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Friday, June 5, 2026

Webster Middle School students among winners at statewide Applied Learning Student Showcase

BOSTON — Students from Webster Middle School joined peers from across Massachusetts on May 8 at the One8 Applied Learning Student Showcase, held at the TRACK at new balance in Boston. The event brought together students in grades 4-12 to present Applied Learning work to more than 500 industry professionals who provided real-time feedback.

“This showcase has become a game changer in our students’ lives. The showcase provides them connections to professionals, as well as other students. The students who excel in this showcase see their lives change in so many ways, including career exploration, confidence building, and acceptance to prestigious programs,” said Kate Berti, STEM Teacher at Webster Middle School.

Webster Middle School was represented by student teams from both the Medical and Engineering Pathways of Project Lead the Way. Over the course of the year, these students tackled real-world challenges, from designing their own experiments in grade 5 to building robots for real clients in grade 8 and at the Applied Learning Student Showcase, they had the chance to share what they built and learned with professionals working in relat-



Dannyelle Powers, Kayliana Rivera, Dahliana Lopez, and Alexis Knowles.

Courtesy

ed fields.

“Creative solutions to the world’s most pressing problems is what Massachusetts does best. The One8 Foundation’s Applied Learning Student Showcase is shining a light on how our students are solving real world challenges and building their future success,” said Gov. Maura Healey.

“We’re thankful for the educators and the industry experts who supported this year’s showcase, and we’re thrilled that so many students from school districts across the state were able to take part in this incredible program.”

“The One8 Foundation’s Applied Learning Student Showcase encourages stu-

dents of different ages, from different cities and towns, with varied interests to explore creative ways

to solve real world problems,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Across our state, we want our students to

use what they’re learning in the classroom and apply it to the issues that matter to them most. That’s why we’re proud to support the Student Showcase that empowers young people to turn their ideas into meaningful solutions and make a lasting impact in their communities.”

“I’ve witnessed Applied Learning at multiple school districts where students are not just learning content, but using it in authentic ways,” said Education Secretary Steve Zrike.

“One8’s Applied Learning Showcase was an opportunity to see how students across Massachusetts are benefitting from rigorous learning that is relevant, engaging, and connected to the world beyond the classroom.”

“What we saw Friday is what Applied Learning is all about: students wrestling with real-world, meaningful problems, working in teams, then presenting it to professionals who take them seriously and offer ideas to make the work even stronger. That combination

Turn To SHOWCASE page A9

What in Auburn History would you like to know about?

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society & Museum would welcome suggestions about future articles that readers would like the volunteer staff to research about Auburn, or an exhibit that could be highlighted at the museum. Is there a particular person, place, item or event that should be brought to light? Might you have pictures or documents sitting in your attic or basement that may need more details as to their family or community significance?

While you’re doing spring cleaning or downsizing, think about the possible historical value to Auburn before tossing aside those items. Perhaps a visit to the Auburn Historical Society & Museum might be useful.

The Auburn Historical Society & Museum is at 41 South St., and is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It can also be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org, or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

Chaffee Elementary students enjoy hands-on learning with special visitors

OXFORD — Students at Chaffee Elementary School had an exciting and educational few days in May thanks to two special events that brought science, discovery, and wildlife directly into the school community.

On Friday, May 15, Chaffee welcomed the Discovery Museum for an engaging traveling workshop focused on the science of sound. Through a variety of interactive, hands-on activities, students explored how sound travels, how vibrations work, and how we experience sound in everyday life. The workshop combined education with fun, encouraging curiosity and active participation as students experimented, listened, and learned together.

Just a few days later, on Monday, May 18, stu-



dents were treated to another unforgettable experience when Animal Adventures visited Chaffee thanks to the school’s amazing PTO. Students had the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of unique animals while hearing fascinating facts about their habits, behaviors, and characteristics. For many students, the highlight of the visit was the chance to get up close to the animals—and even

touch and pet them if they chose.

Both events created memorable learning experiences that students will be talking about long after the visits ended. Chaffee Elementary extends its gratitude to the Discovery Museum, Animal Adventures, and the PTO for helping bring these enriching opportunities to students.

Dudley resident named Valedictorian at Marianapolis Preparatory School



Philopateer Basha

THOMPSON, Conn. — Philopateer Basha will deliver the valedictory address, and Charles O’Brien will deliver the salutatory address at Marianapolis’ Class of 2026 commencement ceremony on May 31.

Basha, the son of Sarwat and Rania Basha, resides in Dudley, and will attend Bryant University in the fall, where he plans to study finance.

Reflecting on his time at Marianapolis, Basha said, “I have enjoyed being part of such a supportive community. The people around me have pushed me to become a better version of myself, both in and out of the classroom.”

He added that one of the most important lessons he learned during his time at Marianapolis was the value of stepping outside his comfort zone. “Although stepping into unfamiliar situations is uncomfortable, these moments often lead to the greatest learning experiences,” Basha said.

Marianapolis Head of School, David DiCicco, praised Basha for his academic curiosity and commitment to learning.

“Philo has impressed us with his scholarship and intellectual curiosity,” DiCicco said. “In the pursuit of knowledge and deeper learning, he asked critical and deep questions. We are excited to continue to celebrate his academic journey next year and beyond!”

Basha credited his support system for helping shape his success.

“First and foremost, I owe all my success to God, whose guidance and blessings have helped me throughout every stage of my journey,” he said. “I am also incredibly grateful for my family, teachers, coaches, and friends who continuously supported, encouraged, and believed in

me even during challenging moments.”

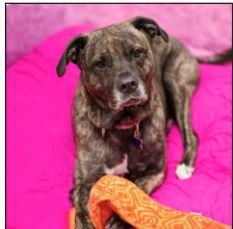
When asked for advice to future Marianapolis students, Basha encouraged future students to persevere through challenges.

“My advice for future students would be to not let setbacks define you,” Basha said. “Everyone experiences challenges, failures, and moments where things do not go as planned, but those moments do not determine who you are. What matters most is how you respond to them and whether you continue working towards your goals. I’ve learned that setbacks are often some of the greatest opportunities for growth. Success rarely follows a straight path, so make the best out of the moment and keep moving forward.”

Basha also expressed appreciation for his teachers and coaches.

“They have consistently pushed me to be my best while also offering unwavering support,” he said. “Their encouragement and belief in me has directly contributed to my personal growth and is something that I will remember forever.”

PET of the WEEK



MEET Pico

Pico is the total puppy package — goofy, cuddly, playful, and guaranteed to keep you smiling. This little guy loves everyone he meets and is always ready to make new friends, whether they have two legs or four. He's done wonderfully with dogs of all sizes, has lived with cats, and has been sweet with kids of all ages.

Pico is looking for an active, fun home where he'll have plenty of companionship, playtime, and things to do. He would love a home with playful dogs, feline friends, kids, or a busy family lifestyle to help keep him entertained and included in the action. He thrives on interaction and fun, and he's happiest when he has buddies to play with and people to hang out alongside.

This silly puppy loves enrichment, outdoor adventures, and anything involving snacks. Food puzzles, lick mats, sniffling games — Pico is all in! He's very food motivated, which will make training both fun and rewarding. He's also a surprisingly excellent car rider and is happiest when he can curl up for a nap after a busy day of adventures.

Like any young puppy, Pico is still learning the ropes! He's working on house training and polite manners, including not jumping up when he gets excited. He'll thrive with adopters who are ready to continue helping him learn through positive reinforcement, structure, consistency, and lots of love. In return, you'll get a social, affectionate puppy who is ready to be your best friend, adventure buddy, and constant source of entertainment.

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Local students receive student life awards from Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College proudly congratulates the students honored for their remarkable leadership, dedication and contributions at the College's annual Student Life Awards ceremony on Monday, April 20. The event recognized individuals and groups who have made a meaningful impact on campus life through their passion, service and commitment to the Nichols community.

The following local students received the awards listed:

Trystan St. Pierre of Auburn received the Class of 2027 Exceptional Leadership Award and the Program of the Year award. The Exceptional Leadership Award is presented to one exceptional student from each class who stands out as a leader in the Nichols College community. The Program of the Year award recognizes an outstanding program developed, promoted and executed by a student organization. This year, executive committee members of the Campus Activities Board received the award for the Fels of Scream event.

Tyler Poshkus of Auburn received a Bison Trailblazer Award. This award recognizes outstanding first- or second-year students who have made a significant impact on the Nichols College campus.

Kaitlin Baca of Webster received a Bison Legacy Award. This award

recognizes two outstanding seniors who have exemplified exceptional leadership, both academically and through their involvement in extra-curricular activities.

We applaud these students for their outstanding leadership and service. Their contributions reflect a deep commitment to campus life and the culture of connection, collaboration and school pride that shapes student life at Nichols.

About Nichols College
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and

an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall
This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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https://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/rentals/egrets-landing-31a

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$541,000, 4 Athens St, Swaindell Ft, and Mullane, Mary Beth-S, to Wang, Huibing, and Xian, Yamei.

\$533,000, 8 Pine Valley Dr, Levin, Lewis, to Fenuccio, Marybeth, and Fenuccio, Raymond.

\$510,000, 634 Oxford St S, Creighton, Gerald S, and Silvacreighton, Geraldo, to Meagher, James, and Meagher, Lauren.

\$450,000, 35 Hampton St, Lindsey, Sharon A, to Stanton, Sreypov Men, and Stanton, Nicholas Paul.

\$340,000, 103 Heritage Ln, Voorhees, Corlyn P, to Putney, Daniel.

\$307,930, 5 Clarendon Rd, Stockwell Elaine Est, and Vottiero, Sharron Ann, to Bifano, Angelo.

DUDLEY

None

OXFORD

\$502,500, 113 Main St, King Jr, Paul M, and King, Amy Louise, to Farrell, Thomas.

\$431,290, 18 Leicester St, Mahoney, Dennis, and Mahoney, Debra, to Mahoney, Chelsea.

\$330,000, 6 Thayer Pond Dr #11, Pierce, Robin, to Sylvester, Delaney, and Young, Amy.

\$270,000, 32 Thayer Pond Dr #17, Moylan, Robert, to Milosh, Lauren Valerie.

WEBSTER

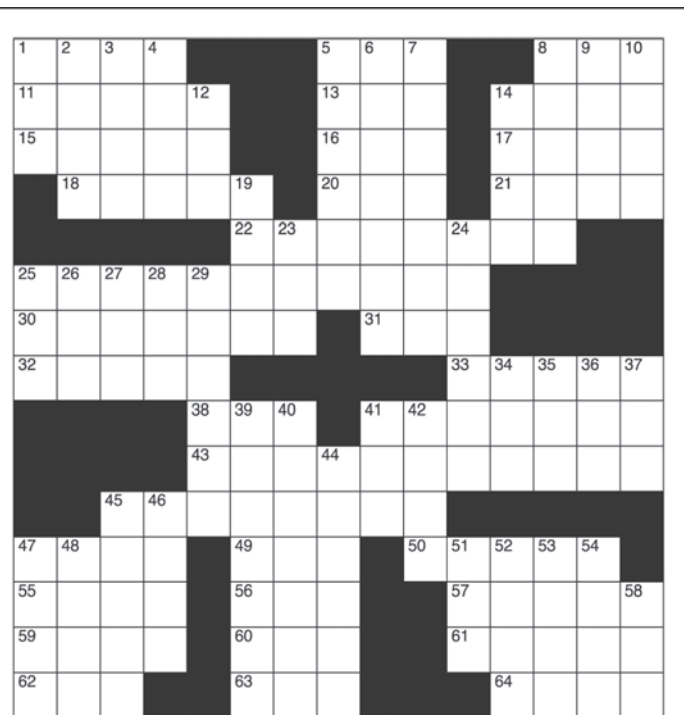
\$815,000, 171 Upper Gore Rd #2, Daisy Lane LLC, and Collins, Susan K, to Asimwe, Jackie, and Tindyebwa, Ezra.

\$560,000, 404 High St Ext, Llap LLC, and Hartley, Keely, to Ameen, Hisham R, and Kokaz, Mustafa.

\$554,900, 110 Minebrook Rd, Butler, Kursten, to Kathryn Lynn Pierce Speci, and Strohecker, John T.

\$525,000, 17 Hugo Ter, Bourassa Irt, and Bourassa, Brian S, to Michalak, John M.

\$390,000, 27 Dresser St, V&J LLC, and Nguyen, Van K, to Hagerstrom, Amber.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. A young canine
- 8. Cologne
- 11. Fictional British P.I.
- 13. Midway between northeast and east
- 14. A place to shop
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Single lens reflex
- 17. NY Mets great Tommie
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Habitual twitching
- 21. Holm oak
- 22. Willing to consent or submit
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Made possible
- 31. Language in Ghana
- 32. Relating to one's birth
- 33. Deep-bodied fishes
- 38. Defunct European currency
- 41. Small American songbird
- 43. One from L.A.
- 45. After tenth
- 47. Hillside
- 49. Red deer
- 50. Partner to "oohed"
- 55. Indian musical pattern
- 56. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 57. Golden peas plant
- 59. Breezed through
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Frameworks
- 62. Danish krone
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Turkish leader title
- 5. Nag
- 6. Blank
- 7. Closely woven cotton fabric
- 8. A nice shot in golf
- 9. Away from wind
- 10. Evergreen shrub genus
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Something you receive
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Wet dirt
- 24. No longer here
- 25. Writing utensil
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Licensed for Wall Street
- 29. Alternative forms of a gene
- 34. Buddy
- 35. We all do it
- 36. Chicken
- 37. No seats available
- 39. Yearned to possess
- 40. Ineffectual
- 41. Explosive
- 42. Turkish title
- 44. Worn near the foot
- 45. Impatient
- 46. Set an example for others
- 47. Actor Pitt
- 48. Instrument of torture
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. A way to print
- 54. Storied college hoops program
- 58. Midway between south and southeast



OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

323 Main St.
(508) 987-6000
Laura Wilson, Director

Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us

Web site: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center
Monthly CHATTER Newsletter www.oxfordma.us

The senior center will be closed on Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. – Cribbage

Tuesdays at 9:15 – 10 a.m. Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3 per class

Wednesdays at 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3 per class
Tuesdays and Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)

Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.

Wednesdays at 1 – 2:15

p.m. Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!

Thursdays at 10 a.m. – noon Dominoes

Fridays at 9 a.m. – Walking Club (weather permitting)

Monthly Activities:
Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission
Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – coffee and pastry are served.

Book Club – 1st Friday of each month at 12:45 p.m. – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library

Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – June Movie "Fever Pitch"

Senior Safety with Oxford Fire/EMS - 3rd Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m. - No Senior Safety in June

BEANO – 4th Friday of each month at 12:45 p.m. – arrive by 12:30 p.m. to purchase your BEANO sheets.



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OXFORD

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Wednesday9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
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Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events, and our monthly lunch menu. You may also join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55-64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 6/9: Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, and Scandinavian veggies. Wednesday, 6/10: Marinated pork loin, cornbread stuffing, and California veggies. Thursday, 6/11: BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Friday, 6/12: Soup du Jour, cranberry chicken salad sandwiches, and pasta salad.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am-3:00 pm.

Come down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo

are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Line Dancing With Forty will be held on Mondays the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th from 11:00 am- 12:30 pm.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845. if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

Alexander Card of Dudley receives John H. McClutchy, Jr. '72 Endowed Scholarship in Analytics from Nichols College

DUDLEY — Alexander Card of Dudley received the John H. McClutchy, Jr. '72 Endowed Scholarship in Analytics at the Nichols College annual Academic Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 21. This award is given to a student who demonstrates an aptitude for quantitative analysis, with preference given to graduates of area high schools.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival tickets now available

DUDLEY — Beat the rush, get your strawberry shortcake tickets before the Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival, which will be held on Thursday, June 18, 4 p.m. "until the berries are gone".

Tickets are only \$8, and can be purchased at the Dudley Park N' Shop Courtesy Booth on Airport Road in Dudley. Tickets are also available at the Dudley Treasurer's Office, located on the second floor of the Dudley Town Hall on West Main Street Dudley. You can also purchase tickets at the Strawberry Festival on June 18.

The Dudley Grange Annual Strawberry Festival is free and fun for the whole family. Come on up to Dudley Hill for live music, family fun and good food. See you on Thursday, June 18, starting at 4 p.m.

Oxford Community Center announces Summer Concert Series lineup

OXFORD — The Oxford Community Center is excited to announce our Summer Bandstand Concert Series. Live music performances will be held each Sunday, from 3-5 p.m., beginning June 28. Bring a picnic lunch, a chair, and enjoy Sunday afternoons in the shade at the Oxford Bandstand and Joslin Park.

The lineup is as follows:

June 28 — Dr. Jay Acoustic — dance and sing along with Dr. Jay

July 5 — East Woodstock Cornet Band — Celebrate the Nation's 250th Birthday with parade and concert music — make it part of your holiday celebration

July 12 — SPF-4 — wear your best Hawaiian shirt and enjoy a beach vacation vibe

July 19 — Sweet Sophia — all-female band of bluegrass, gritty blues, and sweet ballads

July 26 — East West Trio — playing 60s and 70s country and rock classics

Aug. 2 — Holdin' Back Band — immerse yourself in a full 60's musical experience

Aug. 9 — Far From Eden — hits from the 60s to 80s

Aug. 16 — Stephen George — a delightful mix of contemporary and classic rock

Aug. 23 — SloGrass -Instrumental and vocal bluegrass, blues, jazz, and Americana — a perfect accompaniment to the Red, White and Bluegrass Picnic. On this day, the Ebenezer Learned Chapter of the DAR will present period games as we continue the celebration of USA's 250th

Aug. 30 — Eagles Encounter - closing out the series with songs we all know and love!

Applications available for Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trust

OXFORD — The Trustees of the Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trusts have announced applications are available for grant funding for projects and programs that promote and foster recreational and literary opportunities and activities for children in Oxford.

The Smolenski/Millette Trusts were established in 1995 and 2000 to be used for the charitable, recreational, literacy, or educational purposes for the benefit of the youth of Oxford. The Trustees are comprised of various Town Officials as well as members of the public. The original donation to the town totaled more than \$2 million and distributions are made from trust income.

Previous projects and programs funded in whole or in part through the trust include the Oxford Splash Pad, the NJROTC program at Oxford High School, the library pass program, the skate park, activities at Joslin Park, the Greenbriar osprey camera, playground equipment, upgrades to the Little League concession stand, and activities at the Community Center.

Applications can be found online at www.oxfordma.us/500/Town-Manager. Applications are due no later than June 25. Applications are also available by contacting the Town Manager's Office at manager@oxfordma.us or (508) 987-6030, ext. 8.

Bryant Richards of Webster receives Outstanding Graduate Award

SCRANTON, Pa. — Bryant L. Richards of Webster was among The University of Scranton 34 outstanding Master's and doctoral degree graduates recognized at its graduate commencement events the weekend of May 22-24, including at the graduate commencement ceremony at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.

Richards received the Doctor of Philosophy Outstanding Student Award for Accounting.

The University of Scranton is a Jesuit university located in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Summer evenings at the Museum

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be offering evening hours at the museum at 41 South St. in June, July, and August free of charge. Tours will be offered, as well as help with research dealing with the town of Auburn, and genealogy, and for the kids, there's Delia's Picture Scavenger Hunt to do. There will be time to do more in depth exploration of specific exhibits like the Native American collection, the Civil War artifacts of Joel Prouty, just to name a few.

If you have been wanting to see what is in the museum, but can't make the Tuesday or Saturday regular hours, now is your chance to visit Wednesday, June 17, Thursday, July 17, and Thursday, Aug. 20 from 6-8:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the exhibits, meet the volunteers who help keep the museum open year-round and more.

This article is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org, or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.



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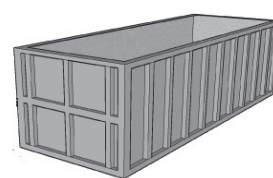
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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Learning beyond the classroom

One of the most rewarding moments in education comes when students realize that what they learn in school has real value beyond a test score or report card. That realization was on full display when students from Webster Middle School participated in the One8 Applied Learning Student Showcase in Boston.

The event brought together students from across Massachusetts to present projects to professionals working in fields ranging from engineering and medicine to design, finance, law, and technology. Rather than simply completing an assignment for a teacher, students had the opportunity to explain their work, answer questions, receive feedback, and see firsthand how classroom learning connects to the real world.

That kind of experience is invaluable. Education is often at its best when students are asked to solve authentic problems. The projects presented by Webster Middle School students reflected exactly that approach. Fifth-grade students explored how springs compress through experimentation and inquiry. Eighth-grade students designed a therapy robot to assist a real kitten recovering from hip surgery. Along the way, they encountered challenges, setbacks, and the need to rethink their ideas when experts provided new information.

That process mirrors what happens every day in professional careers. Engineers revise designs. Scientists test hypotheses. Medical professionals adapt treatments. Innovation rarely happens perfectly on the first attempt. Learning how to solve problems, accept feedback, and improve a project may be one of the most important lessons a student can learn.

The recognition earned by Webster Middle School students is certainly worth celebrating. Being selected as Projects of Distinction among students from across the state is an impressive accomplishment. Yet perhaps even more important than the awards is what the students gained from the experience itself.

They learned to communicate with professionals. They learned to present their ideas with confidence. They learned that collaboration and perseverance matter. They learned that failure is often part of success. Most importantly, they learned that their ideas have value.

Those lessons can shape a student's future in ways that are difficult to measure today. A conversation with an engineer might inspire a future career. A successful presentation may build confidence that lasts for years. A challenging project could spark an interest in science, technology, medicine, or design.

Programs that emphasize applied learning deserve recognition because they help bridge the gap between education and opportunity. They show students why math, science, writing, and critical thinking matter. They transform learning from an abstract exercise into something meaningful and tangible.

The success of Webster Middle School's students also reflects the dedication of educators who work tirelessly to create these opportunities. Teachers who encourage curiosity, problem solving, and creativity help students discover abilities they may not have known they possessed.

Communities should take pride when local students represent their schools on a statewide stage. These young people demonstrated not only academic achievement but also creativity, resilience, and innovation. They served as ambassadors for their school and their community.

The future will belong to problem solvers, innovators, and lifelong learners. Judging by the work presented at the One8 Applied Learning Student Showcase, that future appears to be in capable hands.

Viewpoint

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A thank you from the library

To the Editor:
The Friends of the Gladys Kelly Library would like to thank all the volunteers who generously donated their time and efforts to setting up, overseeing, and breaking down the book sale which took place May 13 – 16. A special thanks, too, goes out to our community for making this sale the most successful to date. In addition to raising money for the Friends, this event benefited several groups who received books that were not sold: the Sheriff's Office, Head Start, Bay State Books, and our local schools.

This highly anticipated sale of books no longer needed by the library, along with

books donated by community members, brought in \$2,859 this year. The money will help pay for the great variety of free programs that Webster's library has become known for, including musical performances, arts and crafts workshops, yoga, trivia contests, and fun events for children of all ages. To see a calendar of upcoming programs, go to <https://gladyskellylibrary.org/events/events-calendar>.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone!

ELIZABETH PROCTER-GRAY
FRIENDS OF THE GLADYS E. KELLY
LIBRARY

Our state budget benefits everyone but those funding it

To the Editor:
Hello, Dudley and Massachusetts taxpayers.

Wow! State aid to the Town of Dudley increased by a whopping three quarters of a percent. I'm sure that resulted in a stampede as local officials ran to buy thank you notes. Unfortunately, the three quarters of a percent probably wouldn't be enough to cover the pending increase in the price of stamps, and as we know, there is no money in the «Balanced Budget» approved at the last Town Meeting to cover any additional cost.

Retiring State Senator Patricia Jehlen remarked that the 4 percent larger state budget was an austerity budget. Yes indeed, that \$63.4 billion the Senate approved was chock full of austerity.

So, what does an austerity budget include? How about \$200 million for the MBTA? This is the same MBTA that was in the news last week for a fatality, and for a train car collision. This transportation albatross is the sucking sound you hear as hundreds of millions of your tax dollars (sales tax supported) disappear into this bottomless pit.

Has anyone ever thought of privatizing the MBTA? Why not let the private sector take a swing at making it both safe and financial responsible?

Crazy idea, you say? The state of Indiana, in 2006, sold its turnpike for \$3.8 billion for

75 years to Spanish investors.

Even selling the MBTA at a bargain basement price would be a plus, as it would mean that hundreds of millions now being wasted could be redirected to the Cities and Towns and Dudley might then be able to buy stamps.

Moving on, the State Senate did manage to find a few crumbs in the budget for the favored few.

How about:

Amendment #65: \$75,000 for the Community Action Agency of Somerville
Amendment #69: \$100,000 for Housing Families Inc.

Amendment #144: \$50,000 for the RISE Clinic, which focuses on services for refugees and immigrants

Amendment #430: \$75,000 for the Immigrants' Assistance Center

Amendment #445: \$40,000 for Project Citizenship Inc., which provides free legal assistance for citizenship applications

I very much doubt that even one dollar of these pet projects will find its way to Dudley.

There does seem to be a theme here, as it looks as if refugees, "immigrants" and those whose business it is to cater to recent arrivals will be cashing checks for a while.

Be Well,

RICHARD CLARK
DUDLEY

Dudley's override is about protecting core services and local control

To the Editor:
Dudley residents are being asked to make a difficult decision at a difficult time. Families, seniors, retirees, and working households are all feeling the pressure of higher costs for food, fuel, insurance, utilities, repairs, and basic needs. The Town is being hit by those same costs at the same time.

That is why this vote matters. This override is not about expanding government. It is not about new programs. It is not about unnecessary spending. It is about protecting core local services: police, fire, highway, public works, building maintenance, inspections, senior services, libraries, and basic municipal operations.

More importantly, it is about protecting the safety, stability, and tranquility of the community we all share. People choose Dudley because it feels safe, manageable, and grounded. They want reliable emergency response, passable roads, maintained public buildings, responsive local services, and a town government that does the basics well. Those things do not happen by accident. They require stable funding, responsible planning, and the ability to respond when costs rise.

Dudley operates lean. We do not overspend. We do not overstaff. Employees wear multiple hats. Departments stretch limited resources. We pursue grants aggressively. We maintain services with far fewer resources than larger communities. That is responsible local government.

But there is a limit to how far a town can stretch.

Beacon Hill has choices Dudley does not. The state can expand programs, approve earmarks, fund discretionary spending, and build a budget of more than \$63 billion without asking each community to vote on a state tax increase. Local government does not have that option. Dudley must balance its budget every year. We cannot deficit spend. We cannot print money. We cannot shift costs somewhere else.

Dudley must fund police, fire, highway, public buildings, elections, inspections, veterans' services, senior services, libraries, municipal operations, and regional school obligations within the limits of Proposition 2 ½.

That system is no longer keeping pace with reality.

A 2 ½ percent revenue limit does not cover double-digit health insurance increases, rising retirement assessments,

fuel, utilities, energy, public safety obligations, equipment, repairs, maintenance, state mandates, and regional school assessments. The Chapter 70 formula may show education aid increasing statewide, but it does not protect towns like Dudley from rising regional school costs. The state can say aid is going up while local budgets still fall behind.

Both things can be true.

At the May 18 Annual Town Meeting, Dudley passed a balanced Fiscal Year 2027 budget, as required by law. But balanced does not mean healthy. That budget was balanced by depleting remaining reserves and cutting deeply into operating accounts. It meets the legal requirement, but it leaves the Town in financial hardship. After reviewing the FY2027 budget, the depletion of reserves, and the impact of further reductions on local services, both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee voted to support sending the override question to the June 15 local election ballot. Their support reflects the seriousness of the Town's financial position and the need to protect current service levels.

If the override passes, operational funding beginning July 1 will be restored to maintain current service levels. It will also allow stabilization funds to be returned to reserves, preserving Town Meeting control and giving Dudley some ability to respond to fuel increases, emergencies, repairs, health insurance, retirement, energy costs, and maintenance needs.

That is not automatic spending. That is protecting local control.

If the override fails, further cuts will have to be considered. Public safety backfill may be reduced. Response times may be affected. Road, building, vehicle, and infrastructure maintenance may be delayed. Grant capacity may be reduced, costing Dudley outside funding opportunities.

We cannot control Beacon Hill's priorities. We cannot force the state to fix Proposition 2 ½. We cannot rewrite the Chapter 70 formula from Dudley.

But we can control what happens here.

We can decide whether Dudley protects the services residents rely on every day. We can decide whether police, fire, highway, senior services, libraries, inspections, and basic municipal operations remain stable. We can decide whether we preserve the ability to respond to emergencies, maintain

Turn To LETTER page A5

The empty spaces between us

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET

By CHARLES

The other day, I arrived early. Not accidentally. On purpose. I had an appointment across town, and years of experience have taught me that traffic, road construction, misplaced keys and life's general unpredictability can make even a short trip an adventure. So I left with plenty of time to spare.

Naturally, I arrived about twenty minutes early.

What struck me wasn't the wait. It was what happened next.

Nothing.

I sat in my car.

No radio. No phone. No errand to squeeze in before the appointment. No email to check. No task to accomplish.

For 20 whole minutes, absolutely nothing happened. And it felt strangely unusual.

There was a time when waiting was simply part of life. You waited at the doctor's office. You waited for the barber. You waited for a friend to arrive. You waited for a store clerk to finish helping another customer. Nobody liked waiting, but nobody expected otherwise.

Today, we've become remarkably efficient at eliminating empty moments. Standing in line? Check your phone. Waiting for an appointment? Scroll through headlines. Five spare minutes? Answer messages. Ten spare minutes? Watch a video. We're rarely alone with our thoughts anymore.

Now, I'm not criticizing technology. I enjoy many of the same conveniences everyone else does. Being able to find information instantly still feels a little miraculous to someone who remembers searching through encyclopedia volumes. But I've begun to wonder whether we've accidentally crowded something out along the way.

The quiet spaces.

The unused minutes.

The little gaps in the day where our minds once wandered.

Some of my best ideas have arrived when I wasn't actively looking for them. Not while working. Not while concentrating. Not while trying to be productive. They showed up while sitting on a park bench, waiting for an oil change, staring out a window or taking a slow walk with no destination in particular.

For reasons I don't fully understand, the mind seems to do important work during those moments. It sorts things out. It makes connections. It notices details. It remembers things that matter.

I suspect that's one reason older generations often appeared comfortable sitting quietly on a porch for an hour. As a young man, I never understood it. How could someone sit there doing nothing?

Now I realize they probably weren't doing nothing at all.

They were thinking. Observing. Reflecting. Watching the world go by.

Those activities may not produce anything measurable, but they are hardly a waste of time. In fact, they may be among the most valuable uses of time we have.

The older I get, the more I appreciate the difference between being busy and being occupied. Busy is rushing from one thing to another. Occupied can mean simply being present where you are. One creates motion. The other creates perspective.

That afternoon, sitting in my car with twenty unexpected minutes to spare, I watched people come and go. A man walked across the parking lot carrying a box that looked heavier than he expected. A woman stopped to help an older gentleman reach something that had fallen. Two strangers held a door for one another and exchanged a smile.

Nothing remarkable. Nothing that would ever make a headline.

Yet those ordinary moments felt surprisingly interesting once I slowed down enough to notice them.

Maybe that's what those empty spaces in our day are really for. They give us a chance to pay attention. Not to a screen. Not to a schedule. Not to the next thing demanding our attention. To the world directly in front of us.

When my appointment time finally arrived, I went inside and got on with the day. But I've thought about those twenty quiet minutes ever since.

Most of us spend a lot of effort trying to fill every empty space.

Perhaps now and then it's worth leaving one empty.

You never know what might find room to enter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Every day is a day to remember the fallen

To the Editor:
Due to the inclement weather during Webster's Memorial Day observance, I was unable to give the keynote speech. As a veteran, I remember the fallen every day, and so I am giving you the speech to publish:

Preface: This year marks the 250th Anniversary of our freedom-- and its cost.

The label on my jacket does not say "CAZEAULT" — it says "CAZEAULTS." It represents all those in my family who fought for Freedom.

My journey to this podium began in 1759, when my French Sixth Great Grandfather, Jean-Baptiste, sailed his ship to Quebec City to resupply the city's fight against the British so they could remain a Free Canada. That effort failed. He lost his ship in front of the city and lived in Canada the rest of his life.

The British took Canada and passed the high cost on to the 13 American Colonies. This would result in "Taxation without Representation" and the 1776 American Revolution.

In 1775, Jean-Baptiste and his family helped the Continental Army invade Quebec to defeat the British. It failed.

During the War of 1812, Jean-Baptiste and his family, again helped the US Army to invade Canada to expel the British to no avail.

Over 100 years ago, my Canadian grandfather finally found his freedom by immigrating to Oxford, MA.

I know my family is proud of me today.

A poet once said, "Only when we face the impossible, and experience the unbearable, do we find out who we truly are." Those words describe who we are. But today, they describe who they were. The men and women we honor today.

Our dear Citizen Soldiers who gave everything for the United States—for all of US

This year, we celebrate the nation's 250th Anniversary due to their sacrifices.

Around 1770, in response to unfair British policies and taxes, a group of Boston area colonists formed the Sons of Liberty. The leaders included Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere. The movement spread down the coast to South Carolina.

On March 5, 1770, the infamous Boston Massacre occurred. This was caused by a confrontation with a group of British soldiers over the troops occupying Boston. Five Bostonians were killed.

In December of 1773, in Massachusetts the Sons of Liberty decided to make a point of taxation without representation by throwing over 300 chests of British Tea, worth over \$1 million today, into Boston Harbor.

In September of 1774, the First Continental Congress was formed to unite the colonies and to address British policies. They found out that Britain could care less.

On April 19, 1775, with the British plan to seize colonial military supplies, the local militias called Minute Men responded, and the Battles of Lexington and Concord happened. Minute Men from Dudley and Oxford were at the battles. The town of Webster was not yet formed.

On May 10, the Second Continental Congress convened and named George Washington Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. He arrived outside Boston on July 3 to form the militias, including those from Dudley and Oxford, into an Army and take back the city from the British, which was accomplished. The American Revolution was on!

A year later, July 4, 1776, we the people claimed our freedoms, not

from an unneeded royalty, but through a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The Revolution took 8 long years, but we won our independence and freedom.

It cost blood and treasure. Ordinary people served as soldiers. Some came home. Some did not.

About fifty years ago, after returning from Vietnam, I settled in East Killingly, a small village in Connecticut.

There, I joined the Memorial Day Committee. Its purpose was simple:

To remember those who did not return.

I helped place flags in seventeen cemeteries—hidden and remote, some deep in the woods.

The first cemetery was a long walk in. There was one Veteran's grave.

A Revolutionary War soldier. Two hundred years earlier, he helped create this nation.

As I placed the flag, I said, "Thank you. You are not alone. You will never be forgotten." I have never forgotten that grave.

After the Revolution, there was the conflict with the Barbary Pirates, the War of 1812, the incorporation of the Town of Webster, the Mexican American War, and the formation of Webster's Slater's Guards in the 1850s, and then the Civil War.

Then there were the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, and more. All served and many sacrificed.

When I was a boy, my father's youngest brother went to Korea.

That was when I learned my father had served in World War II, as had his other brothers.

I was too young to understand war, but war was already part of my family.

As the years passed, loss came closer. My father's friend's son in a far-off valley in Vietnam died in battle near Cambodian Border.

Then a neighbor. Then classmates. Each year, another name.

Another family changed forever. In 1970, I stood on a hill in Vietnam waiting for choppers to take us into Cambodia. From that hill, I could see the valley where my father's friend's son had died fighting five years earlier.

Suddenly, memory became reality. Over the next year, I learned what sacrifice meant.

We fought as a unit, but more than that, we became family. We lived together. Twentyfour hours a day. Seven days a week. Always in the shadow of death.

When you lose someone, you do not just lose a soldier. You lose family. You lose part of your heart.

When they are placed on a chopper for their final ride home, your heart goes with them.

They are not alone. They will never be forgotten.

Since 1776, more than 1 million Americans have died in service to their country.

There are 200,000 buried in U.S. cemeteries in seventeen nations.

Others were lost to oceans, jungles, and distant ground. Many were never found.

Behind the name of each fallen is a family, and loved ones. This sacrifice is a debt we cannot repay, but we can try by being better citizens in their memory.

As a veteran, it is impossible not to remember them every day. My heart remains with them.

We are who we are because of who we have lost. They faced the impossible. They endured the unbearable. They gave everything so that we could stand here free.

May their sacrifice guide us—today and always. Thank you for honoring these loved ones.

God bless the United States of America.

RICHARD CAZEAULT
VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA (1970-71)
4TH DIVISION AND 101ST AIRBORNE
WEBSTER

LETTER

continued from page A4

roads and buildings, pursue grants, and keep our community safe and functional.

Most of all, we can decide whether we protect the ongoing safety and tranquility of Dudley — the quiet confidence that when help is needed, services are there; when roads need attention, they are addressed; when public buildings need repairs, they are not ignored; and when challenges arise, the Town has the ability to respond.

Dudley has done its part. We have cut. We have reduced. We have stretched every dollar. We have used reserves to balance the budget as the law requires.

Now we have to decide whether we protect the services that make Dudley work.

This is a vote about local control. It is a vote about public safety. It is a vote about fiscal stability. It is a vote about maintaining current services, not expanding government. It is a vote about preserving the community we live in, raise families in, retire in, and hope to leave stronger for the future.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask Dudley voters to support the override and vote yes.

JONATHAN RUDA
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
DUDLEY

Local students graduate from College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — Oliana Tego of Auburn and Samuel Lavallee of Oxford received Bachelor of Arts degrees from College of the Holy Cross.

Tego and Lavallee are among 803 Bachelor of Arts degree recipients Holy Cross celebrated at its 180th Commencement held on Friday, May 22 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Charlie Baker, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and former governor of Massachusetts, delivered this year's address to the Class of 2026 and received an honorary degree.

In his remarks, Baker emphasized the importance of resilience, personal growth and community, encouraging graduates to embrace life's unexpected turns and define themselves through character.

"Life is a journey, not a destination," said Baker. "The goal is to take the paths that give you the best chance to grow, find meaning in what you do, and become the very best version of yourself. These are the paths that embrace perseverance, build character and define purpose."

In addition to Baker, Holy Cross also awarded an honorary degree to Tim Garvin, president and CEO of the United Way of Central Massachusetts.

About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Letter submission policy
Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.



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Courtesy

Dudley Middle School salutes its Students of the Month: 5th Grade - Maurice Hammel, Michael Pasquino, Alexis White, & Penny Mylar; 6th Grade - Eleanor Daniel, Aniela Slanda, & Eli Murray; 7th Grade - Rihnaya Bembridge, Dante Defranc, & Liv Cushing; 8th Grade - Ivanka Twumasi-Ankrah, Sophie Barcelo, & Richie Soto.

Out with the old, in with the new



John Cloutier all smiles as he removes the old Quinebaug Masonic lodge sign in the sweltering heat.



John just finished putting up the new Major General Salem Towne Lodge sign and cleaning and wiping the surface down.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE
LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On May 19, John Cloutier, who owns and operates the Globe Sign Company at 15 Goddard Street in Southbridge, was completing a project by installing a new sign he created for the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge (MGSTL) in Southbridge.

Back on Oct. 4, 2025, both Quinebaug Lodge and Webster Lodge merged to form MGSTL. John founded Globe Sign while still a lively young man and has successfully run the business for 39 years. He started this sign and vehicle graphics making business when he was 21 years old back in 1987 at the Globe Village Mills complex near West Street in Southbridge.

Over the past 39 years,

Globe Sign has produced five signs for our organization, three for the Masonic Lodge and two for the Doric Chapter Lodge. John Cloutier has also created signs for well-known local businesses, including the Public House, Old Sturbridge Village, Dexter Russell, and Hyde Manufacturing. Much of his work comes through referrals, as people often notice the quality of his craftsmanship and ask who created the sign. He also owns The Logo Shop, which he operates with his sons, Jack and Sam, from the same building. In addition to signage, Globe Sign offers custom screen printing and embroidery for T-shirts and hats. For more information about Globe Sign or The Logo Shop, contact John Cloutier at john@globesignco.com or call 508-764-4809. To learn more about Freemasonry and find a lodge near you, visit massfreemasonry.org.



SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

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Bryant Richards of Webster among University of Scranton's graduating Class of 2026

SCRANTON, Pa. — Bryant L. Richards of Webster was among the more than 450 Master's and doctoral degrees at its graduate commencement ceremony for the Class of 2026. Graduates received their diplomas on Sunday, May 24, at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township. Graduates must have completed their academic requirements between August 2025 and May 2026.

Richards earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in accounting from The University of Scranton.

Graduates spanned 22 states from throughout the U.S., including Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee with a large concentration from the East Coast. Pennsylvania was the most populous state among the graduates at 48 percent, followed by New Jersey and New York at about 15 percent each. International graduates hailed from Canada, India and Saudi Arabia.

Harshil Nariya '26, a Master of Business Administration graduate from Enola, addressed his fellow graduates as the class speaker.

"Today is not just a celebration of what we have become, but it is also a reflection of who we are,"

Nariya said. "We came here with ambitions: to build careers, to learn, to create opportunities. And yes, we have done that. But along the way, we also developed something deeper. We developed empathy, resilience and a sense of responsibility."

"I come from a background where opportunities are not always guaranteed. From working in my family business to studying here, I have seen different sides of the world. And what I think connects them is simple: an understanding that our success is tied to those around us."

Karen L. Pennington, Ph.D. '76, G'83, H'15, who spoke earlier in the day at the undergraduate commencement ceremony, addressed the graduate crowd, as well.

Dr. Pennington, a former higher education administrator, was also in town to celebrate her 50-year class reunion.

"You have a chance to use this gift of education, this special status you achieved, as the launching pad to be more than you were before," Dr. Pennington said. "Take all you have learned about managing time - past, present and future - to carry the lessons of organization, respect and kindness with you, as you commit to tak-

ing the actions necessary to achieve all of your goals.

"What does it mean to have a degree from The University of Scranton? You soon will know, because you have reached the end of this part of your Scranton journey. ... I say it's just 'this part,' because what it means to have a degree from The University of Scranton is more than a piece of paper to hang on your wall. It is knowing that you are part of a larger community, not just while in class but for long after."

Among the degrees awarded were Masters of Accountancy, Business Administration, Health Administration, Science and Science in Nursing; as well as Doctors of Nursing Practice, Occupational Therapy, Philosophy and Physical Therapy.

An archived recording of the ceremony is available online.

The University of Scranton is a Jesuit university located in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



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Courtesy

Dudley Woman's Club closes out the year

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club closed its club year with a celebration of its 77 members who made possible \$86,498 in donations to local charities and \$9,000 in scholarships to local high school seniors. All this in just nine months and we certainly had some fun along the way!

During the May 21 celebration at Fins & Tales in Southbridge we donated \$5,000 each to Dress for Success, Josh Thibodeau Helping Hearts Foundation, Marie's Mission, New Hope, Our Bright Future, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Tarentino Foundation and Together We Blossom.

Members also donated birthday boxes valued at \$760 to the Webster-Dudley Food Share and Charlton-Dudley Chip-In Food Share.

As we break for our summer hiatus, we thank and send our appreciation to all who supported our fundraisers and many endeavors this past club year.

Happy and safe summer – see you in September!



Musician Dan Kirouac brings music of McCartney to Oxford library

OXFORD — Regional musician and singer Dan Kirouac will bring his program "The Music of McCartney: The World's Most Successful Songwriter" to the Oxford Free Public Library on Tuesday, June 16 at 6 p.m.

The program, delivered on piano and vocals, will explore the music of Paul McCartney from the Beatles years through Wings and into the 1980s, highlighted by informational commentary. Dan Kirouac is a 40-year veteran of the New England music scene, and has appeared in two long-term Beatles tribute bands from 2000 to 2022.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the library at (508) 987-6003. For more about the artist, search DAN KIROUAC MUSIC on Facebook.

This program is sponsored by the Oxford Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Dudley Grange thanks Boy Scout Troop 273, Quiet Corner Garden Club

DUDLEY — On May 16, Dudley Boy Scout Troop 273 assisted in planting a Red Maple tree at the Dudley Grange. The tree was donated to Dudley by The Quiet Corner Garden Club of Woodstock, Conn. in celebration of America's 250th Birthday.

The Quiet Corner Garden Club planted trees in 14 towns across northeast Connecticut and in two towns in Massachusetts where their club members reside. The trees were purchased through a grant from the National Garden's Club Plant America Program and funds raised from the Quiet Corner Garden Club's annual plant sale.

Come join us at the Dudley Grange Annual Strawberry Festival on June 18 and see the little tree which one day will become a magnificent maple tree symbolizing our country's 250 years of democracy and Dudley's community spirit. The Strawberry Festival is held on the Dudley Grange lawn located at 139 Center Rd. in Dudley from 4 p.m. "until the berries are gone."



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LEGALS

Request for Proposals

The Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.'s (WCAC) Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOEWAP) is currently accepting proposals for the following activities:

Full Service Residential Weatherization Contractors:

including cellulose/fiberglass insulation, blower door assisted air sealing, general carpentry and energy efficiency related repairs and window installation, asbestos, mold and mildew remediation,

Electrical Contractors:

Knob and Tube Wiring inspection and mitigation, bath fan/whole house fan installation.

To obtain a procurement package, please contact the Energy Department at Worcester Community Action Council, Inc., 18 Chestnut Street, Worcester MA 01608-1810. Inquiries may be made by calling Elizabeth C. at (508) 754.1176 x 116. Completed packages must be received at WCAC Inc., no later than 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 30th, 2026.

This advertisement is subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals. Small, women, and minority owned businesses and individuals are encouraged to apply.

WCAC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Marybeth Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, WCAC
June 5, 2026
June 12, 2026
June 19, 2026

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

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W013P0378GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:

Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor

In the interests of

Abigail M Such of Webster, MA

Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Jeffrey E Hryzan on May 4, 2026 will be held 06/25/2026 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)

IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.** If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster**

Times, Webster publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: May 13, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman

June 5, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 8 Day Lane, Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bruce Fortin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Lendia, Inc., and now held by **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust**, said mortgage dated February 15, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40680, Page 85, as affected by a Judgment dated June 27, 2019 and recorded at said Registry in Book 60655, Page 248; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association by assignment dated March 11, 2008 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 42569, Page 373 as affected by a Confirmatory Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association dated February 23, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 43917, Page 362; said mortgage was assigned from Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC by assignment dated July 19, 2010 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 46062, Page 240; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Federal National Mortgage Association by void foreclosure deed dated April 30, 2012 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 48983, Page 289; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated March 15, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69252, Page 92; said mortgage was assigned from Federal National Mortgage Association to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated April 14, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73457, Page 63; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on July 9, 2026 at 09:00 AM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Exhibit A

A certain tract of land, together with the buildings thereon and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Webster, County of Worcester, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, more particularly described in a deed dated May 25, 2006 and recorded on December 21, 2006 at the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 40384, Page 334.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 15, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40680, Page 83.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
June 5, 2026
June 12, 2026
June 19, 2026

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

26 SM 001656

ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Laurence Shuman a/k/a Laurence M. Shuman and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 23-8 Thayer Pond Drive, Unit 23-8, a/k/a 23 Thayer Pond Drive #8, Thayer Pond Village Condominium, given by Laurence Shuman to Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Financial, Inc., dated January 15, 2015, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53272, Page 329, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on September 22, 2020, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63306, Page 273 and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before July 6, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on May 20, 2026.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
29003

June 5, 2026

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 001668
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Lisa A. Labelle

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): Freedom Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 12 Buffum Dam Road, given by Lisa A. Labelle to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Home Point Financial Corporation, dated December 9, 2016, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56440, Page 335, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before July 6, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on May 21, 2026.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

June 5, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 10 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, MA 01540

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Marco Pacheco and Renee Pacheco to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Eastern Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC**, said mortgage dated October 8, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46452, Page 308, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Eastern Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated March 21, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 56886, Page 380; said mortgage was assigned from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated November 2, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69841, Page 201; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on June 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in said Oxford, with the buildings thereon, situated on the north side of Sutton Avenue, containing about thirty one (31) square rods, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwest corner of said tract at land formerly of one Savery; THENCE northwesterly by said Savery land nine (9) rods to a stake and land now or formerly of one Toomey; THENCE easterly by land of said Toomey three and one-half (3 1/2) rods to a stake at land formerly of Henry J. Clarke; THENCE by said Clarke land southerly nine (9) rods to said avenue; THENCE westerly by said avenue three and one half (3 1/2) rods to the point of beginning. Said premises are conveyed subject to rights of way of record.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated July 28, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46452, Page 306.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
May 29, 2026
June 5, 2026
June 12, 2026

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on June 26, 2026 at 5PM at: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571, the following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

Description of vehicles:
Vehicle: 2001 Nissan Pathfinder VIN# JN8DR07X31W503163
Owner: Pedro Ponce Cirilo 813 Locust St Fall River MA 02720
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A
June 5, 2026
June 12, 2026
June 19, 2026

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SHOWCASE

continued from page A1

of rigor and relevance is rare. We think every student in the state should have access to it," said Joanna Jacobson, President of the One8 Foundation.

The Student Showcase is an annual event for Applied Learning programs across Massachusetts, giving students an authentic audience in conversation about their process, their products, and the tools they used. Drawn from fields including engineering, medicine, finance, law, design, computer science, and public policy, industry volunteers circulated among student tables – asking questions and offering both verbal and written feedback. The event is organized by One8 Foundation's Applied Learning Hub, which supports schools across the state focused on Applied

Learning.

Among the recognized teams, Webster Middle School's Kayliana Rivera, Dannyelle Powers, Dahlia Lopez, and Alexis Knowles were selected as a Project of Distinction in Grade 5 for their project How Springs Compress in Kathy Gardner's STEM Class. Mia L'Heureux, Brayden Farraher, Caleb Millett, and Shane Martin were selected as a Project of Distinction in Grade 8 from Kate Berti's STEM Class for their Therapy Robot for Rosey the Kitten, a real kitten who recently had hip surgery.

"The Boston Showcase has become a pinnacle of success for our students at the Middle School level. They work hard to be invited to this event all year by demonstrating collaboration, problem solving and perseverance," said Berti.

"I liked problem solving with my group for something real," said Brayden Farraher, an eighth grader at Webster Middle School,

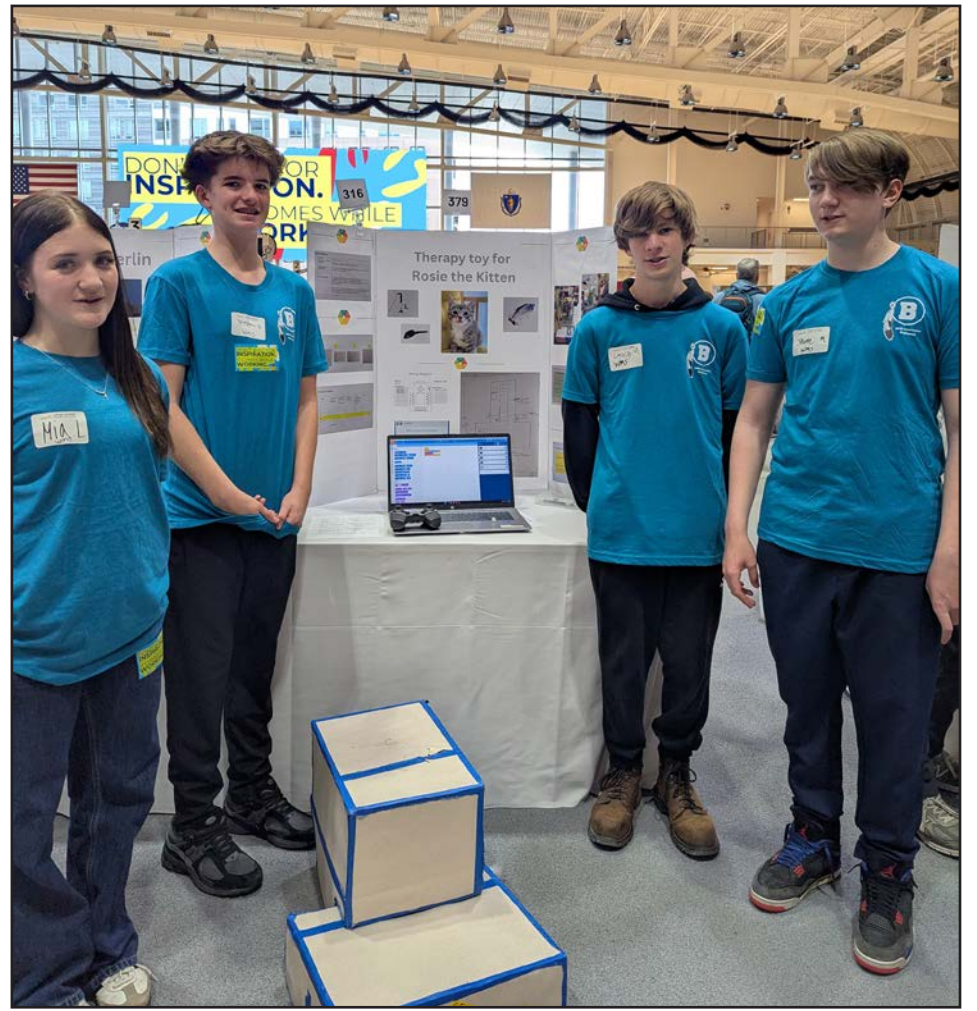
whose group originally built a small treadmill to rehab Rosey the Kitten, only to find out from professionals that it was not appropriate for her injury status.

His team worked together to completely redesign the therapeutic toy for low-mobility play.

About One8 & Applied Learning

The One8 Foundation is committed to identifying and funding proven Applied Learning programs that inspire students

with innovative, engaging ways to approach core and elective subject matter. The One8 Applied Learning Hub, an implementation team within One8, helps Massachusetts schools get the most out of Applied Learning programs by providing implementation support, educator community programming, and student opportunities that help bring learning to life. Learn more at www.one8AppliedLearningHub.org.



Mia L'Heureux, Brayden Farraher, Caleb Millett, and Shane Martin.

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OBITUARIES

Arthur G. Freeman, Jr.

November 19, 1946 - May 12, 2026



Arthur G. Freeman, Jr., affectionately known as “Chipper” by his family and friends, passed peacefully at his home on May 12, 2026, after a brave and valiant battle with cancer. Born in Worcester, MA, on

November 19, 1946, Arthur was a beacon of love, joy, and laughter throughout his 79 years of life.

Chipper was the cherished son of the late Gloria Richford and Arthur Freeman, Sr., and was predeceased by his infant son, Arthur Freeman Jr. the second. He leaves behind a legacy of love through his devoted wife, Patricia (Duefield/Latour) Freeman, with whom he shared 56 wonderful years of marriage. Their union, marked by a commitment to strong bonds and playful banter, began on May 22, 1970, and remains an inspiring testament to enduring love and partnership.

A proud father, Chipper is survived by his five children: Anthony Latour of Oxford, MA; Joanne Dusoe of Thompson, along with her partner Jeffrey Plumb; Louie Latour of Charlton, MA; Mike Freeman and his partner Kim Bilodeau of Oxford, MA; and Gloria Freeman and her partner Harley Davis of Oxford, MA; and his half brother John Freeman on Saratoga, New York. His legacy continues through his 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, who brought immense joy to his life.

Chipper’s sense of duty and service was evident from an early age. After completing high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1964, serving with honor on the USS Voge (DE 1047) until 1967. His

service to his country was a source of pride, and he often reminisced fondly about his time in the Navy.

His professional life was marked by dedication and hard work as a truck driver for Automatic Rolls/Northeast Foods, where he was a proud member of Teamsters Local 170 until his retirement. Beyond his career, Chipper found fulfillment in simple pleasures—traveling with Patricia, enjoying golf, and, most notably, sharing his signature “dad jokes” with anyone willing to listen. His humor was infectious, and he might jest, “I am survived by everyone who ever laughed at my jokes. And some who didn’t.”

Arthur’s warmth, generosity, and infectious smile left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a man of immense kindness, with a gift for gab that made others feel welcomed and valued. His ability to connect with people from all walks of life was truly remarkable.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Metro West Hospice, who provided invaluable support during Arthur’s final months, and to the UMASS Chan School, to which he donated his body for scientific research. In accordance with his wishes, no formal memorial services will be held. However, a celebration of his life will be announced in the near future, inviting all who wish to honor his memory.

Chipper’s life was a testament to love, service, and laughter. His spirit will forever live on in the hearts of those who loved him.



Cynthia L. Clark, 86



OXFORD – Cynthia L. (St. Martin) Clark, 86, of Newton Avenue, died on Monday, May 18, 2026, at The Overlook in Charlton.

She was predeceased by her husband of nine years, Ronald F. Clark, Sr., who died 2005. She is survived by two sons, Martin D. Hayden and his partner Cheryl Lamb of Salem, NH, and Stephen M. Hayden and his wife Lisa of Ludlow, MA; three grandchildren, Matthew Cranham of Charlton, Larissa Hayden of Ludlow, and Serena Kareta and her husband Derek of Granby, CT; and a sister, Constance Nelson of Worcester. She was predeceased by three sisters, Helen, Sandra, and Patricia, and her best friend, Charlene White.

She was born in Binghamton, NY, daughter of the late Henry A. and Lucille (Pare) St. Martin, and lived in Webster, West Brookfield, and North Brookfield, before moving to Oxford in 1996. She graduated from North Brookfield High

School in 1957.

Mrs. Clark was an office manager at Dante Builders prior to retirement. Previously she worked at McIntyre Chevrolet in West Brookfield. She was a member of St. Roch’s Church in Oxford.

Until Cynthia became ill in 2020, she was incredibly active within her church and her community. She was an avid traveler with a zest for life and adventure. She often traveled with her closest friend, Charlene, or her husband, Ron. She was a devoted mother, wife, grandmother, and friend. Her final years were spent at The Overlook, where she was looked after by an incredible staff of nurses and aides. What she was most thankful for during those difficult years, was the friendship of Larry White. He visited Cindy nearly every day bringing sunshine into her life when she needed it most.

Services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Roch’s Church, 334 Main Street, Oxford.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Janet E. Caouette, 83



Janet E. (Rusack) Caouette, a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2026, at the age of 83. Born on

December 5, 1942, in Massachusetts, she was predeceased by her parents, siblings, and her cherished great-granddaughter, Brianna Garrity.

Her loving memory will forever be cherished by her husband of 64 years, George A. Caouette, of Wildwood, FL, her sister-in-law Elaine (Caouette) Casaubon, and her husband Tom, and her children: Norman Caouette and his ex-wife, Christine (Caouette) Davidson; Brian Caouette; Karen David; and Gary Caouette. Janet’s legacy continues through her adored grandchildren: Jennifer (Caouette) Kokoszka and her husband, Eric; Daniel Caouette; Noah and Alexis Caouette; Jodi and Eric David; Nicholas Caouette and his wife, Rebecca; Bethany (Caouette) Collazo and her husband, Jonathan; Christopher, Cataleyah, and Katriana Caouette. She leaves behind 10 great-grandchildren, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will hold her memory close.

Janet’s life was a testament to her faith and service to others. A devoted

parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish, she was an active member of the Daughters of Isabella, Saint Vincent De Paul, The Ladies of St. Anne, and The Circle of Charity—fondly referred to by Janet as The Circle of Chicken. Her involvement in these organizations reflected her generous spirit, as she tirelessly worked to uplift and support those around her.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026, 9:00-10:30 at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Ave, Dudley, MA. Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street, followed by burial at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Janet’s name to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. <https://www.stjude.org/>

Frances B. Normandin, 80



WEST BROOKFIELD – Frances B. (McCarthy) Normandin, 80, of Old West Brookfield Road, died Saturday, May 23, 2026, at Care One in Millbury, surrounded by her family.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Roland E. Normandin of West Brookfield; five children, Wendy Swallow and her husband Roger of West Brookfield, Tina Gremo and her husband Ralph of Charlton, Ronald Normandin and his wife Tammy of Oxford, Robin Bumpus and her husband Andrew of Oxford, and Randy Normandin and his wife Amanda of Sturbridge; a brother, Albert McCarthy and his wife Lorraine of Cape Coral, FL; three sisters, Claire Ugalde of Worcester, Claudia Seale and her husband Arthur of Oxford, and Gail Sivret of Dudley; ten grandchildren, Kristy Fitzpatrick and her partner Michael Mastroio of Worcester, Jessica Dolbec and her husband Joshua of Oxford, Matt Fitzpatrick and his wife Abby of Clifton Park, NY, John Sanderski and his wife Emily of Brimfield, Nicole Rawdon and her husband Michael of Worcester, Jake Sanderski and his wife Madeline of Spencer, Brandon Normandin of Worcester, Tyler Normandin and his wife Julie of Sturbridge, Hunter Normandin of Sturbridge, and Jewels Normandin of Sturbridge, eleven great-grandchildren,

Lily, Josephine, Charlie, Colden, James, Keegan, Phillip, Hank, Violette, Holden, and Forrest; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by four brothers, Armand McCarthy, Kenneth McCarthy, Roger McCarthy, and Walter McCarthy; and a sister, Janet Williams.

She was born in Oxford, daughter of the late Walter E. and Irene G. (Strack) McCarthy, and lived in Southbridge and North Oxford, before moving to West Brookfield in 2015.

Mrs. Normandin was a CNA for the VNA of Southern Worcester County and Oakwood Nursing Home for 18 years, retiring in 1997. She owned horses throughout her life, and enjoyed raising and riding them. She was a fan of the Boston sports teams, especially the Red Sox and Patriots, and she enjoyed painting, camping, and striped bass fishing.

Her pride and joy were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at St. Roch’s Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Those attending are respectfully requested to meet directly at the church. Burial will follow at St. Roch’s Cemetery in Oxford. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 320 Nevada Street, Suite 201, Newton, MA 02460.

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Bartlett Track ends season with strong performances at 2026 CMAC Meet of Champions

WEBSTER — The CMAC Meet of Champions held on May 22 at Oxford High School showcased a strong performance from the Bartlett High School boys and girls track & field teams as several athletes competed against some of the top talent in Central Massachusetts.

On the girls side, Savaeh Perry earned an impressive 5th-place finish in the javelin (80 feet, .09 inches), while Jordan Reeves (75 feet, .02 inches) placed 7th overall in the discus. Karielyz Morales also turned in a strong effort in the long jump competition.

For the boys team, Xavier Sarfo had an outstanding day, placing 8th in the 100-meter dash (11.87 seconds) and 6th overall in the triple jump (39 feet, 9.5 inches). The 4x100 relay team of Allan De Belli, Braydon Sibailly, Lawrence Smith, and Sarfo also put forth a strong effort against tough competition.

Congratulations to all of the Bartlett athletes on an excellent showing and for representing BHS at the 2026 CMAC Meet of Champions.

Dudley Grange seeking vendors and artisans for annual Apple Festival

DUDLEY — This year's Dudley Grange Apple Festival is Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival takes place on the lawn in front of the historic Dudley Grange Hall, located at 139 Center Rd. in Dudley. The festival is held in conjunction with the Black Tavern Historical Society's annual Craft Fair which is located across the street from the Dudley Grange.

The Apple Festival features live music, hot apple crisp, burgers and dogs and our own hand cut French fries. This is a rain or shine event. For additional information and to register for a space, email karen.gillon@yahoo.com.

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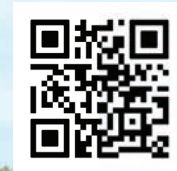
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