaccination efforts are progressing effectively in Dudley with 69 percent of the over-75 population in Dudley vaccinated as of the interview. Since then, opportunities for younger age groups have opened up across the state and town. Information on COVID vaccinations can be accessed on the town of Dudley website through a banner on the top of the home page.



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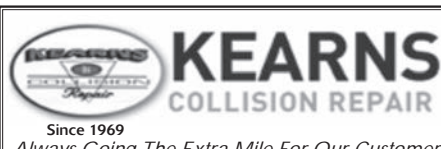


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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Celebrating strong women

March is Women’s History Month, which includes International Women’s Day that took place on March 8. This may seem like a new progressive holiday; however, it stems back to 1909, when the Socialist Party of America, organized a day for Women on Feb. 28 in New York. One year later, the International Socialist Woman’s Conference announced that a day for women be held each year.

Fast forward to 1917 in Russia, where, on March 8, women were given the right to vote. In 1975, the holiday was adopted by the United Nations.

The long and the short is that this day is a day to celebrate women past, present and future. With that said our staff chose to highlight the women that we feel have had a standout role in influencing how our world operates today. The list was endless, therefore naturally hard to choose, so in order to prevent a 200-page editorial we narrowed the list down to our favorites.

Social reformer Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women’s Social and Political Union in 1903 to campaign for the parliamentary vote for women in Edwardian Britain, ‘Deeds, not words’ being its motto. Pankhurst is described as a charismatic leader and powerful orator, Pankhurst rallied thousands of women to demand, rather than ask politely, for their democratic right in a mass movement that has been unparalleled in British history. The battle did not come without consequences, she endured 13 imprisonments, leading her name and cause becoming known throughout the globe.

At the age of 15, Claudette Colvin was arrested at the age of 15 in Montgomery, Alabama when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman. This event gave the famous Rosa Parks the courage to do the same. Colvin was one of five plaintiffs involved in the federal court case filed by civil rights attorney Fred Gray in 1956, in which they challenged bus segregation. The outcome was that a judge ordered that the local laws in regards to bus segregation were unconstitutional. To find Colvin’s name in a history book is rare. This in part because she was an unmarried teenager who apparently was with child. Colvin went on to become a nurse’s aid.

In an interview in 2005, Colvin said, “I feel very, very proud of what I did. I do feel like what I did was a spark and it caught on.”

As for recognition, Colvin said, “I’m not disappointed. Let the people know Rosa Parks was the right person for the boycott. But also let them know that the attorneys took four other women to the Supreme Court to challenge the law that led to the end of segregation.”

Colvin’s family has been trying since 2016 to have her recognized and honored in the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Colvin was not invited officially to the opening of the museum in 2016.

Marie Curie is the next on our short list. Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who was the first to delve into radioactivity. Curie who was born in 1867, was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win it two times. Collecting several firsts, Curie was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris. In a time when most women spent their days in the home taking care of their children and husbands, Curie had to smash several ceilings for her own advancement. Curie was known for her honesty and moderate lifestyle. All of her prize money, she donated to scientific research and refused to copyright the radium-isolation process so that her fellow scientists could continue research unhindered. In 2011, Poland and France declared the year would be “The Year of Marie Curie.” She became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Pantheon in Paris in 1995.

In 1933, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt turned the position of First Lady from benign symbol to an active and intellectually vigorous power center. Roosevelt served as the United States Delegate to the UN General Assembly from 1945 to 1952. Roosevelt was the topic of much controversy for her outspoken nature, especially in regard to civil rights for African Americans. She was the first, First Lady to hold regular press conferences, host a weekly radio show and to speak at a national party conven-

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VIEWPOINT

Living life with a purpose

What is our purpose here on earth? What is life all about? And how can we live life in the most meaningful manner?

Too often, our lives seem so superficial, meaningless, and full of disappointments, struggles, brokenness and pain. Is that what life is all about? Is that what God wants for us? Is that how we’re supposed to pass our brief years here on earth? What did Jesus mean when He said, “I have come to give you life, and give it to you abundantly” (John 10:10)? What is this abundant life He promises?



BEYOND THE PEWS

By FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN
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Rick Warren, in his book “The Purpose Driven Life,” offers the advice that life is a “test, a trust and a temporary assignment.” This imagery comes directly from Holy Scriptures, and it’s a wonderful way to put our life in its proper perspective. Too often we look at life as our own – with the egocentric attitude “I can do whatever I want because this is my life. Life is all about ME – what will make ME happy, what do I want to do, what do I want to get out of life.” We see this self-centered attitude in countless ways all around us.

I remember talking with someone who faced marital problems, and one of the issues was that the spouse was getting bored with his life. He wasn’t happy in his relationship, and so as is too common in our society, his answer was to leave. Why? “Because it’s all about ME, and how I feel. If I’m not happy or content, then I must do what’s in MY own best interest.”

From a Christian perspective, this egocentric spirit fails on several fronts. First, when we only focus on our own issues and feelings, we ignore the “other.” Divine love is all about loving the “other.” Our faith teaches us that “the other is my salvation.” When we learn that love is all about sacrificially giving to the other, only then will we discover the true joy of authentic love and the ultimate meaning of life itself. Jesus taught that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Actually, it is through giving that we truly receive. And here is where we so often fail. By keeping our focus on ourselves, on our egocentric desires and ways, and by ignoring the other, we lose the direction in life

that will lead us to our deepest happiness. We end up not discovering the true and eternal joy of giving and living!

When we keep the focus of life on self, we end up with a shallow, superficial and meaningless life. We try to fill up our days with entertainment and material things while we use people so that they fulfill our needs in hopes that this will fill the deep inner void in our souls. This egocentric path leads to a dead end of meaninglessness and emptiness.

Look around at so many in our society, especially at the rich and famous in Hollywood, at our sports and entertainment heroes, or at the elite and powerful of politics. These are people who seem to have it all – riches, fame and power –yet when we look closely at their lives, more often than not we see people full of arrogance and pride, people deeply broken and empty, people who leave behind a path of shattered and superficial relationships. Ultimately, we see people who do not lead lives of eternal significance.

So, how can we find greater purpose and meaning in life. One way is to look at life as a test, a trust, and a temporary assignment. These three perspectives help us gain an eternal perspective!

Life is a test. All that we face - whether disappointments, struggles, challenges, problems and even tragedies –are all trials to test whether we will face them alone or with God. God is always with us, whether we realize it or not. God will never abandon us, whether we ignore him or not. He is there in the midst of every disappointment or cross we face. If we understand this well, then we will never despair. We will never feel overwhelmed. Our limits may be stretched, even stretched beyond anything that we ever dreamed of, yet we will realize that nothing that happens in our life is meaningless or insignificant. Each test in life is there to remind us to turn to God and rely on Him. Every event in life is a means for us to grow in our faith and trust in our loving Creator. Each test that life brings will help us see God’s hand in our own life and in the world around us!

Life as a trust. God has given us all that we have – our talents, our brains,

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

‘Asportation’ explained



CHIEF S
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By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

When people see criminal charges in police logs or other places, questions for this column are often asked. The charge of shoplifting is always interesting, as it contains so many parts. I was asked to explain shoplifting by “asportation.”

Shoplifting, under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 266 Section 30A, contains several ways a person can commit a violation. Asportation is one of these terms and it is contained in the first section of the law. It is defined by Webster’s Dictionary as “The act of carrying a thing away; the removing of a thing from one place to another.” This is the most common offense people associate with shoplifting. The definition can be rather complex, however; it generally involves intentionally taking possession of an item and carrying it away from the place in which it is stored. The most common example of this is when a person goes into a store, takes an item, and leaves without paying for it. The shoplifting statute does contain many other charges as well. They include concealment, altering merchandise, label switching, and more. As for the concealment portion, the mere act of taking an item and placing it in your pocket, without leaving the store, could possibly be considered as shoplifting. If you take the price tag off one item and place it on another, it can also qualify as a violation under this section.

Shoplifting costs the retail industry billions of dollars each year, and the losses are passed on to the paying customers. Penalties can include a fine or jail time, depending on the value of the item. Police officers also have a statutory right of arrest for this charge without a warrant.

As the pandemic continues, we ask everyone to stay safe and continue to take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves. For those eligible, vaccination information can find it at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, health care, government officials, and all other “essential” personnel for their continued hard work and service. We all hope for a quick end to this pandemic and greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.


Business owners’ issues go beyond ‘Mom and Pop’ label

If you own a small business, you typically don’t get a lot of recognition – so you may be pleased to learn that March 29 is National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day. You might not necessarily think of your business as a “Mom and Pop” operation, but it certainly contributes to the well-being of your family now, and possibly to that of future generations, too – if you make the right moves.

Depending on the nature of your business, you may have spent the past several months more concerned about today than tomorrow, given the serious economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still placing stress on a great many business owners across the country.

If your business has been adversely affected by the pandemic, you might be eligible for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. As you may know, recent legislation provided \$285 billion more for this program. To learn more, and to start the application process, visit the Small Business Administration Web site at www.sba.gov. You have until March 31 to apply for a PPP loan. Other relief also may be available.

But regardless of whether you apply for one of these loans, you can take other steps to help maximize the benefits you get from your business – and perhaps even extend its longevity.



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Here are a few suggestions:

Establish a retirement plan. If you don’t already have a retirement plan, it’s never too late to set one up. As a business owner, you have several options, including an “owner-only” 401(k), a SIMPLE IRA and a SEP-IRA. All these plans are fairly easy to establish and can offer potential tax advantages, as well as providing you with a source of retirement income in the future. You may want to work with a financial professional to pick the right plan for your needs.

Coordinate your business assets with your investment portfolio. Like most business owners, you may have a great deal of your personal wealth tied up in your business. And, as the past year has certainly shown, this can be risky. Consequently, you’ll need to weigh this risk factor when deciding on investing in your retirement plan or in other investment accounts. This doesn’t

mean you should try to avoid all risk only by pursuing the most conservative vehicles – which would be counterproductive to achieving enough growth to meet your retirement income goals – but you will need to pay close attention to your investment mix to ensure it provides you with an appropriate balance to what you’ve invested in your business.

Develop a transition strategy. How will you make the transition from business owner to the next phase of your life? Will you sell the business outright? Will you gradually transfer it to a family member? If so, what mechanism will you use? It’s a good idea to have these types of plans in place well before you need to enact them, so you may want to consult with your financial, legal and tax advisors soon.

A “Mom and Pop” business may sound quaint and carefree – but, as you know, running a business of any size can be an all-consuming endeavor and always involves significant financial concerns. Get the help you need to meet these challenges.

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.

Know where your fish is from



Some of the local ponds and lakes had been stocked with trout this past week, and anglers are catching numerous rainbow trout, and a large brown trout at Ashland Res. as this week's picture shows. The large brown was more than likely stocked last year, as the state was lowering the hatchery's trout supply, because of the pandemic. For a complete list

of stocked trout waters go to the massfish Web site. Another reminder that Wallum Lake is closed to fishing until April 10. Rivers and streams could also receive a stocking of trout this week because of the low water flow. The price of lobster has gone through the roof at local markets and restaurants, and some fresh fish prices are also on the

rise. If you have a fisherman in your family, it is a good thing, especially if he is good at catching fish. Although some of the freshwater species are not good to eat for some people, a low consumption of them is best if you are elderly, pregnant & also for children. Many fresh waters in the state carry high heavy metals, and other pollutants that are dangerous

to your health, and are found in most freshwater fish. Trout are the safest fish to eat. Locally, the Mumford River and the Blackstone River are still heavily polluted, and my recommendation would be to eat none, from these two rivers. When purchasing fish from a local fish market, it is best to know where your fish is coming from. Many stores and fish markets are starting to post the place of origin for their fish, which should be considered before purchasing fish, as many foreign countries do not have regulations ensuring the fish is safe to eat. The state of Massachusetts does regulate seafood from other countries, but not like they regulate meat. Farm raised fish will never be on my dinner plate! Read on! I watched a documentary on a television show called "Fishing Cowboys." It was a group of commercial fishermen that were harvesting shrimp in Florida. The shrimp were very large and white in color. The Captain explained that it is easy to tell what are wild caught shrimp, from farm raised. The fan of the tail is dark, almost black in color on the tip. The Captain stated that he would never eat a farm raised shrimp,



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

and if you saw the way they raise them and fed them, you also would not eat them. He stated that "If you eat a farm raised shrimp, they taste very bland, and need cocktail sauce to hide the bland taste." He is right! He took a freshly caught shrimp and ate it without sauce, and stated that they were delicious. I have also had fresh wild caught shrimp and they are great. Wild fresh caught seafood is most often better for you and taste great. One day a few years ago, I brought some fresh caught fluke to the Uxbridge Rode & Gun Club to give the boys a taste of real fish. Most have had it before, but this one guy insisted that he did not like fish. I brought a tray of the cooked fish out to a few of the boys that meet often at the club. This one guy insisted that he did not like fish. After a bit of coaxing, he tried a piece. Wow! That is good fish! What kind of fish is it? "Fresh fish," I replied. After the huge oil spill

on the coast a number of years ago, things have gotten a lot better & hopefully, it never happens again, but it will! Mother Nature has been cleaning up man's pollution for years, but someday it may not be able to handle major pollution problems like have happened in the past. Today, there are hundreds of miles of pollution floating far out into the ocean that we rarely see, but it is there. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold another 3-D archery shoot this Sunday March 28, at the club grounds off of West Street. The event is open to the public young and old. The course has been cleaned, and life size species of animals, "3-D targets" have been set up over acres of property. Past events have received high marks from bowhunters on their experience at the 3-D shoots. The kitchen will be open for a full breakfast starting at 7 a.m.! Masks are recommended, along with social distancing. Enjoy a day in the outdoors with family and friends. You deserve it after this past 12 months. The club Fishing Derby is slated for April 10. Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Back to Basics: Color Eggs the Old Fashioned Way

Easter is right around the corner, and few family traditions are more enjoyable than the much-anticipated egg coloring project. Whether you decorate your eggs with intricate wax designs or plopping crayoned eggs into dye cups, the annual ceremony is always filled with fun and a sense of family togetherness. When it comes to egg coloring, the following ideas promise to bring back old fashioned fun! Note: Eggs that are to be eaten should always be refrigerated after coloring. ***



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

Natural Dye for Easter Eggs Years ago, before the invention of the commercial dying kit, eggs were tinted by necessity with natural foods that produced an array of pastel colors. Today, it's just as easy to duplicate the rainbow colors of yesteryear using everyday fruits, vegetables and seasonings. All it takes is a little bit of patience, and a lot of enthusiasm to produce an impressive basketful of colorful Easter eggs! Certain foods can naturally produce a desired color:

Pale Red/Pink: Fresh beets or cranberries, frozen raspberries, red onion skins
Orange: Yellow onion skins
Light yellow: Orange or lemon

EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

tion. She was so bold to even disagree with her husband on certain policies. After her husband's death, Roosevelt spent her remaining years in active politics. She was the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights and chaired John F. Kennedy's administration's Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. Roosevelt was nicknamed the "First Lady of the World." Last but not least is Agent 355, who was instrumental to the Patriot cause during the Revolutionary War. Agent 355 was a part George Washington's Culper Spy Ring. With the fear of a trip to the gallows in the back of her mind every day, Agent 355 managed to continue to help get crucial information to the General. Unlike the women we mentioned before, Agent 355 used her role as a quiet unassuming woman to make monumental gains that led to our freedom today. The identity of '355' is not yet known, however she is referred to as 'lady' 355 in Washington's code book. The only direct reference to '355' was from ring-leader Abraham Woodhull (known as Samuel Culper, Sr.) to Washington in which Woodhull described her as "one who hath been ever serviceable to this correspondence." We hope that one day her true identity will be discovered.

While we pay homage to strong women who have done incredible things, this does not negate the influential women we come into contact with in our everyday lives. As women we don't have to smash ceilings or gain notoriety to make a difference. We can be positive, powerful and influential in our everyday lives which in turn creates a domino effect that can last years after we're gone.

peels., celery seed or ground cumin
Yellow: Ground turmeric
Lavender: Grape juice
Pale green: Spinach leaves
Green-gold: Yellow
Delicious apple peels
Blue: Canned blueberries or red cabbage leaves
Beige to brown: Strong brewed coffee

Instructions:
1. Place eggs in a single layer in a pan. Pour water in pan until the eggs are covered.
2. Add about a teaspoon of vinegar.
3. Add the natural dye appropriate to the color you want your eggs to be. (The more eggs you are dying at a time, the more dye you will need to use.)
4. Bring water to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Remove the substance you used to color the eggs. Put eggs in a bowl. If you want your eggs to be a darker shade, cover them with the dye and let them stand overnight in the refrigerator. ***

Quick and Easy Homemade Dye No egg coloring kit on hand? This homemade mixture rivals the basic egg coloring kits. Use empty egg cartons to dry colored eggs. Mix three quarters of a cup warm water with one tablespoon white vinegar. Add one quarter teaspoon of common food coloring (as used for cake decorating, etc.). Make individual batches of color in wide mouth mugs, Mason jars, or small bowls. Dip and soak hard boiled eggs in mixture to color. ***

Egg Artistry With parental supervision, little artists can create wax egg art with this easy and fun idea.

Materials: Large glass jar; crayon stubs; vegetable grater; hot water; waxed paper or newspaper, empty egg carton, clear acrylic spray (optional, for blown eggs). Instructions: Grate peeled crayons over waxed paper. Fill jar with very hot water (or use the water you boiled eggs in). Drop bits of grated crayon into water. Add hard boiled or blown egg as soon as crayon begins to melt. Twirl egg in water with a spoon. The wax should make a design on the egg. Carefully remove egg and set upside down in egg carton to dry.

Note for blown eggs: Use above method with blown out eggs; spray with clear acrylic when dry. ***

Mystery Dots This simple egg coloring method clearly illustrates a simple science experiment. Kids love it!

To do: Add about two teaspoons of cooking oil to each dye cup. (You might want to do this after you have finished dipping your eggs the traditional way.) When you dip in your egg, the dye won't adhere to the oil, creating mysterious spots on the egg! * * * E g g - c e t e r a * Wrap a wide elastic band around egg before dipping to create an abstract design. * Personalize eggs with little fin-

gerprints. Just press fingertips into stamp pad, then onto egg. * Stick simple star stickers on eggs before dying. Peel when dry for reversible art! * Use food coloring markers for safe, freestyle egg decorating. * Dip a paper towel in vegetable oil and polish dried eggs for a shiny, finished look. ***

** Win Dinner for Two at the Public House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Public 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 Public House Inn.

Latest antique and auction news



that "the ornately decorated dish, which features depictions of lotuses, peonies, chrysanthemums and pomegranate blossoms, dates back to the reign of the Yongle Emperor (1403-1424)." The auction house claimed that there are only 6 similar pieces known to exist. The Smithsonian reported that "these specimens are housed in such prominent cultural institutions as Taipei's Palace Museum, the National Museum of Iran, the British Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum." The "Lotus bowl" had a pre-auction estimate of \$300,000 to \$500,000. An unknown buyer purchased the bowl for nearly \$722,000.

An ArtFix daily report stated that a rare Charlie Chaplin poster was also headed to auction recently. "Produced in 1913, when Chaplin was still a vaudeville performer and aspiring comedian, the 42 inch long by 14 inch wide, broadside advertises Fred Karno's London Comedy Company and a show called "The Wow Wows", starring Chaplin and other comedy performers. The show was held at the Empress Theatre in San Diego, with performances on February 17th, 1913," according to ArtFix. The poster had a pre-auction estimate of \$300 to \$3,500. A search of auction results shows that it sold for \$10,500.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

Tom Brady's move to Tampa Bay is a sore subject for many local sports fans, but it hasn't hurt the value of his sports memorabilia. One of Brady's rookie cards recently set an auction record and another rookie card currently being auctioned online has already surpassed that record. A 2000 Playoff Contenders Championship Ticket Tom Brady card sold earlier this month. Fox 19 Cincinnati News reported that James Park, who is the CEO of Fitbit, purchased the card. Park explained to USA Today why he wanted the card. "I lived in Boston for 10 years and so am a huge fan of Brady. I've also had a love of collecting cards since I was a kid. Given Brady's uncontested status as GOAT in football, this card is an important piece of sports history and of any collection." The card was graded 8 out of 10 and was one of only one hundred produced, according to USA Today. It sold for \$1.32 million, making it the most valuable football card ever sold. A higher-grade version of the same card is currently being offered in an online auction now. This card graded 8.5 and the signature was graded at

OBITUARIES

William J. “Bill” Brown, Jr., 77



William J. “Bill” Brown, Jr., age 77, of Woburn, formerly of Webster, MA and Rochester, NY, March 13, 2021. He was the beloved husband of Jill (Johnson) Brown, the loving stepfather of Michael D. Saraco, III and fiancé Patty Mahoney of Woburn, Wendy Halloran and hus-

band Scott of Tewksbury, and the dear brother of Anne M. Brown of Webster. In light of the precautions with Covid-19, a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777, New York, NY 10163-4777 www.michaeljfox.org . For complete obituary visit www.costello-funeralhome.com

Thomas Perry 77



After a long illness, Thomas Perry 77 of Leicester, passed away peacefully on Monday March 15, 2021. Tom was a unique character. He could usually be found driving a tractor, or fishing, and typically with a Budweiser in hand. At any given moment you could be summoned to pick up a bushel of steamers for an impromptu cook-out. He was sarcastically funny and gruff, but sweet on the inside. Way down deep inside. You really had to dig for it. He worked hard, had his own mechanical insulation company, which he ran with his wife and sons. God bless them. Tom was fearless and, wonderfully, it never occurred to him that there was something he could not do. He built his house, his garage, and cars. If there was a skillset he did not know, he would read books with a giant magnifying glass to learn it. Concrete work, automotive, electrical to plumbing, he did it all. Usually with his children and wife as staff, at his beck and call. He was particularly brilliant with boilers and furnaces. Tom enjoyed old cars, snowmobiling and hanging out in his garage with his keg and buddies. Some of his best memories were singing karaoke with his family in Sarasota. In honor of Tom, please feel free to have a beer while belting out a Roy Orbison

or Patsy Cline song, preferably while wearing a cowboy hat. Or train conductor hat, either way. He leaves his wonderfully sweet wife of 56 years, Marguerite, and their four children: Thomas Perry Jr and wife Denise, William Perry and wife Nichol, Dana Esposito and husband James, and Lisa Perry and partner Evan Kamien. He leaves two grandchildren, Delaney and Liam Perry. Tom’s siblings: Marilyn Mastrorio (pre-deceased by her husband Skip), Edward Perry and wife Darylène, David Perry and wife Georgia, and Sheila Smith and husband David. All of whom can sleep peacefully now that they will no longer receive 5:00 am wake up phone calls from Tom. He grew up in Millbury, Ma and was predeceased by his parents, Edward Perry and Winifred (Wilkinson). Sincere thanks to VNA hospice and Visiting Angels, and to our true guardian angels, Beverly and Buster. Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to the Worcester State Foundation C/O University Advancement, 486 Chandler Street Worcester, MA 01602. Please write Aaron E. Mastrorio ROTC Scholarship Fund on the memo line of your check. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences, share fond memories, or light a

Jeffrey A. Wilson, 66



OXFORD – Jeffrey A. Wilson, 66, of Park Street, passed away on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in his home after a courageous battle with thyroid cancer. He is survived by his wife, Laura B. (Adams) Wilson of Oxford; his son, Jason F. Wilson and his wife Megan of Walpole; his stepson, Jonathan A. LeBreton of Oxford; his mother-in-law, Carolyn Adams of Oxford; two brothers, R. Barry Wilson of Oxford and Mark F. Wilson and his wife Mary of Leicester; his sister, Claire D. Wilson of Oxford; four grandchildren, Kelsey, William, Colton, and Carson Wilson; and several nephews, nieces, and close cousins. He was predeceased by his sister, Margaret E. Wilson in December 2020. He was the son of the late F. Duncan and Eileen Theresa (McCue) Wilson, and was a lifelong resident of Oxford. He graduated from Worcester Boys Trade High School and received an associate’s degree in Fire Science from Quinsigamond Community College. Mr. Wilson began his 48 year career in the fire service with the Oxford Fire Department in 1972 where he worked through the ranks to become chief of the department. During his time in Oxford, he served on many committees including Fire District 7, Homeland Security and Central Mass EMS Corporation, promoting policies,

procedures and advancements in the public health and safety field. After retiring as Oxford Fire/EMS Chief in 2010, he worked for Bert’s Emergency Vehicles and also joined the Sutton Fire Department, where he managed the Fire Prevention Education Program for the Sutton School system, the Senior Safe Program, the Community Risk Reduction Division, mentored members of the department and was the Communication Team Leader for Fire District 7. He retired from the Sutton Fire Department as Chief Emeritus in February 2020. The family would like to thank Oxford Fire/EMS, Sutton Fire Department, and the staff at UMass Memorial Hospital - University Campus for their exceptional support and care through this difficult journey. A funeral Mass was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021, at St. Roch’s Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Those attending are respectfully requested to meet directly at the church. Capacity limitations are in place at the church and the funeral Mass will be live-streamed on the funeral home website below his obituary. Burial will follow at North Cemetery in Oxford. Calling hours were Sunday, March 21, 2021, from 3-6 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, 4 Maple Rd., Oxford, MA 01540.

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

BUDGET

continued from page A1

schools, 3.75 percent extra to benefits (but she noted changes in health insurance “significantly reduced” some aspects to make it “budget neutral”), assessing map updates, and slightly hiking the selectmen’s stipends. In addition, she’s requesting \$3.1 million for the year’s capital program, which includes \$500,000 in the budget for roads, something Oxford has been doing for a couple of years. That money will augment the \$507,767 Oxford expects to receive in state Chapter 90 road aid. Callahan is hoping the town will support a wide range of projects and big-ticket needs. Among them, the largest single item is replacing Engine 1 for \$685,000 in borrowing, a figure she said might go down if federal aid increases. Other items include a new fire pickup truck, new inspections vehicle, two dispatch consoles, two mowers, a cable playback system, a wireless digital information board, and funding land management document scanning and destruction. In terms of major projects, the largest is the “behemoth task” of replacing the Leicester Street (Route 56) bridge, which she noted is “on the state’s watch list” because of its condition. Others include irrigation at Reul Field, paving the lot and installing aeration at Carbuncle Pond, and doing weatherization and LED installation at the two elementary schools (the latter funded by the Green Communities Act, mostly). Lesser projects mostly fall under the heading of the \$575,000 building improvement fund, which aims to replace the North Station roof, library carpets, two school boilers, Town Hall smoke detectors, and make ADA improvements to senior center and Town Hall. Callahan said she expects Oxford to receive about \$10.6 million in state Chapter 70 (school transportation) aid and \$2.3 million in unrestricted general aid, on top of the Chapter 90 money. In other business, the selectmen voted 4-0 with Cheryll Leblanc abstaining to approve a new license policy for backyard chickens and ducks. That sets the initial application fee at \$40 (plus \$10 for a certified abutters list) and renewals at \$20 per year. As John Saad noted, the initial fee is mostly to compensate for the Animal Inspector’s time, as s/he has to approve the fowl housing and related arrangements. Subsequent years, he noted, the inspector just needs to confirm “nothing has changed.”

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

ANTIQUES

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9.0. The card is numbered 99/100 (99 of 100). The auction description notes that the consignor purchased it on eBay over a decade ago. Bidding ends on April 2. As of March 20, the current bid is over \$1.7 million. The card is expected to break the \$2.0 million mark, which is more than 10 times Tom Brady’s rookie salary of \$193,000. We will soon be offering an important collection of sports and non-sports cards all from one estate, with some dating back over 70 years ago. Our May auction with paintings, jewelry, sterling silver, antique Asian pieces, Larry Bird and Wayne Gretzky rookie cards, and other quality pieces will go online in early May. Deadline for consigning for that auction ends in April. We will also be running our next online auction of antique, vintage, and contemporary toys soon. You can join our email list on our Web site to keep updated on upcoming events. *Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com*

Writing is a hit or miss proposition. Sometimes I hit and the email reflects that the goal of my column was reached. At those moments, I’ll admit, I feel a sense of satisfaction. At other times, I clearly miss the mark and the email also reflects it in many ways. I receive email of anger, dissatisfaction, disagreement, or disappointment, or even worse, no email at all. Regardless of the column, I rarely file it away not knowing how others feel. Writhing “Positively Speaking” is a true joy. I love hearing from readers and eagerly accept the challenge of trying to help others live happier and more optimistic lives. I’m grateful that this publication allows me to do so. If I can humbly say so, the last two columns seemed to hit a sweet spot. The first was a column on dealing with disappointment and the other on hope being the anchor of our souls. I’m still receiving positive email on both. I believe the positive impact is partly because they were back-to-back. I think in essence, hope and optimism are our vaccines for disappointment. We all experience disappointment. It’s an unavoid-

Optimism: The vaccine for disappointment



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

able part of life. The problem is most people dwell in it. Like a vaccine, hope and optimism can reduce or eliminate the despair of disappointment, but like a vaccine, you must take the action to get the shot. I received my second dose of the Covid vaccine two weeks ago. My side effects were minimal. I had a sore arm. I was told by a few family members and friends not to get it ... that it would change my DNA by some and by others it was a conspiracy to insert a chip into my body. I listened, did my own research, then got the shot. I learned that cancer patients in my age bracket were three times more likely to die of Covid than others, so it was an easy decision. But what about becoming more hopeful and optimistic in your life? What are the negative side effects? If you do it, you will occasionally be disappointed ... which you’ll be by nature anyway, but you’ll find yourself more willing to reach for your dreams and accomplish goals and live a happier, more fruitful life. Whether we realize it or not, everything that we are consuming via media, stories, or the world around us,

is forming our mindset. Not too long ago, my wife and I were spending a lot of time watching talk news. It was always playing in the background throughout the day, and I noticed I was getting more agitated, and my thoughts were gravitating towards more doom and gloom in this world rather than hopeful thoughts. It occurred to me – the news was forming me away from positivity. So, what did I do? I turned it off. Less news, more positivity. Less polarizing talk radio, more activities that bring me hope. The question we must all ask ourselves, is what are we being formed into? What are you feeding your mind? What are you consuming? Are we being formed into becoming more cynical, angry, and negative? Or are we surrounding ourselves by positive media, positive people, and positive stories that our forming us into joyfully optimistic people? Perhaps consider taking an audit in your life and discover who or what is forming you towards or away from optimism. Research positive and optimistic stories of people like you and what they’ve accomplished. Follow optimistic people on social media.

Immerse yourself in positive and optimistic news. Look for symbolic stories with positive meaning and outcome. They help guide and inspire you. I suspect that is why Jesus told so many parables. Whenever Jesus told a parable, it was an invitation to imagine things differently. Jesus’ stories formed the listener towards the values of the kingdom, not away. Jesus’ stories formed the listener to think on pure, lovely, gracious, merciful, and kind values. What am I saying? Act! We usually find what we seek. Want a more successful and happier life? Seek a happier and more successful life. Don’t marinate in your disappointment. Do something ... take action to leave it behind. Take the vaccine of optimism and your life will change for the better. It’s easy ... it’s self-administered, and the only side effects are happiness and success. Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

LEGALS

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. WO21P0793EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Thomas Robert Chase
Date of Death: 01/31/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will** has been filed by **Kristy L Sheehan of Richmond ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Kristy L Sheehan of Richmond ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/13/2021.** 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 10, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 26, 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. WO21P0221EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Edward Chodur
Date of Death: 12/17/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Barbara M Zurawski of Charlton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Barbara M Zurawski of Charlton MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/13/2021.** 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 17, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 26, 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. WO21P0401EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Constance F. Marrier
Date of Death: 11/26/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Karen Mason of Inman SC** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Karen Mason of Inman SC** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/06/2021.** 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 03, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 26, 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. WO20P3093EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Donald Raymond Pembroke

Date of Death: 09/05/2020
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Beaumont Nursing Home by Rob of Northbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 04/13/2021.** 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 17, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 26, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO21P0549EA
Estate of:
David M. Rohr
Date Of Death: December 17, 2020
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kathleen Rohr of Southampton MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Kathleen Rohr of Southampton 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.
March 26, 2021

‘Town of Dudley Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Dudley Wetland By-Law: Ronald Thunberg has filed a Notice of Intent with the Dudley Conservation Commission to raze the existing single family dwelling at 15 Cottage Road and build a new single family dwelling on the existing foundation. Work includes grading and landscaping within the 100-Foot buffer zone to Hayden Pond. Applications can be reviewed at the Dudley Conservation Commission office at the Town Hall. A remote public hearing regarding this filing will be held Wednesday March 31, 2021 at which time all persons having interest may call in to participate in the Conservation Commission meeting that opens at 6:00 p.m. Jennifer Cournoyer at 508-949-8007 or watersewer@dudleyma.gov
March 25, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Webster School Committee has proposed an operating budget for FY2022. A Public Hearing will be held remotely on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The link can be found at the districts Website (www.webster-schools.org) 24 hours prior to the meeting. Copies of the budget and supporting documentation can be found immediately on the Webster Public Schools website at www.webster-schools.org: Office of Business and Finance. Hard copies may also be obtained at the Webster Public School Administration Offices, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570.
March 26, 2021

Town Meeting
Warrant A1-ticle # 12 of the Special Town Meeting held on October 19, 2020 has received approval from the Attorney General's Office on February 25, 2021. The entire text of this by-law is posted in the following five places in accordance with G.L c. 40 § 32: Dudley Municipal Complex, Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Mason Road School, Dudley District Court House and Shepherd Hill High School.
Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk
March 26, 2021
April 2, 2021

Hiring? Reach More Local Applicants



Rather than go online where you are bound to get applicants from all over the world who click on every open job, why not advertise **locally**, where you will get qualified, local applicants for your local job.

- The Auburn New
- Blackstone Valley Tribune
- Spencer New Leader
- Southbridge News

- Webster Times
- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager

- Woodstock Villager
- Thompson Villager
- Putnam Villager
- Killingly Villager



Email: ads@stonebridgepress.news

Phone: (508) 909-4105



SCIENCE FACT!

THE FIRST INTERNET NETWORK, CALLED "ARPANET," WAS INITIALLY DESIGNED FOR USE BY WHOM?

ANSWER: THE MILITARY

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A

B

Answers: 1. Cat on pillow 2. Game controller is now a sandwich 3. Soccer ball has no spots 4. Dad's hoodie string is longer

THIS DAY IN...

MAR 22

HISTORY

- 1765: THE STAMP ACT IS PASSED, INTRODUCING A DIRECT TAX ON AMERICAN COLONIES BY GREAT BRITAIN.
- 1894: THE FIRST STANLEY CUP PLAYOFF GAME IS PLAYED.
- 1995: COSMONAUT VALERI POLYAKOV RETURNS TO EARTH AFTER BEING IN SPACE FOR A RECORD 438 DAYS.

New word

IT

the abbreviation for information technology, the development and use of computers

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Technology

SPANISH: Tecnología

ITALIAN: Tecnologia

FRENCH: Technologie

GERMAN: Technologie

Did you know?

DRONES HAVE BECOME VERY POPULAR AMONG HOBBYISTS, BUSINESSES AND EVEN THE MILITARY.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to automobiles. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = I)

A. 13 17 7 16 8

Clue: Utility vehicle

B. 19 9 2 6 9 19

Clue: Car's powerhouse

C. 11 19 16 4 26 9 6 16

Clue: Works on vehicles

D. 17 19 25 26 6 17 3

Clue: Fixes

Answers: A. truck B. engine C. mechanic D. repairs

SUDOKU

		3						
				1			3	4
6		2		5			7	
		1	9				2	
9								
4	8		5					
		7						1
	6				3	2		
3		9		6				8

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	4	7	5	9	2	6	1	3
5	6	2	3	7	4	1	9	8
1	3	6	4	8	9	5	7	2
3	1	9	2	7	6	5	8	4
7	4	8	1	3	6	5	2	9
6	2	5	4	8	1	9	3	7
9	7	6	8	3	5	2	4	1
4	9	8	7	1	2	6	3	5
2	8	6	9	4	3	1	7	5

ANSWER:

REAL ESTATE



Jules Lusignan



T.A. King



Maureen Cimoch



Ellen Therrien



John Kokocinski



Adrienne James


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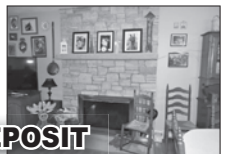


WEBSTER LAKE – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level In-law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrm & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrm w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

WEBSTER – 31 Park Street! 3 Family! 6/6/6 Rooms! 3/3/3 Bedrooms! 1/1/1 Bathrooms! Each Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Unit is nearly 1,300' Featuring Spacious Kitchens, Living Rooms & 3 Good Size Bedrooms! Remodeled! 10 Yrs Ago! Updated Electric! Electric Heat! **\$284,900.00**

WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/Is, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LP Gas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



WEBSTER – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Brkfst Pkgs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Brkfst Pkgs Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrdwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile Flr & 3 Bedrooms w/ Wall to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrm w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/ Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrdwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fam Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Shed! Won't Last! **\$349,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond & Panoramic Views = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**


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Featured New Listing!

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



LOCATION! SCENIC Upper Gore Rd! Amazing "BIRD'S EYE VIEW" of Beautiful Webster Lake! Spacious Hip Roof Raised Ranch. 2,279 SF±, 4 BRs, 1-Full Bath, 2- Half Baths, 0.73 Acre Lot! 18x36+ INGROUND POOL, STORAGE SHED, LG 24x36+ DETACHED 3 CAR GARAGE! 12x26+ 1 CAR GARAGE UNDER! **\$275,000.**

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!
 Zoned General Business 5 Terrific Opportunity for one large business or divide it up into smaller businesses. 4,784 sf building on 0.8 acre just off I-395 exit 1, with high traffic & visibility. Excellent location! assisted sale **\$695,000.**

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



5+ Acre Waterfront Land - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open Field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfront-age. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!
 Beautiful Cape! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! 4 Bedrooms! 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/"Spa Like" Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK! It has that TOO! All Painted! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!
 Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System! 1 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$319,000.**

LAND

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **SORRY, SOLD \$132,900**

Featured New Listing!



WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE

To Be Built or Build to Suit - 2000+ Sq Ft Custom Cape! 3 large bedrooms, Master suite, Central air, 2 Fireplaces! 2 car garage. All town services. **\$425,000.**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!
 Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment with 2 bedrooms. 2 - 2nd floor apartments have 3 bedrooms each. 30' x 44' beautiful Fieldstone Foundation, with walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a 25 acre level peninsula, 180' +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything! **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

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290 DRESSER HILL RD. CHARLTON
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4 bedrooms, 2400 sq. ft., Central air, Hardwood floors, Cabinet packed maple kitchen with center island, Formal dining room, 1st floor family room, Den or office, Rough plumbing for 1/2 bath and "bump out" for fireplace.

14 Chestnut Hill Drive, Webster
\$399,900

ON DEPOSIT
 Dudley: Duplex, Oversized 2+ Garage, Workshop, 2-3 Bedroom ea. unit, 2.5 Baths 7 Village - \$449,900

ON DEPOSIT
 Webster: 4 Units, 6 car garage, 4 rooms each unit, roof 1 year old, updated mechanical systems- electrical, heating 22 Nelson Street- \$399,900

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 Diane, Jo-Ann, or Maria



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KITCHEN ASSISTANT - TOWN OF CHARLTON

Town of Charlton seeks PT (22hr) Kitchen Assistant for its Senior Center.

HS Diploma and one to two years of experience working with seniors in a nutritional or food service program required; experience in a high volume institutional food preparation desirable; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have Serve Safe certification or be certifiable.

Hiring range 15.43 - 17.05 hr,

depending on experience, excellent benefits.

Position will remain open until filled. Apply online at <https://townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources>

Garden Center Merchandiser Wanted

Display and maintain live plant product in large garden centers
Flexible Hours
Smart Phone required

To apply, email resume and contact info to: Melissaw@simplysetllc.com

FULL TIME HELP WANTED STURBRIDGE

Position #1-

Looking for farm hand/laborer

Position #2- Looking for
Mechanic/Carpenter

Must be dependable.
Wage based on experience

Call Jon at 774-415-3800
for full details

TOWN OF SPENCER Highway Department

Laborer: Seeking applicants to fill a Laborer position in the Highway Department. Responsible for the operation of light equipment, snowplows, motorized hand tools, repair and maintenance of roads, sidewalks, stormwater systems and street signs, vegetation control, snow plowing and sanding, and maintenance of parks and grounds. This highly responsible position is subject to emergency call-ins. High School diploma or GED required, additional licenses and certifications beneficial. Willingness to increase skills and licensing are essential to succeed in this position. Salary range: \$19.41 to \$23.16 DOQ. Generous benefits include clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

Submit resume and standard town application available at <https://www.spencerma.gov/home/pages/employment-opportunities> to Town of Spencer Administrator's Office, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. Subject to Union Rules and Regulations. EEO Employer

550 MOBILE HOMES

Trailer For Sale w/enclosed porch located at Indian Ranch, Webster, Site: G13. Completely furnished, All appliances included & extras, Refrigerator, Over/under Wash/dry, AC/Heat. View at www.indianranch.com. Contact Arthur or Sage 508-892-4578



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Bay Path UNICEF Club raises funds with snack bar

CHARLTON — The COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the UNICEF Club of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy from fundraising to support and advocate for children.

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club officers organized a snack bar. Supported by the Practical Nursing Class of 2021 and UNICEF Club advisor, Professor Cheryl Cahill the snack bar fundraiser totaled close to two hundred dollars.

“Delicious homemade baked goods with hot and cold beverages were served in exchange for a donation” stated Isabella Boateng of Manchester, Conn., UNICEF Club Officer.

“All proceeds will go a long way in helping vulnerable children during the pandemic,” Boateng added.

UNICEF is the world’s largest supplier of ready-to-use beneficial foods. Through UNICEF the production of a high protein paste that can revive a malnourished child in the matter of weeks is possible. UNICEF has aided in saving more children’s lives than any other charitable organization.

About the UNICEF Club

The Bay Path PN UNICEF Club program is a PN student-led initiative that partners with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to educate, advocate and fundraise to support UNICEF’s lifesaving work. It is a movement rooted in a belief



that students have a vital role to play in helping the world’s children survive. PN students elect five officers, plan and implement at least one activity per

term. A PN faculty serves as UNICEF Advisor.

At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the program is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical

Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org). For more information, visit www.baypath.net.

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