

Auburn News

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Friday, March 24, 2023

Newsstand: 75 cents

Pierangeli tapped for top school job

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The School Committee unanimously appointed Monique Pierangeli its next superintendent after interviewing four finalists over the course of two days March 15 and 16.

The members had shown they were already favoring her, with four of them making her one of their top two choices. The only exception was Kathy Napierata, who had preferred Karrie Allen and Deanna Leblanc, but all of them agreed it was “very tough. We have four very good candidates,” in Linda Millett’s words.

Nick Adamopoulos started the discussion over their choices by noting Pierangeli came to the process “in an atypical manner,” as the only candidate without experience as a teacher

or building administrator, although another member did later note she has some substitute teaching experience. (She came up through the ranks on the district’s business side, most recently serving as Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance.) He dubbed that “the elephant in the room,” but said the staff and others indicated they “don’t want to lose her.”

To him, and others, a key point in Pierangeli’s favor is that “we’re not going to lose a year or year and a half of data collection” before the new superintendent devises policy changes. “There’s not going to be a feeling-out process with her,” he said. He said people he contacted described her as “tough but compassionate” and would be good at “build[ing] that missing community relations portion” Webster needs because of her

longevity in the town and the fact she already attends almost everything.

Kelly Seddiki agreed, but noted there will still be “a learning curve” as she takes on some of the curriculum related tasks the superintendent handles. But she added that her discussions with people in the district included one teacher who opined “There’s something to be said for operating a public school district as a business,” even though it’s not creating “widgets.”

Millett said she went into the process

questioning Pierangeli’s curriculum experience, too, but “came out of [a recent meet and greet] so impressed by what she said.” Others noted Pierangeli has shown herself willing to learn and “people feel they can count on her” to be “a unifier” and “a strong advocate,” Seddiki said.

“She knows the district, what’s worked and what hasn’t worked,” Adamopoulos said, noting Pierangeli “has really just grown into every position she’s been in.”

Turn To **SUPERINTENDENT** page **A14**

Dudley showing improvement in cybersecurity measures

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The town of Dudley continues to make strides in its cybersecurity efforts which have been a major focus of the community for the entirety of the 2020s to date, especially after neighboring Charlton suffered a security breach in the late 2010s.

At the beginning of 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the town utilized grant funding to hire Truth North Consulting Group to perform a Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessment to determine Dudley’s risk level for cyber-attacks at that time. Just over three years later, the town’s Cybersecurity Consultant Dimitrios Hilton says Dudley has made great strides in improving cyber security and coop-

eration between departments. Hilton provided an update to selectmen on March 13 complimenting the town for being easy to work with and willing to adapt.

“What I discovered in this town was that there were essentially different IT departments throughout Dudley. Somehow, I was able to work over the past three years with the variety of personalities and skillsets that exist in each of the major departments, and we were able to not only do an assessment, but I was able to very uniquely disperse the report to the major departments without necessarily having those reports mixed,” Hilton explained. “That gave each of those departments the ability to maintain some level of autonomy and the strategy that leadership here encouraged me to do was to say fine, if you want to have independent IT consultants let’s just agree on some very important things cybersecurity-wise across the entire town.”

Hilton said he experienced little resistance and that departments were cooperative and willing to learn from what he had to share. When Hilton first

presented his findings in 2020 Dudley was graded “very poor” on their security posture scale. Today, the town has moved up that scale with more improvements still yet to come.

“The number one recommendation I bring to you is you absolutely need to have a real ongoing cyber security program, and you do, so we can proactively scan new websites. As you’ve changed, whether you’ve realized it or not, I was right there making sure that security was in place and a whole bunch of other stuff that most people don’t even realize needs to occur. I’m very proud of the whole culture of IT in this town not just because of the effort I’ve been able to contribute, but because of the response,” Hilton told selectmen.

The Board met with Hilton after their March 13 meeting in executive session to discuss further steps and recommendations for increasing cyber security in the town. The meeting was closed-door due to the potentially sensitive nature of some of the recommendations and findings which could be abused in the wrong hands.



Courtesy

DWC CELEBRATES LESA PATROCK

Members of the DWC gathered on March 9 to celebrate Lesa Patrock, a local woman making history for Women’s History Month! DWC members also made contributions to our voluntary giving project to YOU, Inc. and their Pajama Bag Program in Lesa’s name totaling \$930. Items included were new: pajamas, underwear, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, throws, stuffed animals, age appropriate books, coloring books and crayons and \$80 in cash. For more information, please visit: www.dudleywomensclub.org.

Oxford officials seeking capital budget approval

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — On top of its \$47.1 million overall budget, Oxford will be seeking resident approval for \$2.56 million in capital spending at this year’s Annual Town Meeting May 3. Residents will get a more detailed view of these proposals at the capital plan hearing in April.

In her recent presentation to selectmen and Finance Committee, Town Manager Jen Callahan said the town’s ability to do such projects has greatly changed in the last decade. In fiscal 2013, the departments requested \$2.6 million, but only got \$302,000; this year, they requested \$6.3 million.

That’s in part because of having a healthy free cash fund (this year she’s proposing to use \$2.2 million), plus another \$2.2 in general stabilization and nearly \$400,000 in capital stabilization. In the biggest-ticket area – roads – the town is proposing to add \$930,000 in tax money to the state’s \$505,000 in Chapter 90 aid.

Regarding that issue, FinCom Chair John Eul said the state requirements for roadwork have become much stricter. “Anytime we touch a road,” the state wants to talk about storm-water/drainage, sidewalks and bike lanes before “you get to talk about the road surface,” he said. In Oxford’s case, many roads were originally “cart paths.”

The DPW is also targeted

to received several other buckets of money for various things. \$500,000 is going to the building

improvement fund, with key projects being HVAC “variable-speed” drives and a study at the schools,

an HVAC chiller replacement at the library, and a senior center roof project,

Turn To **BUDGET** page **A13**

Camp Invention coming to Auburn schools

AUBURN — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment camp program, is coming to Auburn Public School District the week of July 24.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship — all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation’s most world-changing inventors — the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year’s Wonder program

encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

Catching Air™: Taking a confidence-building ride through physics, engi-

neering and art, children design and build their own skate park.

Invention™: Campers take on the role of event planners as they throw a party celebrating creativity and innovation.

MimicBot™: Children show their unique style

when they transform a robot that mimics sounds into a one-of-a-kind animatronic stuffed animal.

Pop-Up Venture™: Big ideas come to life as campers design their own mini pop-up business.

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 118,000 students every year and partners with

Turn To **CAMP** page **A18**

TSKK hosts Dana Farber fundraiser

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The TSSK on Harris Street in Webster

played host to a special celebration of life and music on Saturday, March 18 to raise money for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

The afternoon consisted of seven musical acts, each dedicating their time and talents toward the cause. Karl Arnett, event organizer and local DJ going by the stage name DJ Blink, said he wanted to bring the local community together to help support a cause near and dear to his heart after recently losing his father-in-law and uncle to cancer.

"I wanted to give back to Dana Farber because they're doing great research to hopefully find a cure. We can hope. That's all I can wish for in the future. We also welcomed kids today until 5 p.m. because there's not a lot for kids to do in Webster so we wanted to give them a chance to see some good, live music as well," said Arnett.

The event served as both a showcase of some nota-

ble local musical talents as well as a fundraiser with the atmosphere meant to be fun and energetic. Arnett said the talent on hand was impressive and much appreciated.

"There are some very talented people here. Everything here is for one cause, and they all said 'yes' in a heartbeat. They want to give back as well. The TSSK has been a great and accommodating host. They went the extra mile to make this happen," said Arnett.

Artists included in the lineup were Steve Robinson, Jared Moore, Jesse J Desorcy, Ron Jones, Infinite Groove, College, and Caboodle. DJ Crow assisted Arnett in providing the sound for the day. The event included a 50/50 raffle and basket raffles and was sponsored by numerous local businesses including 88 Bistro, Down on Main, Mama Kilsmith, Gem Exhibits, Saloon No. 6, Shop Life Customs, and Luminosity.



Jason Bleau

Steve Robinson was the first performer in a stacked lineup for the Dana Farber fundraiser showcase at the TSSK in Webster.

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PAW of the WEEK RHONDA

Currently Available for Adoption - Good with kids & dogs Meet Rhonda!

3 month/Female/12lb/Husky mix!

Rhonda is an absolute sweetheart who wants to romp around the yard and lay by the warm fire. She has the most adorable wrinkly face and is sure to bring much happiness to her future family!

www.PawfectLifeRescue.org

Uxbridge, MA (Showings by appointment)



Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue PAW of the WEEK!

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Elms College announces Dean's List

CHICOPEE — The College of Our Lady of the Elms has announced the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester. To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes.

The following students have made the dean's list:

Ashley Belanger of Webster
Nicholas McElroy of Oxford
Kyle Sebastianski, of Auburn
These Elms College students were among 476 named to the dean's list.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

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NOTE: The membership promotion listed above cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Based on an annual commitment and subject to a termination fee if not completed. Cannot be used in combination with any other discounts, promotions, discounted gift certificates/card or insurance discounts. No refunds and non-transferable. Other exclusions and rules may apply.

March roars in with major nor'easter

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — A major March nor'easter dumped several inches of snow over the area last week and left thousands of residents without power.

The multi-day storm began on the evening of March 13 with heavy rain before quickly transitioning to snow. Many area schools were canceled or delayed on both March 14-15, as some towns saw over a foot of snowfall.

In Spencer, the area of 74 Thompson Pond



Courtesy

A crash during last week's storm caused this solar-powered speed display sign to be heavily damaged in Sturbridge.

Rd., near Paxton Road, was closed for several hours due to a large fallen tree that brought down power lines.

Brimfield also

saw several roads impacted by downed branches and lines. National Grid crews responded to Knollwood Road to help restore



Courtesy

National Grid crews responded to Knollwood Road in Brimfield.

power.

In Sturbridge, a hit-and-run accident on March 15 took place in snowy conditions on Fiske Hill Road. At approx-

aged, police said.

The sign is valued at close to \$3,000. The investigation is ongoing, and residents with any information on the incident are asked to contact police.

"Anyone who may have witnessed this crash is asked to contact Officer Nicholas Mardrosian at 508-347-2525, extension 362," read a statement released by the Sturbridge Police Department.

Leicester saw no road closures during the storm,

but on March 14 a tree fell on a house on Boyd Street. Severe damage was caused to the house, which

was subsequently deemed unsafe to inhabit by the building inspector.

Turn To **STORM** page **A18**

Webster Public Schools accepting applications for integrated preschool openings

WEBSTER — In September 2023, the Webster Public Schools Integrated Preschool Program anticipates openings in both the morning and afternoon preschool sessions. This program provides children with and without special needs a quality early childhood educational experience. Each class will meet for either morning or afternoon four half-day sessions at Park Avenue Elementary School. The program follows the Webster Public Schools calendar.

Preschool applications can be picked up at the District Administration Office, Student Services Department. Please note that we are located at 77 Poland St. in Webster, in back of the Bartlett High School campus. Applications are also available on the Special Education Page of the district Web site (<http://www.webster-schools.org>).

Applications will be accepted between March 10 and April 15. Completed applications can be dropped off at the Student Services Office between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Applications can also be mailed to us at the address above or faxed to us at 508-949-2364. (Please indicate to

the Attention of Maria Santerre). Applicants should bring a copy of their child's certified birth certificate. Registration for the preschool will take place through an online process, once your child is screened. Upon receipt of your application, you will be contacted to come into one of our scheduled screening sessions to determine if your child will qualify for one of our typical peer slots. All applicants will be expected to attend a screening appointment prior to being assigned to one of the integrated preschool sessions. Upon completion of the screening process, children determined eligible to fill slots as typical, or non-disabled peers, will be required to regis-

Final registration will take place by the end of May 2023. All registration forms, including immunization and health examination forms, must be received by the school in order for your child to

be considered for placement. An open house for all applicants will be held at the Park Avenue Elementary School in June 2023.

There is no registration fee and no tuition for the Integrated Preschool Program.

Children must be four years old before Sept. 1 and be a resident of the Town of Webster at the time of application, in order to be eligible for enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year.

Transportation to and from the preschool program is the responsibility of the parent.

Please submit your completed application by

mail, by fax, or in person at the Student Services Department, Webster Public Schools Administrative Offices, 77 Poland Street, Webster MA, during the designated enrollment dates and times. Applications received after the enrollment period will be considered if slots are still available. Late applicants will be screened and added to the waiting list.

Any questions can be directed to the Student Support Services Department at 508-943-3646 x2.

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**Sunday March 26th
1:00 pm**

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**Dudley Water Department
HYDRANT FLUSHING**

The Dudley Water Department will begin hydrant flushing in March and continue through August 2023

Flushing of hydrants will be conducted during normal business hours in most areas. (Normally between 8am-2pm Monday - Friday) During flushing operations, you may notice discoloration to the water, please do not be alarmed this is normal and does not pose a health risk.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call The Dudley Water Department at: 508-949-8007 or sewerwater@dudleyma.gov

**SPENCER ANNOUNCES
REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY**

When: Saturday, March 25, 2023,
between 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Where: North Brookfield Recycling Center,
57 East Brookfield Rd., North Brookfield, MA

Fee: Free to Spencer Residents
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25 gallons / pounds - \$60.00
(Excessive amounts may incur additional changes)
(Paints-no Latex)-Household Chemicals-Pesticides-Solvents)
NO Explosives-Oil
For more information go to:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/2023SpencerHHW>

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Utilities & Facilities at 508-885-7515 during normal business hours of 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

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SENIOR CORNER

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our 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 do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!

The Webster Senior Center will be closed on Friday, April 7th in observance of Good Friday and on Monday, April 17th in observance of Patriot's Day.

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am.

Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday 3/28 Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas. Wednesday 3/29 Meatballs w/onion gravy, pasta, mixed vegies. Thursday 3/30 Chicken Picatta, wild rice, broccoli. Friday 3/31 Macaroni & Cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans.

New Covid-19 Treatment Hotline: Have you tested positive for Covid-19? Telehealth is a quick and free way to see if you're eligible for Covid-

19 treatment. Just call 1-833-273-6330. Clinicians are available every day from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm EST.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Senior Center to assist you. Please call (508) 949-3845 for more information.

The Regional Environmental Council has scheduled their Winter Mobile Fresh Produce Markets for Thursdays at the Webster Senior Center, starting Thursday, January 19th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Markets are held every Thursday from January 19th through May 11, 2023.

Join us for an afternoon movie matinee. We will be showing The Good House movie with Sigourney Weaver and Kevin Kline on Monday, March 27th at 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please sign up in advance at the Senior Center front desk.

Join us for a soup social at the Senior Center on Monday, April 3rd at 11:30 am. Sponsored by Christopher Heights. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

Are you interested in playing chess? We now have an informal chess club meeting on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm. All skill levels are welcomed!

Mondays and Wednesdays:

Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! 9:30-10:30 am. Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm. Why not sign up for lunch, come early and spend the day!

Do you like to play cribbage? Our weekly cribbage group now 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 6-card or 13-card pitch! Six card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

The next series of line dancing classes with Forty Arroyo starts on Friday, March 24th. Cost is \$3.00 per class.

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm – beginners welcome!

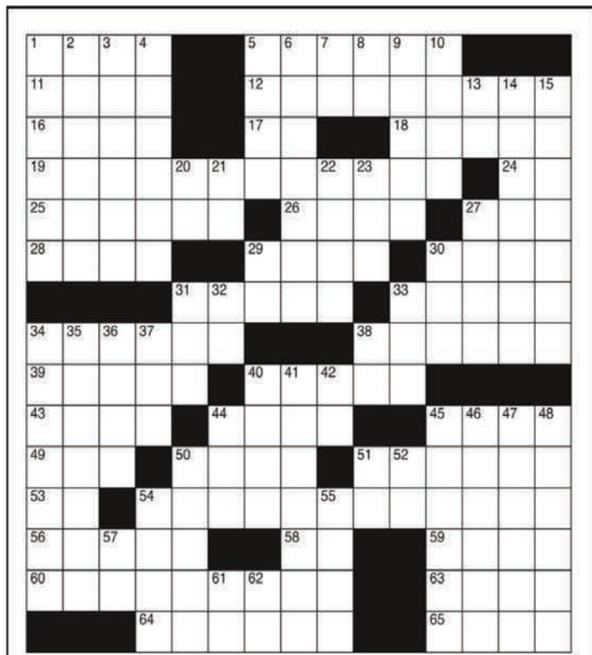
Trip 1: The Amante Experience starring Michael Amante, the Peoples Tenor, at Castleton Conference Center, Windham, NH on Wednesday, April 18th. Trip price of \$109.00 includes transportation, luncheon, meal

tax, meal gratuity and show ticket. You must reserve your tickets by April 6th. Trip 2: Staying Alive, Tribute to the Bee Gees at Lake Pearl, Wrentham, MA on Wednesday, May 24th. Trip price of \$119.00 includes transportation, luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity and show ticket. Our trips sell out quickly so don't wait to reserve your seat! Trip prices do not include bus driver gratuity. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 for more information.

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 if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you. (508) 949-3845.

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, at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

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

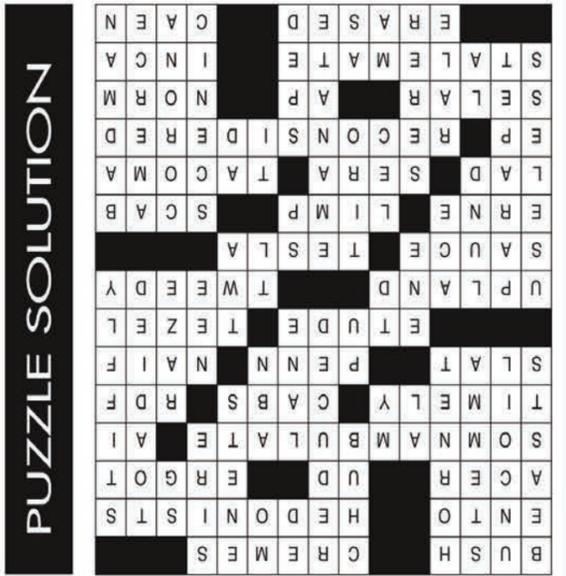


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Influential American political family
- 5. _ Chantilly, _ de Menthe
- 11. Within
- 12. Pleasure seekers
- 16. Computer manufacturer
- 17. Home to college sports' Flyers
- 18. Fungal disease
- 19. Sleepwalk
- 24. Spielberg sci-fi film
- 25. Seasonable
- 26. Taxis
- 27. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- 28. Thin, narrow piece of wood
- 29. "Mystic River" actor Sean
- 30. Ingenuous
- 31. Musical composition
- 33. Turkish surname
- 34. High or hilly area
- 38. Wilco frontman
- 39. Pour it on pasta
- 40. Electric car company
- 43. Sea eagle
- 44. Walk with difficulty
- 45. Sign of healing
- 49. Boy
- 50. Protein-rich liquid
- 51. Washington city
- 53. Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- 54. Thought over
- 56. Scads
- 58. News agency
- 59. Standard
- 60. Deadlock
- 63. Pre-Columbian empire
- 64. Removed
- 65. French commune

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Large, dangerous animals
- 2. Straighten out
- 3. Family tree
- 4. Large stinging paper wasp
- 5. European river fish
- 6. Cut down in size
- 7. Denotes past
- 8. Larry and Curly's partner
- 9. Samoyedic ethnic group
- 10. Male parent
- 13. Specific gravity
- 14. Demeaned oneself to
- 15. Rigidly
- 20. Yankovic is a "weird" one
- 21. Belonging to me
- 22. Path
- 23. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Level
- 29. Atomic #94
- 30. Born of
- 31. Midway between northeast and east
- 32. Northeastern bank
- 33. Defunct airline
- 34. Having no purpose
- 35. A low wall
- 36. Swedish city
- 37. Earn a perfect score
- 38. Atomic #81
- 40. Beginner
- 41. Give off
- 42. Incorrect letters
- 44. Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- 45. Idyllic
- 46. Popular beer
- 47. A way to fine
- 48. Evildoer
- 50. More withered
- 51. Seventh note of a major scale
- 52. Commercial
- 54. Abnormal breathing
- 55. Moved more quickly
- 57. City of Angels
- 61. Partner to Pa
- 62. Equally



71 West Main St., Dudley MA 01571
508-949-8015

ELDER ABUSE Intake Hotline for Mass., 1-800-922-2275, to report physical/mental/financial abuse. Senior self-harm/neglect. (May remain anonymous in reporting suspected abuse).

Dudley Senior Center hours are 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Seniors are welcome to drop in for self-directed activities, cards, puzzles, movies, knitting or just to hang out with friends.

Tri Valley Congregate lunches are served on Monday & Friday at 11:45 a.m. Reservations for lunch must be made two days in advance. Call office and leave a message to reserve your lunch at 508-949-8015. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center:

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. – Pitch

League Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. – The Dudley Senior Women's Knitting group. Come join us if you're interested in creating groovy knitting projects which are helping to support our community. Monday and some Fridays are Game Day, after lunch stay and enjoy some board games. Also, "MEMES" a funny picture/memes/blurbs game for up to 20 people.

Special Events at the Dudley Senior Center for April

Monday April 3, 2023: we will be celebrating our April Birthday's. At 1 PM we will serve Cake and Ice Cream. Please let us know if you would like lunch from Tri Valley or come and bring your own lunch. Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP

Wednesday, April 5, 2023: We will have a Movie "Easter Parade" and a Brown Bag Lunch will be provided for \$3.00 a person. Let us know if you want low salt

Ham or Turkey, Mayonnaise or Mustard and if you would like American cheese. Drinks and popcorn will also be provided. Please Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP to place your lunch request.

Wednesday April 12, 2023: Going out to lunch this month will be at The Lodge in Webster. You can meet at the restaurant at 12 Noon-If you need to car pool you would meet at the Dudley Town Hall for 11:30 AM. Please Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP for the luncheon reservation and let us know if you need to car pool.

Thursday April 20, 2023: Memory Café from 2-4 PM: Come Listen to Tim Van Edmond "Storyteller, Folk Singer". We will be having a pasta lunch with salad. A \$3.00 donation is greatly appreciated. Please Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP.

Wednesday April 26, 2023: Turkey Dinner will be served, at the Dudley Senior Center at 12 Noon.

DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER

For \$3:00 a person. Please Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP for this luncheon

The Dudley Senior Center is closed on Monday April 17th Patriot's Day and Friday April 21st through Tuesday April 25th for voting.

Please call the Senior Center for any of these Special Events so we have a count: The number is 508-949-8015. Please leave a message. You can also contact us by email: coadirector@dudleyma.gov we are very excited to offer new events for our seniors.

Handouts are available at the Dudley Senior Center

Office Hours: Monday & Friday, 9 AM – 2:00 PM. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 PM. before and after Memory Café every third Thursday of the month.

Email: coadirector@dudleyma.gov

Telephone: 508-949-8015. Please leave us a message with your return phone number.

We are always open to new ideas for programs/events. Come and share!

Open to all seniors. You are always welcome to attend any of our programs and events no matter where you live! Just a reminder to RSVP for any special events.

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Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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Note: Office hours are for selectmen's secretary and town administrator. S electmen do not hold office hours.
Town Clerk (949-8004)
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday nights 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)
Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week
DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)
Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours!
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Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911
OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
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WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
Monday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Saint Joseph School Eagles complete successful winter athletic season



WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School athletic teams participated in the Route 395 Basketball and Cheer Tournament, hosted by Trinity Catholic

Academy from March 10-12 at Southbridge Middle/High School. It was a very successful weekend for the Eagles! The Varsity Cheer

Team received a 3rd place award for their routine, which included stunts, tumbling, dancing, and high-spirited cheers. Team members include



Grade 8 students – Haleigh Creighton, Bobbi Enman, and Gianna Rosario; Grade 5 students - Alexis Archambault, Avery Archambault, and Tenleigh Dowd; and Grade 4 students - Bella Kicilinski, Evelyn Macko, Lily Martin, and Amelia Potem. Grade 8 student Haleigh Creighton and Grade 4 student Evelyn Macko were named Most Valuable Players for Saint Joseph School. In addition, the Junior Varsity Cheer Team, consisting of Kindergarten – Grade 2 students, put on a great exhibition. Their smiles and enthusiasm certainly won over the crowd. The team consists of Grade 2 students - Sophia Bengston and Rylan Shemansky; Grade 1 students - Maya Jackson, Olivia Perry, and Piper Zalewski; and Kindergarten student - Maggie Belanger. Jessica Recko and Christy Creighton coach the two cheer teams.

The Saint Joseph School Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team, who finished 3rd in the regular season standings, also finished third in the Tournament, falling to Saint James School in the semi-final game. JV Boys include Grade 6

students – Oluwatobiloba Akindele, Ryan Amaral, Simon Kowalczyk, Jake Martin, Kyle Muchiru, Jacob Parafinowicz, Alan Rubin, Ethan Ryan, And Adam Wozniak; and Grade 5 students – Oluwatosin Akindele, Mychael Jones, Jacob Lopez, Jacob Marcuccio, and Radhy Pena. Kayla Maynard, Joey Boudreau, and Wiktor Potem coach the team.

Finally, both the Varsity Girls' Basketball Team and the Varsity Boys' Basketball Team competed in Championship Games on the final day of the Tournament. Saint Joseph School is excited to announce that each team took home a championship trophy. Both teams competed in hard-fought and exciting games against solid Saint James School squads.

The Boys' Varsity team, who finished 2nd overall in regular season standings, upset the top seed with a 45-40 win. Grade 8 students Marcus Muchiru and Jackson Meehan were named Most Valuable Players for Saint Joseph School. Varsity Boys include Grade 8 students – Jackson Meehan, Aiden Muchiru, Marcus Muchiru, and Ike

Rudnicki, and Grade 7 students Gabriel Gallant, Ryan Grupposo, Alan Kulpa, and Max Podgorny. Lisa Sabacinski, Matt Sabacinski, and Jeffrey Grupposo coach the team.

The Varsity Girls' Basketball Team, who finished first overall in regular season standings, earned their Route 395 League Championship with a 12-point victory over Saint James. The Championship Title

is the first championship in 26 years for a Saint Joseph School Varsity Girls' team. In addition, Grade 8 students Gabriela Pianka and Grade 7 student Molly Hachigian were named Most Valuable Players for Saint Joseph School. Team members include Grade 8 students - Catherine Barbale, Emerson Bernard, Leah Boudreau, Gabriela Pianka, Gianna Rosario, and Shayley Szela; Grade 7 students - Molly Hachigian and Emily Macko; Grade 6 student – Zofia Pawlikowska; Grade 5 student – Neli Kuznecki. Buzz Krynsinski and Anh-Dao Tran coach the team.

The Saint Joseph School Athletic Program is coordinated by Athletic Director, Joey Boudreau.

Girl Scouts receive \$2,500 from Webster Five Foundation

REGION — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) is pleased to announce it has received a \$2,500 grant from the Webster Five Foundation in support of 'It's A Girls World', one of the community based programs it offers.

The after-school program engages Worcester County girls in grades K-6 in STEM, Financial Literacy, and Health & Personal Wellness topics.

"We are so grateful to Webster Five Foundation for helping to provide girls with the opportunity to foster a sense of belonging and explore their true potential and leadership abilities through It's A Girls World," said Pattie Hallberg, GSCWM CEO. "Through the program participants are creating new friendships, embracing healthy risks, and exploring opportunities through the Girl Scout Experience."

With the generous support of contributors such as Webster Five Foundation, Girl Scouts provides enriching and progressive programs, including day and overnight camps, to enable members to realize their own potential and gain critical skills they

will carry throughout their lives.

The Webster Five Foundation provides grants to local nonprofit organizations or programs that support expanding or improving access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities and community development. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated more than \$3.1 million to a range of organizations.

About Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves more than 5,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, visit www.gscwm.org.

Tickets on sale for Bites, Books and Blooms

WEBSTER — Yes! Spring is arriving! Flowers are starting to poke their heads out of the earth. Earth Day celebrations are scheduled. But to really experience Spring, join the Friends of the Gladys E Kelly Library at their Fundraiser Bites, Books, and Blooms: a Celebration of Spring in Webster. The event will take place on April 27 from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and are on sale at the library or online at <https://tinyurl.com/bitestix>.

Snack on tasty bites from ten of our favorite local restaurants, while strolling through an exhibit of books in bloom—floral arrangements that capture a novel, poem, or short story in flowers. Music will be provided by local musicians. There will be a cash bar. Proceeds from the event will support library programs for the Webster community.

The event builds upon the Friends' 2019 Taste of Webster. Our local restaurants will provide their tasty signature small bites for attendees of the fundraiser. Chowder, alfredo, spring rolls, melt in your mouth desserts—among other tastes—await you. This year you will also be able to enjoy a new creative side of reading—an exhibit of books in bloom. The concept comes from "Art in Bloom"—exhibits staged in art museums across the country in which art pieces are made into floral arrangements, like the Worcester Art Museum's popular Flora in Winter. While some libraries have translated this to books, the Kelly library exhibit is the first such book in bloom exhibit in the Webster area. Participants are floral enthusiasts who come from florist shops, garden clubs, museums, educational organizations, businesses, and churches. How would you envision a floral arrangement based on the Hunger Games or the Secret Garden—to name just two of the many. And what local government organization is going to translate James and the Giant Peach into flowers? Come find out! Buy a ticket for Bites, Books, and Blooms. The Books in Bloom exhibit will remain in the library through April 30 so that everyone can come in and be inspired.

For more information about spring flower and garden programs at the library, or to buy tickets to Bites, Books, and Blooms, go to www.gladyskellylibrary.org. Tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/bitestix>.



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

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

QUILTING GROUP
Wednesdays @ 1:30PM – beginning March 8th
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

LEARN TO PLAY DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
Thursdays @ 6:00PM
"Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? We have an experienced Dungeon Master ready to run a new game of Dungeons and Dragons, the world's number one role playing game. We are missing just one thing ... YOU! This is for those that are looking to learn more about playing and do some short adventures!

Open to ages 10+, children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for this free program.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP
Thursday 5:30PM – 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

LEGO CLUB
Mondays @ 4:00PM
Come join us each week for a different Lego challenge, from writing your name in Legos to making a Lego zipline. Ages 5+

POKEMON CARD TRADING
Tuesdays @ 4:00PM
Children are invited to bring their Pokemon cards for informal card trading and discussion.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS
Monday, March 20 10:00AM-11:00AM
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Class size is limited to 12 children, ages 3-6, and registration is required

each week at the link on our website.
Sponsored by the South County Community Partnership

INTRODUCTION TO BLOCK PRINTING
Saturday, March 25 10:00AM-2:00PM
Join Allison Pettingill to learn the basics of block printing in this in-depth class for teens (over age 14, please) and adults. Use the skills you gain to make your own custom patterns on textiles and paper.
All supplies provided and no experience necessary.

Space is limited, so registration is required at crawfordlibrary.org
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.
ADULT BOOK GROUP
Monday, March 27 6:00PM-7:00PM
All are welcome to join our adult book group for a discussion of this month's title, *Razorblade Tears*, by S A Cosby. Copies of the current title are available at the circulation desk one month prior to the meeting.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 1 10:30AM-Noon
Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will have activities, crafts, egg hunt and meet the Easter Bunny! This is a family event!

All children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

CHAIR YOGA WITH JULIE
Saturday, April 1 12:30PM-1:30PM
Instructor Julie St. Francis will lead a chair yoga class for all ages. Chair yoga is a gentle practice in which poses are performed while seated or with the aid of the chair, and is perfect for seniors or those with mobility issues.

Free; sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

MOMMY AND ME PAINT NIGHT
Monday, April 3 6:00PM-7:45PM
Returning favorite Jean Walker will lead a Mommy and Me paint class. Space is limited, so registration is required.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

DEB'S SING & SWING
Thursday, April 13 10:30AM-11:15AM
This is an interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

BAD MOVIE OF THE MONTH: KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE

Thursday, April 13 6:00PM-7:45PM
There are thousands of wonderful movies in the world. Movies that will make you cry, lift your spirits, and inspire you.

These are not those movies.
Join us for a showing of "Killer Klowns From Outer Space" (1988). A UFO shaped like a circus tent descends on a small town, and alien klowns (not the same as clowns) attack. The klowns

GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster
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Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5p.m., Sat: 9-2

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website, or by reaching out to our Library Director, Sondra Murphy, at smurphy@cwmar.org.

Adult Programming
SPICE CLUB – In the lobby
A five-month series, each month will feature a new spice, recipes, and cookbooks. Stop by the lobby to grab a sample of that month's spice, then take it home and cook! February's spice is Star Anise.

FRIENDS FEATURED AUTHOR BOOK SALE – Ongoing
A small touch of the Irish! Featured authors include Andrew Greeley, Ralph McInerney, and Larry McMurtry. Still only \$3.00 a bag!

YOGA WITH JULIE – March 25th at 9:30 AM

Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves a centering of the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

ADULT DROP-IN BOARD GAME NIGHT – Every 3rd Tuesday – 6:00 PM
Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn it!

COOKBOOK BOOK CLUB – March 28th at 6:00 PM

A book club for people who like to cook- and eat! Each month will feature a new cookbook. Take home this month's pick, choose a recipe, and bring what you make to the next meeting! We welcome all cooking abilities! This month's cookbook is 5 Ingredients: Quick & Easy Food. Swing by the front desk to pick one up

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – April 17th at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be on Monday, March 20th at 6:30 PM in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing *The Dog Stars* by Peter Heller. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or

are armed with popcorn and pies, and the heroes drive an ice cream truck.
Free. Popcorn and bottled water provided.
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

by email to rcox@cwmar.org for inquiries.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

MINISTEM-CHALLENGE – Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Join us every Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmar.org for more details.

CHARLTON POLICE K9 UNIT DEMONSTRATION – March 23rd at 4:00 PM

Join us as we welcome Charlton Police's K9 Unit, Officers Gaylord and Dozer! Officer Gaylord will give us a demonstration as he explains and shows us what he and Dozer are trained to do together. This program is for children of all ages and their caretakers.

ED THE WIZARD – March 27th at 3:30 PM

Using real science, learn how to defy gravity, move objects with your mind, change the properties of water, look through solid objects, and more! Recommended for grades 1 to 12. Supported by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

PreK Music and Movement – March 30th at 10:00 AM

Sing and dance with Deb as she plays guitar in this interactive music program for ages 1-5.

MUSIC TOGETHER – Every Saturday in March at 11:15 AM

Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

MOM'S DROP-IN GROUP – Tuesday Mornings March 28th 10 AM to 12 PM

Moms and caregivers, bring your children, ages 0-5, to our drop-in open playtime. In this community-building event, we set out toys for your children to play with as you get to see and know other parents from the area who have children of similar ages. Stop in any time between 10 am and 12 pm and stay as long or as little as you like.



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Easter ~ Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter is a great time to get together with family or friends and enjoy a scrumptious feast, and what better place to spend it than here at Salem Cross Inn!
Tables fill up quickly so please make your reservations early.
Please call to reserve 508-867-2345.

Our Dining Room is open from 11:30 to 3:00
Our Easter Menu can be found on our website salemcrossinn.com

www.salemcrossinn.com (508)867-2345

On Vacation March 24 thru April 6. Re-opening April 7 with new hours:
Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5

Callahan unveils \$47.1 million budget for Oxford

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Last week, the public got to see the \$47.1 million fiscal 2024 budget in a “high-level” form, with Finance Committee Chair John Eul saying “If you want to get into the paperclips,” go to or watch his board’s meetings.

Many of the changes this year are what Eul dubbed “moving the deck chairs.” In several departments, there are personnel shifts, but mostly from one line item to another, or costs that rise in one area partly offset by declines in others.

“There are people’s lives attached to these numbers,” both on the staff and in the “broader community,” Town Manager Jen Callahan said. She noted the public will get to decide on it at the May 3 Town Meeting. Once it gets there “it has been vetted in a whole number of different ways.”

Overall, it looks much like previous years, with \$21.6 million for schools, \$8.4 million for employee benefits, \$5.3 million for public safety, \$4.3 million for DPW, and \$3.2 million for general government. It’s also seeking \$2.5 million in capital funding (see related story). It’s being funded 61 percent by taxes, 29 percent state aid, and 10 percent other sources (mostly local revenues, which include permits, excise and meals taxes, inspection fees, etc).

Regarding state aid, Callahan said it “has been flatlined for quite some time,” particularly the Chapter 90 money that goes to roads (\$505,318 this year) and

“unrestricted general government aid” (\$2.43 million, for almost any use), but Chapter 70 aid for schools has risen this year, while costs for school choice and charter school tuition are down somewhat.

To Eul, though, the “Chapter 70 formula is flawed” because school employees consume most of the employee benefits, which are entirely paid on the municipal side of the budget. That means that the schools’ share of the budget is rising (now 59 percent) while the district’s student population is falling.

“It’s not the schools’ fault, not our fault. It’s the state’s formula,” he said, noting he sees it as the state indirectly trying to promote regionalization.

Eul said he’s concerned the state’s relatively recent approval of sports betting might take funds from the lottery, which supports state aid to towns. Towns do get 27.5 cents per dollar spent on sports betting, he noted.

McKenna also cited some long-term concern about health insurance, noting nobody knows how it will change in 20 years. The issue there is that towns are being encouraged (but not yet required) to pre-fund what are termed “other post-employment benefits” (OPEB in government lingo) based on an actuarial calculation of lifespan and other things. Eul noted Oxford’s OPEB liability is more than \$40 million by that standard. The town currently has \$5.2 million in its OPEB trust fund.

Callahan said they have to set aside that money until 2036, adding “Imagine

if we had that in our budget.”

Regarding staffing, Callahan cited several recent changes and a few current vacancies. McKenna observed that towns across the state are “facing a shortage in almost all positions,” so the latter are hard to fill.

Despite that, Oxford has recently filled gaps for a permanent building commissioner and health director; added four firefighters, recently interviewed to replace the town planner (who shifted to the manager’s office), and has given various current posts new responsibilities in the DPW and elsewhere. Going forward, it is hoping to provide opioid-related services; find some help for the town clerk’s public records request burden; do more veterans outreach; use social media to help reunite people with lost pets; add an LPN, pre-K teacher and instructional aide for the schools; find a new police chief; provide mental health services by grant in the community center; and more.

Eul said he’s concerned about “losing seasoned veterans” in the DPW over near-future years as they retire.

Callahan said some of this year’s DPW changes will bring formerly outsourced engineering duties in-house, in part because Oxford “can’t control the flow” and timing of such work with contractors. Regarding the fire department, Eul and Callahan noted the recent hires were driven by a goal of avoiding “los[ing] people because their workload is too much” after having seen firefighters doing mandato-

ry overtime. (Eul said the town spent \$195,571 on OT last year, but can now budget just \$25,000 because of the new firefighters.) The department’s contract expires at the end of this fiscal year, and Oxford is currently negotiating a new one, but Callahan noted her budget proposal doesn’t include funds for potential changes yet.

Last year’s budget was \$45.5 million at this stage of the process.

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

Oxford Woman’s Club offers scholarships

OXFORD — The members of the Oxford Woman’s Club are offering three \$750 schools for qualifying Seniors who reside in Oxford. Please contact your school’s guidance counselor for applications or email simplyannie14@gmail.com.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Here comes the sun, and I say it's all right

After a long (and, we think, mild) winter, warmer, longer days are finally here. As the official first day of spring arrived on March 20, we're noticing people have more of a pep in their step. A refreshing sight!

While each season has its own perks, there is something about spring that seems to surprise us each year. We re-acquaint ourselves with our yards as they slowly reveal themselves as the snowbanks melt away. Muddy grass has never been a kinder sight.

Over the past few weeks, the common chatter has been about baseball, track, softball, springtime fitness goals, gardening, hiking, you know the usual. This week we reminisced about old April Fool's Day pranks in the office. Tacks on seats, the soda bottle filled with water sitting on top of a door waiting to be opened in order to drench an unsuspecting individual, saran wrapped cars, fake lottery winnings, fake wedding proposals and lost wedding rings to name a few. Stunts to make Larry, Moe, and Curly proud.

With spring, of course, comes spring fever. In modern times, this is a semi-positive term, however back in colonial times, 'spring fever' referred to the poor quality of health everyone was in, after sustaining a winter without fresh vegetables and proper diet. Today's 'spring fever' will have children restless, new romances transpire and people attacking their homes with dust cloths and Windex.

Experts say the changes that a person goes through during the springtime are due to hormonal changes in the body. During the winter months, the body secretes a large amount of melatonin, (the sleep hormone). The presence of more sunlight in spring sends the body a message to stop producing as much melatonin. This causes folks to be more awake. Add this to the uptick in your serotonin levels due to the sunlight and you will not only be awake but enthusiastic.

Interesting to note is that during the springtime the body becomes more susceptible to illnesses. Way back when, scurvy outbreaks always occurred during this time of year as did rubella and measles. Doctors note that in spring, gout, a condition that affects joints, peaks in individuals. Because there are more allergens in the air, you will see more cases of rosacea and other skin irritations on the rise.

During our research, we did notice that the mud wreaked havoc on our ancestors more than we've ever given a second thought. An excerpt from a 1929 newspaper based in northern New England read, "Easter Sunday was the one best weather offering of the week, although the season is much further advanced than last year. There is very little snow anywhere. There is an abundance of mud on the gravel or dirt highways. It is an unmentionable condition. Teams of horses have been on duty at Riverton to aid helpless motorists." We just love the fact that horses had to come to the rescue of motorists who could not make it through 'unmentionable conditions.'

We encourage everyone to spend as much time outdoors this spring. Get back to basics, back to nature, keep things simple and pick up an old hobby you have abandoned but have been meaning to reconnect with, life is meant to be fun.

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.

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

New beginnings

Imagine Jesus looking into our eyes and saying, "My child, your sins are forgiven. Your past mistakes wiped away; the poor choices of your life forgotten; all the ways you have turned away from God throughout your life are no more. Any debt you owe me for all I've given you is dismissed and there will be no remembrance of this debt."

Can you imagine beginning with a clean, new slate in life! What would it be like to forget all our past mistakes and to begin afresh and anew?!!?

Jesus says these words to a paralyzed man in a story where four friends carry their paralyzed friend to meet Jesus, and they get to the house only to see that it is so crowded they can't get inside the door. So, the four friends lift their paralyzed friend onto the roof and break through the roof to lay the crippled man right in front of Jesus. Christ sees the faith of this man, and his friends, and then shocks them all not by healing him right away, but by saying, "My son, your sins are forgiven!"

Jesus is ready to give this man back his life by healing his paralysis, but He wants to give back to this man a new life by first forgiving his sins. "My child, you have a new beginning in your life! Any separation from God that you have in your life is repaired, reconciled."

Can we imagine Christ offering the same saving words to us?

Before we go further with forgiving our sins, however, I want us to reflect on what are the sins that turn us away from God. Sinning is much more nuanced than simply and legalistically breaking some moral law. Whenever we turn away from God, whenever we forget or reject Him in our lives, whenever we distance ourselves from Him through our words, our thoughts, our actions and even our inactions, we are sinning. When we pause to understand sin in this way, we will quickly realize how much we need Christ to say to us, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

In the New Testament Greek, there are a variety of words that describe sin. The most common word, amartia, means missing the mark. God created each one of us in His image and likeness. With the incredible potential He has given us, we are supposed to grow in His likeness, to become more and more like Him, to become saints. That is the expectation with what has been given to each of us. If we aren't growing in that divine grace, if we are missing the mark, then we are sinning. Who among us will dare say we haven't sinned in this way, by not hitting the divine mark that God has placed in each of us?!!?

Am is missing this mark, i.e. not becoming like Christ.

Another word in Greek that describes sin is σ which implies consciously stepping across the line between good and evil. This is making a decision to choose evil over good, darkness over light, indifference or hatred over love. We all consciously make such decisions at times, however infrequent or frequent.

A third Greek word for sin is $\sigma \sigma \mu$, which means accidental-



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS, SACS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

ly slipping across this line between good and evil. We aren't consciously making the choice but we may carelessly step over the line without thinking. Our lack of vigilance and lack of a sober mindset betrays us, and we unconsciously make poor choices.

One other Greek word for sin is μ , which mean lawlessness. This is a total disregard for the law of God. Maybe we don't fall into this sense of rejecting any law.

God created each of us in His image and likeness. We are His children and heirs of His Promise. We have been given incredible potential, to grow in His grace and truth and love. To be an authentic human being is to become like Christ, united with Him, showing the same mercy and grace, love and goodness, forgiveness and kindness that He shows to us.

When we sin, we turn away from this Source of life, we reject this personal relationship and communion with God, and we distort the icon of Christ within.

God realized the fallenness of our human condition and responded. He came in the person of Jesus Christ to give us new life, a new beginning, calling us back to Him so that we can fulfill our divine potential.

My child, your sins are forgiven!

We receive this forgiveness on the day of our baptism, when we begin our new life in Christ. We receive this forgiveness every time we go to Holy Confession, renewing our baptismal grace. We receive this forgiveness each time we approach "with the fear of God, with faith and with love" to receive Holy Communion.

We are constantly sinning by missing the mark and turning away from God in conscious and unconscious ways through our words, thoughts, actions and inactions, so we need to continuously repent, which means turning back toward God.

In a Lenten Book Study we're doing every Wednesday evening after our Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on the Thirty Steps to Heaven, Fr Vassilios Papavassiliou states, "Repentance, rooted in humility, is at the very heart of the Christian life. It is the goal of life. Our goal is to turn back toward God and be united with Him. Our pride blinds us to our own sins. Humility gives us the sight to see ourselves as we truly are. The holier we become, the more clear we see Christ and the more sinful we feel. Repentance should lead us to grieve and mourn for the guilt of our sins but it should also lead us to find comfort and joy in God's mercy and love. Repentance gives birth to hope and gratitude, while cultivating in us a deep sense of mercy and grace which we offer to others. We forgive because we understand what it means to be forgiven."

My child, your sins are forgiven. Our Lord Jesus forgives us our sins and gives us a new beginning. What will we do with this new start? Are we ready to "pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it," as we hear from Saint Paul. Let us give our full attention, accepting God's forgiveness and then continuously repenting and striving to turn toward God and fulfill our divine potential within.

My child, your sins are forgiven!

CDs can be part of your investment strategy



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

In the financial world, stocks and stock-based mutual funds often get a lot of attention. And deservedly so, because they often form the core of a portfolio. But to help achieve your goals, you may also want to consider a broader array of investments — one of which may be a certificate of deposit (CD).

As you may know, a CD earns interest on a lump sum for a designated period. You can purchase CDs whose maturities range from a few months to 10 or more years. Generally, the longer-term the CD, the higher the interest rate, although this isn't always the case.

In recent years, CD rates have been pretty low, reflecting the overall interest-rate environment. But now, as the Federal Reserve has repeatedly raised interest rates to combat inflation, CD rates are rising, too. In fact, one-year CDs can currently be found paying in the 5 percent range — a rate that hasn't been seen in more than 15 years. Later in 2023, though, if the Fed eases up on rate hikes, or perhaps even starts reversing them, CD rates could fall again.

You can purchase a CD from a bank or buy a "brokered" CD from a financial services provider. The income you receive from a CD may be its main attraction, especially if the rates remain elevated for a while. But there's another key advantage to owning CDs: They can help diversify a portfolio of stocks and stock mutual funds that are generally more susceptible to movements in the financial markets. A portfolio that contains CDs, as well as bonds and government securities, can help reduce the effects of market volatility. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses in a declining market.

While adding individual CDs can be valuable, you might get a greater benefit from a more strategic approach known as laddering. You can build a CD ladder by buying a series of CDs that mature at different dates in the future — perhaps one month, three months, six months, nine months and 12 months out, or an even longer-term ladder of one to five years. In either case, as one CD matures, you can use the money if you need it or reinvest it to another "rung" on your ladder. If interest rates are up, the reinvestment option might be appealing, but if the available CD rates are lower than your maturing CDs, you could find better uses for your money. And you'd still have your longer-term CDs, possibly paying higher rates, working for you. You must evaluate whether a CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

The amount of space occupied by CDs in your portfolio should depend somewhat on your stage of life. If you're a long way from retirement, you may want to own a larger percentage of growth-oriented investments. But once you're retired and getting more income from your portfolio becomes more important, you might find a greater need for CDs.

In any case, CDs may prove useful to your overall financial strategy — so give them some thought.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oxford residents blindsided by Planning Board "change of mind"

To the Editor:

In an unprincipled attack on the residents of Oxford, the Oxford Planning Board reversed their previous decision to turn down the development of a 500,000 square-foot "Last Mile" facility in Oxford. The facility, which is expected to be the size of 5 Home Depots combined, will be the largest of its kind in all towns surrounding Oxford (Auburn, Dudley, Douglas, Sutton, and Webster). The size of the planned "Last Mile Facility" will be topped only by the one million square foot Amazon facility in Charlton.

Over 150 residents showed up to the March 13 Planning Board meeting on Monday, squeezing themselves into a packed, standing room only meeting to protest the project. Many residents stated they also wanted to attend the meeting and could not make it. The Last Mile facility is expected to bring up to 3,000 new trucks per day on the Route 395 corridor and Depot Road exit in Oxford. Oxford residents who about the development land believed the project was denied the go-ahead after a year of Planning Board meetings and resident protests, which ended in a "Denial of Special Permit" back in August 2022. The applicant of the project, "Oxford Land Ventures, LLC", filed a lawsuit against the Oxford Planning Board, with the Land Court issuing a remand petition which re-opened the special permitting process. To the disgust of many residents, the Oxford Planning Board reversed their original decision and granted the applicant a Special Permit to build.

Many residents are concerned for the safety of their children

and pets due to already predicted high volumes of traffic, as documented in the developer's plans. Others are concerned about the environmental impact due to deteriorating air quality from large amounts of vehicle exhaust particulates, excessive noise pollution, night-time light pollution, and wellhead/wetland water contamination. Others are concerned that the project will end up costing the residents of Oxford tens of millions of dollars in new road repair costs. Many residents also feel that a large-scaled, industrial warehouse is out of place in Oxford, and the chaos it brings will destroy the town's rural atmosphere. Oxford is home to many farms and idyllic settings, and a massive industrial complex this size does not fit in. The site location is also perplexing, as it's being built connected to the Town of Auburn's Habitat of Protected and Endangered Species and Wetland Preservation lands.

The Planning Board's change of mind to allow the enormous Last Mile facility is a rude awakening for those residents who believed their quiet neighborhood and surrounding forests were safe from over-development. The project includes the cutting down of approximately 50 acres of trees that Mass Environmental Protection Agency stated would require planting 1,000 trees and take 30 years to obtain the same CO2 sequestration. The new amounts of tractor-trailer traffic to Route 395 and the surrounding areas alone will forever change the fabric and feel of Oxford.

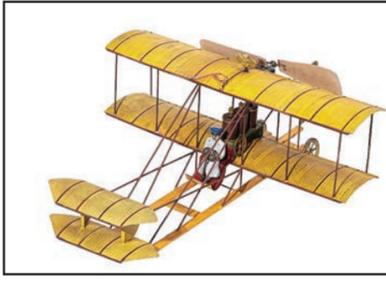
Leah Reichner
Oxford

Latest antiques, collectibles, and auction news

BY WAYNE TUISKULA

Today's column is another auction news roundup and sports memorabilia leads the latest news. A pair of Air Jordan game-worn 13s Bred (short for black and red) sneakers are heading to auction. USA Today writes that "the shoe feature[s] an unconventional holographic eye and an outsole resembling a panther paw." The sneakers are the only Jordan play-off game shoes that have been authenticated by the MeiGray Group, which is the official authenticator of the NBA. This pair is even more valuable because they're from Jordan's "Last Dance" 1997-1998 season. A ball boy responsible for the visitor's locker room had found Jordan's lost jacket from practice the day before. USA Today reports that after finding the jacket, he asked Jordan "Can I get your kicks after the game tomorrow?" Jordan signed the shoes and handed them to the ball boy. The sneakers are expected to bring between \$2 and \$4 million.

A rare comic



book should also bring strong results at an upcoming auction. The Detective Comics issue # 27 from 1939 features the first appearance of Batman in a comic book. It's considered one of the holy grails of comic books, along with Action Comics # 1, which featured the first appearance of Superman. The comic book is graded 6.0 out of 10, and is unrestored. According to the New York Post, only 14 other unrestored copies of Detective Comics # 27 have been graded higher. The bidding ends on March 30, and as of March 17, it had reached over \$600,000. It's expected to sell for around \$1.5 million. The New York Post reports that the seller will use the money to help pay for their multi-million-dollar house.

Antiques and the Arts Weekly reports that a 1908 "Wright Flyer lookalike" recently soared at auction. The plane was made by the Ernst Plank Company of Nuremberg, Germany in 1908. The hand-painted mechanical plane measured 20 inches, with a wingspan of 14 and three quarter inches. The plane replicated the Wright brothers' plane. They write that "the front elevators, the rudder, fuselage, propellers, motor and wing tips are all virtually identical to those found in all early biplane design." The plane sold for \$66,000.

In evidence that we shouldn't throw anything away, a 2007 iPhone recently made major auction news. NPR reports that after Karen Green landed a new job, her friends chipped in

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page **A14**

Choosing the right hunting dog



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Last week, I noticed my first robin on my front lawn. Now there are a large number of them this week. Sitting in my backyard this past Saturday, a familiar sound was heard at this time of year. Tree frogs were suddenly making their mating calls (also known as peepers) which was indeed a sure sign of spring!

This is the time of year that many sportsmen start to think about purchasing a bird dog for the family, and for a hunting companion. Making the right decision about the breed and where to purchase the dog, will decide if you get a good hunting dog, and a dog that has a great disposition. All pups are cute when looking for a new dog, but doing your homework and listening to other bird hunters that own dogs can save you a lot of heartache and money. Purchasing a bird dog from a well known breeder, and not from a puppy mill or store, will be your first positive thing to do. Dogs are not cheap, and a good dog from a

highly respected breeder can cost you around \$2,000 or more. Do you want a female or a male? My personal preference is a female. There are many great dogs that can be adopted from kennels, but you are taking a huge risk. Some people with a lot of money will purchase a very expensive dog from a breeder, and after a very short while it becomes overwhelming to take care of children and a new puppy. They are often given up for adoption, and if you are in the right place at the right time, you could end up with a great dog, for a few hundred dollars or more!

If you do adopt a dog and you soon realize that it is not the dog for you, it is awfully hard to bring the dog back, as you have already bonded with him or her. Dogs are also very, very expensive to own, with vet bills often in the hundreds or thousands of dollars, if they become sick or are injured. If you love to travel, a dog is usually not a good option for you to own one. Food, daily exercise, shelter, and training your new pet and hunting companion requires a lot of time. If it is still your decision to purchase a dog, you more than likely will be a responsible dog owner, and



Courtesy

This week's picture shows this writer and my 13 year old yellow lab twig hunting pheasant last year! At 84 years old, I hope I get a few more years of hunting with my Lab. I say that every year. The memories will last forever!

will have many years of enjoyment at home and in the field. More on this subject in the coming weeks!

This time of year, ticks are making themselves known and can cause a lot of medical problems for humans and for dogs and cats. It seems as though every year a new type of tick is discovered in Massachusetts and surrounding states, and they carry some serious diseases that can be transmitted to animals and humans. Permatrim is a spray that can be used on your clothing to deter ticks and other insects from infecting you and your family members. Be sure not to spray it on your skin. Read the directions

before using. Daily inspections of your family members for possible tick bites, can save you from a lot of serious sickness, from tick bites. The clothes only need to be sprayed every week to maintain a good protection from tick bites.

Trout stocking continues in the Baystate and should provide some great trout fishing in both the valley and on the Cape! Freshly stocked trout are the safest freshwater fish to eat, but with all of the problems with other freshwater fish, it is best to eat none. Posters informing anglers of problems with infected fish may need to be reposted at most freshwater ponds and lakes because of heavy pollution. The Blackstone River and Mumford River and its tributaries are extremely polluted, as mentioned in last week's column. Catch & Release can still provide some great fishing opportunities!

No regulations on limits and sizes for most saltwater species have not been set as of this writing, but an April 11 meeting to finalize daily limits on Fluke and seabass is expected. It ain't going to be good!

Wallum Lake opens to fishing on April 8 this year.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Positively speaking!

Toby Moore

Life is a whirlwind. We must contend with a relentless tide of stress that threat-

ens to engulf us all. You may be motivated, determined, and competent, but our universe is filled with trials, and our dreams and goals will not be handed to us on a silver platter.

How can we find the balance amidst the chaos?

Exercise, healthy eating, family time, talking with a close friend, and connecting with your higher power are some ways to maintain equilibrium.

Gratitude is also a potent ally.

Enter the realm of The HeartMath Institute, an institution that has boldly ventured into the uncharted waters of human consciousness since its inception in 1991.

Years ago, I stumbled upon the intriguing works of Joe Dispenza, who spoke of HeartMath in his lectures. Since then, I've learned that some hospitals, businesses, and schools, including all four military branches, have worked with HeartMath to help their personnel develop a sharper focus using HeartMath techniques.

With a repository of over a hundred research papers spanning over three decades, the HeartMath Institute has revolutionized our understanding of the heart-mind connection.

Remarkably, our hearts contain over 40,000 neurons that engage in a dynamic dialogue with our brains. This fascinating discovery has led scientists to call this complex system the "Heart Brain."

This breathes new life into the old adage, "Let your heart be your guide."

By studying EKGs and brain scans

Turn To **POSITIVE** page **A14**

A READER EXCHANGE OF HELPFUL HINTS AND HANDY TIPS

Natural Options to Color Easter Eggs

Easter is right around the corner, and the religious holiday, rich with tradition, often creates the best family memories. Easter morning candy hunts, family gatherings around tables heaped with holiday foods, and the ritual of tinting eggs all help make this spring celebration one of the most enjoyable holidays ever.

Few family traditions are more enjoyable than the much-anticipated egg coloring event.

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, natural egg kits offer an alternative, but why not just duplicate the rainbow colors of yesterday 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!

No Easter egg coloring kit? Mix one teaspoon of white vinegar and 20 drops of natural food coloring (use more to reach the desired color) in one cup of very hot water in a pan or oven safe cup or bowl. Dip as usual.

Natural Dye for Easter Eggs

The following indicates what to use to achieve a desired color:

Pale Red: Red onions; fresh, shredded beets or cranberries, frozen raspberries

Orange: Yellow onion skins

Light yellow: Orange or lemon peels, carrot tops, celery seed or ground cumin

Yellow: Ground turmeric (two to three tablespoons)

Pale green: Spinach leaves

Lavender: Red Zinger tea bag

Green-gold: Yellow Delicious apple peels



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

Blue: chopped purple cabbage; canned blueberries
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.

Tissue Paper Dyed Easter Eggs

This is one of my favorites! Using tissue paper to color eggs results in an interesting hue of pastels. This is a good use for scraps of leftover tissue paper from gift wrap.

You'll need: Tissue paper in several colors; water; hard boiled eggs, small bowls or cups.

Instructions:

1. Tear the tissue paper into small pieces.

2. Put some water in a bowl.

3. One at a time, soak pieces of tissue paper in the water. Then stick the wet pieces onto the surface of an egg.

Keep placing tissue on the egg until it is covered. You may want to overlap the tissue pieces a little to cover the entire egg, or leave spaces to create a mosaic effect.

4. After the entire egg is covered, place it in an egg cup to dry.

5. When the tissue is dry, peel it off of the egg. The color of the tissue paper will have transferred to the egg.

Turn To **HINT** page **A14**

Elevate your garden's beauty with jewel-tone plants

Bring the beauty of your favorite gemstones into the garden and your outdoor living space with the help of jewel-toned plants. Even a pot of these beauties placed on the balcony can provide bold color, vibrancy, and lushness to any space.

Select plants with leaves, flowers, or both in the saturated colors of gemstones like rubies, amethyst, topaz, sapphire, and turquoise. Select plants with colors that complement your home and landscape and will thrive in the growing conditions in your gardening space.

Look for opportunities to include these rich colors throughout the growing season. Jewel-toned pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale, and calendula are a few plants that thrive in cool-



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

er weather, providing welcome color before other plants appear or have faded in the summer heat.

As temperatures rise, include rich yellows and oranges of Rudbeckias and sunflowers. Add a showy and exotic look to the garden with Crocosmia. Plant Lucifer for bright red flowers, Prince of Orange for its red-orange blooms, and George Davidson for an added touch of yellow. Check out the many colorful varieties of dahlias and gladioli that grow well in the garden and containers and make great additions to your garden bouquets.

mand attention when topped with flowers.

Add colorful zinnias for season-long color. You can start them from seed right in the garden or buy transplants for earlier bloom. Look for disease-resistant varieties and those with bold colors like Benary's giant deep red, Profusion red, and Double Zahara Fire's orange-red blooms. These sunny loving annuals are also heat and drought-tolerant, making them perfect for low-maintenance gardens.

Plant some tall Mexican sunflowers in the back

Canna's bold and colorful foliage is impressive all season long and is sure to command attention when topped with flowers.



Courtesy - All-America Selections

Blue by You salvia has rich blue blossoms from late spring into fall, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds.

of the garden. blossoms.

Consider Fiesta Del Sol, a more compact variety, if you want something shorter and more compact. No matter which you grow, you and the pollinators will enjoy the orange blooms.

Keep the color going with summer to fall blooming Helenium which is hardy in zones three to eight. Hot Lava is topped with fire engine red flowers while Butterpat has vibrant yellow

Coral bells come in a wide variety of leaf colors, making it easy to include jewel tones all season long. Many shade-tolerant hostas have deep green foliage that provides the perfect backdrop for other flowers.

Combining complementary colors that appear opposite of each other on the artist's color wheel creates an eye-catching display. Dark colors can easily

Turn To **GARDEN** page **A14**

OBITUARIES

Gloria Evelyn Van Van, 79



WEBSTER – Gloria Evelyn (Jewell) Van Van, 79, died peacefully surrounded by her family on March 16, 2023. Her husband Chung Van Van died in 2007.

She leaves 7 children, David Peterson and his wife Debbie, Melinda Peterson and her spouse Mark Aguiar, Michael Peterson and his wife Kerri Johnston-Peterson,

Joyce O'Connor, Cheryl Westerman and her husband John, Laura Peterson and Stephen Peterson; 10 grandchildren, Jeremy, Shannon, Aaron, Cynthia, Ryan, Benjamin, Sarah, Colin, Nicole and Leah; 3 great-grandchildren, Megan, Evelyn and Carson; a niece, Darlene Jewell; 3 nephews, Danny, Scott and Chad Jewell; and Russell Miller who is considered part of the family. She was preceded in death by Her brother Roger L. Jewell who died on February 6 and by her sister-in-law and dear friend Marcia Jewell.

She was born on November 17, 1943,

the daughter of Emery "Buster" and Elizabeth (Korch) Jewell and raised in Oxford. She lived in Webster for most of her life. After raising her family, she earned an associate degree from Becker Junior College.

Mrs. Van Van first worked as a veterinarian technician at the Oxford Animal Hospital and then was the head of the quality control at Abbott Labs in Worcester until she retired.

Gloria enjoyed gardening, tending to

her rose bushes and spending time with her family. She loved cooking, nature and animals (especially her dogs). She was a fan of the rock group Pink Floyd.

As she wished, there will be no funeral, but a celebration of her life will be held in the near future. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Edward L. Nezuh Jr., 63



Edward L. Nezuh Jr., age 63, died Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at his home in Webster. Edward was born August 31, 1959 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late Edward L. and the late Helen (Deary)

Nezuh Jr.

He is survived by one son: Edward L. Nezuh III of Webster; three sisters: Linda and her husband Paul Wilga of Webster; Catherine Cropley wife of the Late Keith Cropley of Webster; and Elizabeth and her husband Thomas Gion of CT. niece, Tara and her husband Tim Whiting of Webster; Nephew, Andrew Bemis and his wife Kelly of FLA; nephew, Daniel Bemis.

of Fla. Eddie also leaves many great nieces and nephews and his beloved cat of 21 years Loafers

Eddie loved all sports playing Pop Warner and Little League in his youth and later Coaching Little League in Webster. AN avid fan of the Red Sox and Patriots. In his younger years a call member of Dudley Fire Dept. Company 2 and received an award for life saving measures at a House Fire in Dudley. In the early eighties he was President of the Webster Ambulance Squad. Eddie was a Maintenance Man for many years for the government at the Natick Labs he retired in 2020.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 11:00 am on Friday, March 24 at St. Anthony Of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Rd., Dudley. Memorial Calling hours will be Thursday, March 23 from 4 to 7 PM at Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. Online condolences at www.bartel-funeralhome.com

In lieu of flowers donations to Webster Little League, P.O. Box 702, Webster, MA are appreciated.



Nancy A. Dalrymple, 85

D U D L E Y - Nancy A. Dalrymple, 85, died Thursday, March 16, 2023, in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, MA, surrounded by her loving family.

Her husband, Colin O. Dalrymple died in 2017. Nancy leaves behind three children Carol Koth of Charlton, MA; Jean Sergel of Putnam, CT; and Glenn Dalrymple and his wife Lisa of Millbury, MA; five grandchildren Brian Sergel, Amanda Casey and her husband Paul, Matthew Dalrymple, Zachary Dalrymple and his wife Ashley, and Colin Kosth; four great-grandchildren Kolbie Iacuele, Kaydence Casey, Connor and Cameron Dalrymple.

Nancy was married to Colin for over 60 years. She was born and raised in Webster MA, daughter of the

late William and Bernice (Caplette) Meagher. Nancy was pre-deceased by a brother William (Billy) Meagher, Jr. and a sister Elizabeth (Betty Meagher) Labonte.

Nancy retired as the Vice President of Sales, from Stevens Linen Associates, Inc., in Dudley, MA.

Nancy loved gardening and sitting out on the deck with her husband in the summer; enjoying their gardens and the peaceful surroundings. She enjoyed decorating and hosting the holidays; spending time at the beach, camping with her family, and occasional trips to the casino with her children. Nancy's family was blessed to have her in their lives, she will be missed beyond words.

At the request of her family, services for Nancy will be private. Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. are overseeing arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to a charity of one's choice.

Malcon P. Gatzke, 82



Dudley- Malcon P. "Mike" Gatzke, 82, of Hayden Pond Rd., passed away peacefully on Friday, March 10th, in Gardner Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Gardner; after an illness.

He leaves his two sons, Paul E. Gatzke of Thompson, CT and James A. Gatzke and his wife Deborah C. Serrano-Gatzke of Dudley; his daughter, Nicole M. Lafleur and her husband Phil of Dayville, CT; two brothers, Edward A. Gatzke and his wife Rosalie of St. Augustine, FL and Melvin J. Gatzke of Dudley; his two sisters, Natalie P. Tenny of Dudley and Valarie G. Gatzke of Charlton; four beloved

grandchildren, James A. Gatzke, Jessica M. Gatzke, Nathan P. Lafleur, Megan L. Lafleur and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Raymond C. Gatzke.

Mike was born in Southbridge the son of Edward O. and Stella V. (Pikul) Gatzke.

He proudly worked for more than 50 years at Gatzke and Son's Dairy Farm on Corbin Rd., helping to run the daily operations on the family farm. He also worked as a laborer for many years at Webster Spring Co. Inc. in Oxford before retiring many years ago. Mike enjoyed the outdoors and working with his son, James in the vegetable gardens and would cut and split all his own firewood well into his retirement.

Funeral services and burial for Mike will be private. There are no calling hours. www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Mary T. Repik, 99

DUDLEY – Mary T. Repik, 99, died Sunday, March 12 in UMass/Memorial Healthcare University Campus after a brief illness.

She leaves 2 nephews, Edmund A. Trudeau and his wife Ruth of Woodland Park, NJ and John M. Trudeau and his wife Michelle of Rockville, VA; 3 nieces Joanne Fairbanks and her husband Norman of Millbury; Gail Valentine of Dudley and Patricia A. Davis of Webster; a cousin, Cheryl A. Muckerheid of NH; grand nieces and nephews and great-grand nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her 2 brothers John A. Repik and Charles T. Repik and by her 3 sisters Tess Trudeau, Bernice Davis and Antonia T. Sroczenski. She was also predeceased by her life-long companion Robert "Bob" LeFleur.

She was born in Webster on February 8, 1924 and was raised in Dudley, a

daughter of Adam and Catherine (Chodor) Repik. She graduated from Saint Joseph Elementary School and attended Bartlett High School.

Miss. Repik worked for many years at Webster Spring in Oxford, retiring in 1989.

She was a communicant of Saint Andrew Bobola Church in Dudley. She was an avid reader, who enjoyed bowling and baking. She and her companion Bob enjoyed fishing together. She traveled extensively with her sisters and her friend Alice Grzelecki.

Her funeral was held Saturday, March 18, 2023 from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace Cemetery, Webster. A calling period took place from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home prior to the Mass. Donations in her memory may be made to Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com



Stonebridge Press

HELLO NEIGHBOR!



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Local Resident
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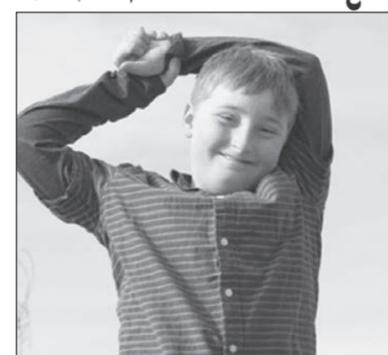
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Damian
Age 11

Hi! My name is Damian and I love soccer!

Damian is an active and engaging boy of Caucasian descent. Damian enjoys playing with action figures, Legos, arts and crafts, and electronics. He loves to help in the kitchen and is always willing to help with meal prep! Damian has a passion for horseback riding and has participated in many horseback riding camps. Damian enjoys staying active and loves activities where he can burn off his energy, such as soccer or running the track. He is competitive and strives to be the best he can be when playing with peers! Damian attends public school, where he does well, and is liked by peers and adults.

Legally freed for adoption, Damian will need a family that is open to a possible open adoption agreement with his biological parents. Damian will do best in a family where he is either an only child or the youngest child with significantly older children. He would benefit from a family with experience and supports. Damian needs an active family that is willing to keep him busy and channel his energy in the right direction.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6830>

Can I Adopt?

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. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.



SPORTS

Hedly family of Auburn set for Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

As thousands of runners prepare for the annual Boston Marathon, which this year will take place Monday, April 17, the Hedly family of Auburn has their sights set on Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston on the day prior to this event.

"Tough Ruck Nation is group of military, first responders and civilians whose sole purpose is to Ruck in honor and in memory of our Fallen Service Members, Police, Firefighters and EMTs, while raising funds to support our warriors and families of the Fallen," said John Hedly. "This signature event, held in partnership with the Boston Athletic Association/Boston Marathon happens the weekend before Marathon Monday in Concord, Massachusetts. Each year Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston finishers are awarded the first of the official Boston Marathon Medals and receive recognition from the Boston Athletic Association."

John Hedly, along with his two sons, James and Jason, are all decorated mem-



Courtesy photo

From left, James Hedly, John Hedly and Jason Hedly recently embarked on a short hike as part of their training routine for the upcoming Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston event that precedes the Boston Marathon.

bers of the military.

James served eight years as a corpsman with the U.S. Navy. He deployed to Iraq in 2004 with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). He followed that assignment with another deployment to Kuwait in 2005 and another deployment to Iraq with the 22nd MEU in 2008. Right now he

works for the Worcester County Sherriff Office.

"It was his idea for the three of us as veterans to do this and support the cause that means so much to us," his father said.

Jason served five years with the U.S. Army as an IT specialist in Secret Intelligence and Network Security. He was deployed to Korea in 2007, participating in multiple joint combat operations. He is currently working as a senior field technician for Information Technology work at Raytheon in Burlington.

James and Jason certainly followed in their father's footsteps as far as military commitment is concerned. Their father served 20 years in the U.S. Army, with four years as an enlisted soldier as an armor crewman and four years as a Special Forces medic before attending Officer Candidate School and being commissioned as an armor officer. In that capacity he served in various armor positions and eventually commanded an Armor company in the 1/33 Armor Battalion. He also was the commander

for the 9th Infantry Division (Motorized) Headquarters Company at Fort Lewis, WA. He also deployed to Afghanistan from 2014-2015.

The Hedlys — John is aged 69, James 45, Jason 34 — have now been preparing to ruck, which John explained as follows: "If a civilian wants to walk the Appalachian Trail, he/she puts their gear in a backpack or a knapsack and they go for a hike. Military people put their personal and unit gear in the rucksack and march as long as it takes to get from Point A to Point B as part of their mission."

To help donate toward Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/MA/Concord/toughruck> and type in the name "Hedly" in the Search Fundraisers window. When the new page opens you will see these three proud veterans listed. If you know any of them, and even if you don't, click on their name and donate as much as you can for this worthy cause.

David Prouty's team dream of Division 5 State Title dashed by Taconic

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

Editor's Note: The David Prouty boys' basketball team was the only Stonebridge Press team to reach a State Final this winter.

LOWELL — With residents of Spencer, East Brookfield and the surrounding communities pouring into UMass Lowell's Tsongas Center on Saturday, March 18 to watch the Division 5 boys' basketball State Championship game pitting No. 2 David Prouty Regional and top seeded Taconic High of Pittsfield, and with the Panthers holding possession in the final moments trailing by two points, Prouty head coach Pat O'Connor knew that his team was in good hands as point guard and team leader Braeden White was dribbling near the top of the 3-point line.

"That last possession is what I dream of because it is the epitome of Braeden White because Braeden White will always make the right play. He cares about making the right basketball play," said O'Connor.

With the clock now counting down in the single digits, White drove inside the arc and got to about the free throw line. There, he elevated. But once the single defender that turned into a double team actually turned into a triple team, White wouldn't have gotten a clean shot off. Instead, he passed to his right, where an open Cam Hoekstra was standing beyond the 3-point arc. The ball hit Hoekstra's hands perfectly and Hoekstra had a clean look at



Nick Ethier

David Prouty head coach Pat O'Connor, right, embraces Cam Hoekstra after Hoekstra's game-winning 3-point attempt didn't fall as Taconic defeated the Panthers for the Division 5 State Championship, 53-51, on Saturday, March 18 at UMass Lowell's Tsongas Center.

a game-winning 3-pointer.

What happened next led the entire crowd — Prouty fans, Taconic fans, indifferent fans — into a hushed silence. When Hoekstra's shot hit the rim and bounced out, and then the final buzzer sounded, the Thunder faithful erupted while the Panther contingent were left in a shocked silence until they gave Prouty a loud cheer and standing ovation.

Taconic earned the state championship win, 53-51, while the Panthers suffered their first loss, as they finished 25-1.

"He made the right play, he passed it to Cam, they've been playing together their entire lives, and I was so excited when they flocked to Braeden because I thought Cam was making the



Nick Ethier

Alec Fournier of David Prouty lofts a shot toward the rim, with Taconic's Maimoudou Bamba defending.

shot," said O'Connor.

From White's perspective, he knew that passing the ball away once he was double- and triple-teamed was the correct basketball play.

"I went to shoot it and saw two hands, maybe three, and passed it to Cam. He took the right shot and I fully have confidence in him to make the right shot," said White.

"Once he got triple-teamed, I kind of knew I was getting the ball," added Hoekstra, who said that the look was a good one and that the shot felt good coming out of his hand.

Prouty trailed from start to finish, aside from it being tied at 3-3, and saw their six-point halftime deficit of 31-25 rise to 11 points, 49-38, after the third quarter. The Panthers trailed by 13 points, 51-39, after Taconic's Tayvon Sandifer (13 points) opened the fourth with a basket.



Nick Ethier

David Prouty's Braeden White drives on Taconic's Jarmal Sistrunk during the final moments of the Panthers' game with the Thunder.



Nick Ethier

Jay Jay Neiray of David Prouty catches a pass in the block and makes a move on Taconic defender Tayvon Sandifer.

"We don't typically turn it over a lot. We knew that they could pressure us a little better than other teams do," added O'Connor.

Nonetheless, the Panthers won every regular season game, plus the Clark Tournament Small Schools bracket and then reached the state final for a truly tremendous season.

"We were one of the top teams in Central Mass. Throw records out the door," said O'Connor, who added that he'd put his group up against anyone in the area not named Worcester North, who ultimately won the Division 1 State Title. "Aside from them, I like our chances against anybody."

White, who finished with over 1,000 career points, enjoyed the season day in and day out.

"This season was amazing, got to play with my best friends. Our coach, best coach I've ever had," said White. "Every day didn't feel like we had to go play basketball, we all wanted to play basketball. We got to play as many days as we could."

"This is my favorite team ever," added Hoekstra. "I've had so much fun this whole year."

White, Hoekstra and Braeden Cashman are the regular players that will be lost to graduation, but from the rotation Prouty will return Patchen (already a 1,000-point scorer), Alec Fournier (13 points versus Taconic) and Neiray, who O'Connor called "the most improved player I have ever coached."

"Jay Jay missed most of the season for a family vacation last year," added O'Connor. "He came back and really wasn't in the rotation and then had an OK summer, showed up the first day of practice like a different man and he just kept getting better throughout the year. He's one of the best players on the court at all times. He was unbelievable."

Mohegan Bowl winter leagues, weeks ending March 12 and 19

Monday Men's Business
Single — Tim Labay 147, Jason Mahan 142, Sandor Bosci 141

Series — Mike Nardone 372, Tim Labay 357, Sandor Bosci and Andy Butchman 353
Series over average — Sandor Bosci +47

Women's Ten Pin City
Single — Division 1: Joanne LaBonte and Claudia Allen 179

Division 2: Bernie Stackpole 163
Series — Division 1: Natalie Wood 542
Division 2: Charlene Hebert 496

Tuesday Chet's Social
Single — Ben Allaire 127, DJ Devish 115, Tom Smith, Dave Lamontagne, and Ryan Pelletier 114, Erin Van Dam 105, Kerry Welsh 101, Diane Levesque and Patti Hurm 94

Series — DJ Devish 336, Ryan Pelletier 323, Tom Smith 319, Erin Van Dam 282, Patti Hurm 274, Kerry Welsh 267
Series over average — Ben Allaire and Dave Meunier +32, Patti Hurm +43

Wednesday Women's Industrial
Single — Wendy Angelo 121, Monique Pierangeli 106, Marie McNally 101
Series — Monique

Pierangeli 296, Wendy Angelo 293, Roberta Zacek 286
Series over average — Wendy Angelo +35

Summit Tenpin
Single — Division 1: J.J. Blair 227
Division 2: Joe Harvard 183

Series — Division 1: Butch Mattson 592
Division 2: John Lizotte 532

Thursday Morning Coffee
Single — Nancy Cutler 102, Carol Montpelier 98, Barbara Penkala 95

Series — Janice Masi 272, Nancy Cutler 269, Lorraine Brezniak 266
Series over average — Janice Masi +50

Thursday Men's Industrial
Single — Iver Peterson 124, Mike Therrien 122, Nick Healey 120

Series — Mike Therrien and Bo Gauvin 342, Mark Marzeotti, Jay Bernier, and Noah Burrill 310
Series over average — Dan Guertin +72

Thursday Mixed Tenpin
Single — Chris Wong Kam 191, Todd Gaucher 190, Frank Bosma 171
Series — Todd Gaucher 517, Chris Wong Kam 510, Frank Bosma 484

Monday Men's Business
Single — Mike Nardone 149, Jason Mahan 148, Mark Gulino 141

Series — Mike Nardone 387, Jason Mahan 361, Mark Gulino 333
Series over average — Mike Nardone +51

Women's Ten Pin City
Single — Division 1: Erika LaChance 234
Division 2: Evelyn Rivera 155

Series — Division 1: Nicole Shepard 533
Division 2: Bernie Stackpole 420

Tuesday Chet's Social
Single — Tom Smith 135, DJ Devish and Ryan Pelletier 132, Erin Van Dam 119, Dawn Gleason 107, Mikayla Van Dam 99

Series — Ryan Pelletier 367, DJ Devish 356, Tom Smith 336, Erin Van Dam 331, Dawn Gleason 277, Courtney Boulay 264
Series over average — DJ Devish, +41 Erin Van Dam +40

Wednesday Women's Industrial
Single — Tiffany Jarmolowicz 120, Noelle Gorski 108, Deb Bauce 107
Series — Tiffany Jarmolowicz 307, Noelle Gorski 293,

Marie McNally 290
Series over average — Noelle Gorski +38

Summit Tenpin
Single — Division 1: J.J. Blair 229

Division 2: Brett Mattson 193
Series — Division 1: Butch Mattson 664
Division 2: Lee Standrowicz 502

Thursday Morning Coffee
Single — Jeanne Carita 114, Lorraine Brezniak 109, Priscilla Piekarczyk 97

Series — Lorraine Brezniak 302, Priscilla Piekarczyk 280, Jeanne Carita 276

Series over average — Lorraine Brezniak +50

Thursday Men's Industrial
Single — Bo Gauvin 127, Chad Maramo 123, Jay Bernier 121

Series — Angel Claudio 322, Chad Maramo 312, David Blake 310
Series over average — Paul Nault +43

Thursday Mixed Tenpin
Single — Todd Gaucher 235, Frank Bosma 192, John Caskey 187

Series — Todd Gaucher 573, Frank Bosma 544, John Caskey 506

Apply for 2023 Webster Little League Scholarship

Webster Little League awards two \$500 scholarships to graduating high school level seniors that meet the following criteria:

Must be a Webster resident and participated in Webster Little League.

Graduating seniors, regardless of high school attending, are eligible.

Must be pursuing a Degree or certificate at either a two- or four-year institution.

Applicants will be evaluated primarily on their contributions to our community.

To find the application, please visit websterlittleleague.com and click on the "About Us" tab. The due date is May 22.

SUPERINTENDENT

continued from page 1

The committee's second choice, based on their straw poll, was Worcester's Karrie Allen, with three of them tapping her for the first or second choice. Seddiki said contacts in Worcester praised Allen for "her ability to defuse difficult situations," her "clear and con-

sistent" communication, and the fact she's "demanding, has high expectations of herself and others, but they're not unrealistic."

"She was instrumental in bringing new life into that building," Seddiki said, noting Allen's school had been "underperforming" when she took it over and had physical issues.

Millett found a big positive point for Allen in the fact "her

staff stays. That was a huge question we had." She was also impressed by the fact families "feel very comfortable coming into the school and asking for help" because of her involvement in the community.

Regarding Deanna Leblanc, Napierata said her contacts when she visited Huntington praised Leblanc's grant writing experience, professional development, and willingness to "col-

laborate, listen and make changes just by providing that support." Napierata was impressed by the fact she "spent countless hours to make sure they're getting everything they can to help the students," and one student said she'd "100 percent turn the district around."

Regarding Steven Lamarche, Shiela Blythe said she found the fact he "created an environment of two towns, one community"

in Dudley-Charlton with similar community-building in Bourne as a strong point. She noted he "attends everything," knows most students by name, and is "a working superintendent" up to the point of mowing the lawn.

After the panel's vote, they named Seddiki as their point person for negotiating a new contract with Pierangeli.

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

LEGALS

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT**

**Docket Number: 23 SM 000604
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: **Barbara A. O'Connor**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901

(et seq)

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn numbered 7 Coachman Lane, given by George J. O'Connor and Barbara A. O'Connor to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mackinac Savings Bank, dated February 9, 2007, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40649, Page 269, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's 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 04/24/23 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 3/10/23.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

March 24, 2023

(SEAL)

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT**

Docket Number: 23 SM 001143

ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Kristine Nordman a/k/a Kristine A Grote and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2021-1 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 11 Magna Vista Drive, given by Kristine Nordman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., dated March 18, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60180, Page 375, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated July 14, 2020, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63170, Page 216, 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 May 1, 2023, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on March 17, 2023.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

22799

March 24, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 372 Oxford Street N, Auburn, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage

given by Elizabeth M. Lucey to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., said mortgage dated April 17, 2013, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 50888 at Page 169 and now held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2017-RPL2 by virtue of an assignment from Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2017-RPL2 to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2017-RPL2 dated November 16, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 67900 at Page 25, previously assigned by MTGLQ Investors, L.P. to Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2017-RPL2 by virtue of an assignment dated September 19, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 59581 at Page 379, previously assigned by Federal National Mortgage Association to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by virtue of an assignment dated December 15, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 58196 at Page 31, previously assigned by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Federal National Mortgage Association by virtue of an assignment dated December 18, 2014 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 53576 at Page 1 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at **Public Auction on April 26, 2023 at 1:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER, STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWNSHIP OF AUBURN, WORCESTER COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 39927, PAGE 167, ID#040-091, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS: RECORDED LAND, BEING ALL OF TRACT 1 AND A PORTION OF TRACT 2 WITH A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION BEING MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN BOOK 2795-130. MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 372 OXFORD ST N AUBURN MA 01501 BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM CHRISTOPHER R. HAROIAN AND JENNIFER G. HAROIAN AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 39927 PAGE 167 DATED 09/19/2006 AND RECORDED 10/06/2006, WORCESTER COUNTY RECORDS, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgages' Title see deed dated September 19, 2006, and recorded in Book 39927 at Page 167 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

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 by a 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 sixty (60) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC

270 Farmington Avenue

Farmington, CT 06032

Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2017-RPL2 Present Holder of the Mortgage (860) 677-2868

March 17, 2023

March 24, 2023

March 31, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gordon R. Terry, Kelly J. Patterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for NationPoint a division of Nat. City Bank of IN, dated April 3, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39116, Page 182, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-FF10 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF10, recorded on March 5, 2010, in Book No. 45533, at Page 120 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on April 14, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 40 Lakeview Avenue, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side line of Lakeview Avenue at the northwesterly corner of the lot to be described; said point being S. 06° 26' 04" W. and 434.11 feet from an angle point in said line; THENCE S. 83° 33' 45" E. along land, now or formerly, of Conrad Allen for a distance of 115 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water line of Merino Pond; THENCE in a southerly direction along the high water line of Marino Pond for a distance of 102 feet, more or less, to a point; THENCE N. 83° 33' 56" along land, now or formerly, of Samuel Perichino for a distance of 125 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of Lakeview Avenue; THENCE N. 06° 26' 04" E. along the easterly side of Lakeview Avenue for a distance of 100.00 feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39116, Page 180.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF10 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-FF10 Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

22399

March 17, 2023

March 24, 2023

March 31, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kathleen M. Lange to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., dated July 21, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book

47639, Page 335, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., its successors and assigns to PHH Mortgage Corporation, recorded on January 20, 2017, in Book No. 56635, at Page 333

PHH Mortgage Corporation to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on November 9, 2020, in Book No. 63698, at Page 172

NewRez LLC FKA New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust, recorded on April 14, 2022, in Book No. 67437, at Page 326

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on March 31, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 14 Sawmill Road, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging situated in the Town of Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts on the southerly side of Sawmill Road and being the sixth lot easterly of Mason Road as shown on "Revised Plan of Lots on Sawmill Road, Dudley, Massachusetts" owned by Konkel Bros., Inc. dated October 26, 1962, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 269, Plan 57, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING: at a stake three hundred (300) feet easterly of a bend in said Sawmill Road;

THENCE: easterly by the southerly side line of Sawmill Road, one hundred (100) feet to a stake;

THENCE: southerly at right angles to said Sawmill Road, one hundred twenty (120) feet to a stake;

THENCE: westerly with an included angle of 90 a distance of one hundred (100) feet to a stake;

THENCE: northerly a distance of one hundred twenty (120) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20983, Page 274.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

21566

March 10, 2023

March 17, 2023

March 24, 2023

BUDGET

continued from page 1

lus several other “much smaller but necessary” items, she said.

Bryond that, DPW's fleet repair/replacement line is getting \$180,000 for a new dump spreader and to replace an F350 truck recently damaged when a manhole cover flew through its window, she said. Smaller pockets of money will go to finish the Ruel Field upgrades, possibly including surveillance/security cameras (\$25,000) and to “swap out [cemetery] equipment that's overly used” (also \$25,000).

Elsewhere, \$500,000 is going toward the Town Hall ADA upgrade project, which aims to replace the existing ramp, widen the hallway and do other related things. Callahan said the “big, monstrous concrete ramp that's seen better days” was built in 1980 and isn't ADA compliant, in

part because “the pitch is way too steep.” It has become “a major issue that relates to accessibility. ... By not doing it a couple years ago, the cost went up.” She said she's tried to get state disability grants for the project four times, so far without success.

Callahan also wants to use \$30,490 as the local match for Green Communities projects this fiscal year. Those projects are also changing; in recent years, they've been focused on LED lighting, but now she's getting the message from the state that windows and weatherization are a higher priority, she said. Typically, Oxford has received \$200,000 in such funds, but hasn't yet applied for them this year.

Selectman Robert King asked about another long-awaited proposal – the school roof project. Callahan said she's working with the project manager and

designer to identify costs, but has seen the state change its roof age requirements that might further delay Oxford getting aid. She noted she hasn't yet seen official notice, “but my suspicion is it's not going to happen” this year.

After the project summary, there was some debate over rising overall costs, with King saying, “As a lay person, you look at the budget and see eye-popping growth in a lot of departments.”

Callahan agreed, but noted “my job is not to starve a town and say I saved you a lot of money” but instead to “enhance the quality of life.”

“At some point of time in the long-term, you've got to fund those things that are necessary ... [Oxford is] far better off that when I walked in the door,” she said.

Eul agreed wholeheartedly, saying, “We can cut, but I wouldn't live here. I'd vote with my feet. ... If we want to go

back in time and start cutting costs, people will start leaving.”

Specifically, he pointed to recent years' voter rejection of both the DPW garage project and two ballot questions for road funding as being still-unresolved issues.

Callahan argued for such spending on the grounds that towns who “don't build capacity have state receivers come in.”

But Tim Moriarty tried to observe that many people are not necessarily opposed to the needs, they “just can't afford it” due to high personal costs. That sparked a long soliloquy from Chair Norman Leblanc about how “we have no choice” to do some of those things and that Oxford is able to do much more today, including get grants, than it used to in large part because it has been planning for future needs.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.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. W023C0128CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Nicole Lillian Swanson**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Nicole Lillian Swanson of Oxford MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Nicole Lillian Savickas
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/04/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, HON. LEILAH A KEAMY, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 10, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
March 24, 2023

**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. W023C088CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Kristi Marie Schnepf**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kristi Marie Schnepf of Dudley MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Kristi Schnepf Klein
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/04/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, HON. LEILAH A KEAMY, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 08, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
March 24, 2023

**NOTICE OF SALE
OF MOTOR VEHICLE
UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A**
Notice is hereby given by: School Street Towing 17-31 School Street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 25 March 2023 at 9:00 AM at 17-31 School Street, Webster MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: Year 2009 Make: Nissan Model: Rogue Registration#: State: IMEC67
VIN: JN8AS58V29W434396

Name and address of vehicle owner Selina Yassanteiwaa 27 Fiske St Worcester MA 01602
By Frank A Czechowski
20 Feb 2023

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.C. 255, Section 39A.
March 10, 2023
March 17, 2023
March 24, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 37 Tower Street, Webster, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David V. Shea, Sr. and Isabella H. Shea to Mortgage Electronic Reg-

istration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, said mortgage dated March 16, 2017, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 56874 at Page 369 and now held by US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust by virtue of an assignment from Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust dated March 16, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 67401 at Page 205, previously assigned by Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Mr. Cooper to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., by virtue of an assignment dated November 5, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 61389 at Page 90, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Mr. Cooper by virtue of an assignment dated May 8, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 60433 at Page 42, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at **Public Auction on April 10, 2023 at 12:30 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND IN WEBSTER AS FOLLOWS:

A PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED IN WEBSTER, COUNTY OF WORCESTER, AND BEING LOTS NUMBERED 69, 70, AND 71 ON “PLAN OF BEACON HEIGHTS, WEBSTER, MASS. OWNED BY WILLARD WELSH REALTY COMPANY, OCTOBER 1912. J.A. WHITTAKER, ENG.” ON PB 60-69 AND SAID LOTS ARE TOGETHER BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
WESTERLY BY EVERETT AVENUE 75 FEET;
SOUTHERLY BY TOWER STREET 95 FEET;
EASTERLY BY LOTS 105, 106 AND 107 ON SAID PLAN, 75 FEET;
NORTHERLY BY LOT 68 ON SAID PLAN 95 FEET;
CONTAINING ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN AND SURVEY, 7125 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, BE ALL OF SAID MEASUREMENTS AND CONTENTS MORE OR LESS, OR HOWEVER OTHERWISE BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED.

ALSO, THE LAND IN SAID WEBSTER, AND BEING A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SAID WEBSTER, AND BEING LOTS NUMBERED 66, 67, AND 68 ON A “PLAN OF BEACON HEIGHTS”, WEBSTER, MASS. OWNED BY WILLARD WELSH REALTY COMPANY, OCTOBER 1912. J.A. WHITTAKER ENGINEER AND SAID LOTS ARE TOGETHER BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT:
WESTERLY BY EVERETT AVENUE, 92.7 FEET;
SOUTHERLY BY LOT 69 ON SAID PLAN 95 FEET;
EASTERLY BY LOTS 108, 109, 110 AND 111 AN SAID PLAN 100.4 FEET;
NORTHERLY BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF THE TOWN OF WEBSTER 95.2 FEET.

CONTAINING ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN AND SURVEY, 9176 SQUARE FEET OF LAND BE ALL SAID MEASUREMENTS AND CONTENTS, MORE OR LESS, OR HOWEVER OTHERWISE BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED.

BEING THAT SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO DAVID V. SHEA, SR. AND ISABELLA H. SHEA, HUSBAND AND WIFE, TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY BY DEED FROM SUSAN M. COOPER DATED OCTOBER 20, 1988 AND RECORDED DECEMBER 01, 1988 IN BOOK 11784, PAGE 317 IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER

OF DEEDS IN AND FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS. Commonly Known As: 37 TOWER Street, Webster, MA 01570 Parcel ID: 28-D-30-0

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated October 20, 1988, and recorded in Book 11784 at Page 317 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

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 by a 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 sixty (60) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032

Attorney for US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868

Date: March 10, 2023
Date: March 17, 2023
Date: March 24, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 126A Charlton Street, Oxford, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Priscilla S. Webber and Edward A. Webber to BNY Mortgage Company LLC, said mortgage dated May 9, 2006, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 38957 at Page 335 and now held by Mortgage Assets Management, LLC by virtue of an assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage Company to Mortgage Assets Management, LLC dated February 22, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 67850 at Page 21, previously assigned by Bank of America, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by virtue of an assignment dated November 21, 2012 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 50036 at Page 223, previously assigned by Seattle Mortgage to Bank of America, N.A. by virtue of an assignment dated March 7, 2012 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 48674 at Page 20, previously assigned by Seattle Mortgage Company to Bank of America, N.A. by virtue of an assignment dated June 27, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 41460 at Page 122, previously assigned by The BNY Mortgage Company LLC to Seattle Mortgage Company by virtue of an assignment dated May 8, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 38957 at Page 346, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at **Public Auction on April 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises directly in front of the building containing said unit, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Unit No. 106A of Toria Heights Condominium, a condominium established pursuant to Gen. Laws c. 183A by Master Deed dated August 27, 1985, recorded with Worcester Deeds on August 27, 1985 in Book 8898, Page 122, as amended of record, which unit is shown on the floor plans filed with said Master

Deed and on a copy of a portion of said plans which was attached to the first unit deed for Unit 106A recorded with said Deeds in Book 9175, Page 315, to which plan is affixed a verified statement in the form required by said c. 183A, sec. 9.

Said Unit is conveyed together with an undivided 2.10 percentage interest in the common areas and facilities of the condominium as described in said Master Deed, and is conveyed together with the exclusive right and easement to use parking space numbered 1-A.

Said Unit is further conveyed together with and subject to terms and provisions of said c. 183A, terms and provisions of said Master Deed including the encumbrances listed in Exhibit A of the Master Deed, and terms and provisions of the Declaration of Trust of Toria Heights Condominium recorded with said Master Deed, as amended from time to time, and any rules and regulations now or hereafter adopted by the Trustees thereunder.

The Unit may be used only for single family residential purposes, subject to the restrictions set forth in Article VII of the Master Deed. No Unit shall be liable for any breach of the provisions of said Article VVV except those that occur during his or her ownership of the Unit.

**The Post Office address if the Unit is Toria Heights Condominium Unit 106A
Charlton Street
Oxford, MA 01540**

Being all and the same premises conveyed to mortgagor(s) by deed dated 06/21/2005 and recorded with Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 36617, Page 103.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated June 21, 2005, and recorded in Book 36617 at Page 103 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

Said Unit will be conveyed together with an undivided percentage interest in the Common Elements of said Condominium appurtenant to said Unit and together with all rights, easements, covenants and agreements as contained and referred to in the Declaration of Condominium, as amended.

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 by a 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 sixty (60) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

**270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for Mortgage Assets Management, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
860) 677-2868
March 17, 2023
March 24, 2023
March 31, 2023**

Public Announcement:
The Webster School Committee has proposed an operating budget for FY2024. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Michael Makara Conference Room, 77 Poland Street, Webster MA 01570. 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 24, 2023
March 31, 2023

GARDEN

continued from page 9

disappear in the background or shade. Teaming them with a complementary colored plant or light background can help them pop.

A combination of purple-leaved bugbane and the fine chartreuse foliage of Hakone grass, for example, allows both plants to shine while creating a splendid display.

Make sure the

plants you combine are equally bold, so each adds to the overall design. Mix in some green foliage to provide a bit of color relief. Too much of a good thing, including vibrant colors, can overpower

the landscape and create a somewhat chaotic feel.

Make notes on the plants and combinations you want to repeat next year. Note those that didn't perform to your expectations and

don't need to be repeated. If you decide to expand upon this theme, be sure to add some jewel-toned, spring-flowering bulbs like tulips and hyacinths to the landscape this fall.

Melinda Myers has written more than

20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts "The Great Courses" "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the

nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

POSITIVE

continued from page 9

of thousands of people, they've discovered that the heart's rhythm changes when feeling different emotions.

Experiencing love, Gratitude, and joy results in what HeartMath calls "Heart Coherence," as shown by EKGs, while negative emotions disrupt this harmony, leading to incoherence between heart and brain.

There is a phenomenon that athletes talk about called "Being in the Zone." "Being in the Zone" embodies peak human performance. When you achieve heart coherence, it's like being in the zone.

When we experience love, compassion, Gratitude, and other positive emotions, it facilitates harmony between the heart and the brain and helps us think clearly, finding solutions to our problems easier.

In contrast, incoherence invites stress, worry, and indecision, reducing mental functioning and creating a foggy state of mind and decreased immunity.

How can we learn to practice heart coher-

ence? There are several tools and methods that HeartMath teaches, but one simple and powerful method is the practice of Gratitude.

Mother Teresa once beautifully expressed the power of Gratitude, stating, "The best way to show my Gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy."

Gratitude lowers cortisol levels and increases serotonin and dopamine. When feeling Gratitude, your brain releases Immunoglobulin A, which strengthens your immune system by attacking invading pathogens and fighting infections.

Gratitude can instantly pull you out of a state of incoherence.

A 2015 study on heart failure patients found that having an "attitude of Gratitude" led to improved mood, better sleep, less fatigue, lower inflammation, and better cardiac-specific self-efficacy. This is a big deal because feeling down or not sleeping well can make things worse for people with heart issues. Helping these patients feel more grateful is a simple, low-cost way to make them feel better

and even improve their health.

How can we practice Gratitude? It's simple! Look at everything with a grateful heart.

Visualize your cherished pet, a beloved person, the warmth of sunshine, or a tranquil natural setting—anything that brings joy to your heart and makes you say, "Thank You."

Say Thank You in the good times, and thank You in the bad. Feel Gratitude when you're experiencing difficulty and stress. Why? Cause you're going to come out stronger on the other side.

In the wise words of Zig Ziglar, "Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express Gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express Gratitude for."

By embracing Gratitude, we can transform our lives and cultivate resilience in adversity. In a world filled with trials and tribulations, let Gratitude be the beacon of light that guides us through the storms, empowering us to emerge stronger, wiser, and more connected with our heart's innate wisdom.

ANTIQUES

continued from page 9

and bought her the first model iPhone as a present. The list price then was \$599. She had just upgraded her basic mobile phone and didn't want to change service plans from Verizon to AT&T, so she left the phone in the box. After not opening it for several years, she thought it might be valuable, and it had recently appraised for \$5,000. She placed it an auction where the bidding started at \$2,500. It eventually rang up over \$63,000.

We will be offering some antique telephones in an upcoming spring auction. Our online auction of the beautifully appointed Beacon Street, Boston home is currently underway. Online bidding

HINT

continued from page 1

**
Egg-cellent egg tips:

- *To polish eggs, lightly rub dyed eggs with vegetable oil or grapeseed oil.
- *Try twisting rubber bands around eggs prior to dyeing for a creative effect.
- *Temporary tattoos are fun way to decorate colored eggs.
- *Watercolor pencils (Crayola makes a nice set) takes decorating eggs to a new level.
- *Coloring eggshells only? Using puffy paint is a great way to create a basket full of assorted decorative eggs.

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown 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 tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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<p>WEBSTER - 18 THIRD STREET</p> <p>2 Family - Needs work! 1st Flr has 4 Rooms - 2 Bedrooms. 2nd & 3rd Flr - 6 Rooms, 2 Bedrooms 2nd Flr & 2 Bedrooms on 3rd Flr! 32,560+/- sf. .75 Acre - Property being sold "As-is". \$259,000.</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD</p>	<p>THOMPSON - 266 POMPEO ROAD</p> <p>Unique, spacious raised ranch, TRI-LEVEL on 1.96 ACRES! 11 spacious rooms! 2800+/- Sf above grade living area. 3 bedrooms & 2 baths. Master Bedroom Suite w/Hardwoods, full bath, walk-in closet & Private exterior balcony! Upgraded cherry cabinets, granite countertops, SS Appliances, so much more! A MUST SEE! \$525,000.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 17 ASSELIN AVENUE</p> <p>FIRST TIME OFFERED! "In Brian Acres" Established 40 year+ Development. SPACIOUS 1,262 SQFT--ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME! 3 BRs, 1-1/2 Baths, 2 Car Garage & Sunroom! 1/2 acre +/- (26,004 sqft) w/ large private back yard. Convenient location to abundant local amenities w/nearby access to I-395, medical facilities, Memorial Beach, Nipmuc Ski Club, boat ramps, local marinas, restaurants, shopping, Thompson CT- Raceway golf course/auto racing & more! Being offered with 1st option to purchase abutting 1/2 acre+ vacant lot at 0 Windy Ridge. \$355,000.</p>
<p>WOODSTOCK - 4 BARBER RD</p> <p>What a Beauty! Circa 1800 Vintage 4 bedrooms. Renovations included kitchen & bath, refinished wood flooring, interior painting & more... Barn, large lot. \$495,000</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 34 EMERALD AVENUE</p> <p>This gem is situated on a well maintained corner lot! Beautiful perennial gardens that bloom from spring through fall. The first floor is freshly painted. 2 bedrooms and living room have hardwood floors. 3rd bedroom is located on the second floor. A 4th bedroom or in home office space. Heat Hot Water Baseboard/Oil. Easy maintenance vinyl siding. \$304,000.</p> <p>ON DEPOSIT</p>	<p>LAND: WEBSTER/OXFORD/PUTNAM</p> <p>WEBSTER LAKE LAND - 22 SOUTH POINT RD. Architectural Plans included! \$315,000.</p> <p>OXFORD - LAND - General Business Zoned! LAND with 4,095 SF Metal Building! 124 SOUTHBRIDGE RD (RTE 20). Town Sewer Project Plans are Approved. 22,884 sq. ft. Level Lot. 140 ft of road frontage. EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES! \$795,000</p> <p>OXFORD - LAND - RTE 20 General Business Zoned! Vacant LAND, Level & cleared. 39,549 SF. \$419,000.</p> <p>PUTNAM - LAND Zoned General Business .29 acre 103' frontage. Water, Sewer, & city gas available. 2 street entrances. \$125,000</p> <p>OXFORD - 2 Merrim Rd 80+/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton. ON DEPOSIT \$229,000</p>

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

<p>- Webster Lake Waterfront Lot - Corner of Black Point Rd & Cedar Point Rd</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Hard to find 6500 +/- Sq Ft corner Lot. Beautiful View & Setting! Sandy Beach! Few tall Pines for shade. Town Water & Sewer Available! Will Custom Build if Preferred!</p> <p>\$333,000. FIRM</p>	<p>Webster Lake 13 Loveland Rd</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD</p> <p>Eastern Exposure & Amazing Sunrises! Beautiful shoreline, 3 bedroom Cape features eat in kitchen w/island, fireplace living & dining room. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms with 1 1/2 bath! \$785,000</p>	<p>Webster Lake 27 South Point Road</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD</p> <p>OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage. \$811,000.</p>	<p>Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD</p> <p>1st Time Offered! Impeccable Home! 6 Room, 3 bedroom 2-1/2 Baths. Master bedroom, Master Bath. Level Lot to the Shoreline. Nicely Landscaped! \$705,000</p>
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\$450,000, 1-A Manor Rd, Merolli, Barbara A, to Lopez, Romelia.
 \$450,000, 25 Manor Rd, Berger, Jamie D, to Earielo, Michael A.
 \$370,000, 4 Davis Rd, Carol A Luther T, and Luther, Carol A, to Hasan, Youssef N, and Hasan, Ilana N.

\$265,000, 219 Prospect St, Homepromass Contracting, to Lankah, Roland.

\$25,000, 21 Springbrook Rd, Silver Tree Realty LLC, to Walter J Koza RET, and Koza, Walter J.

DUDLEY

\$599,000, 65 Flaxfield Rd, Christie B Nigro RET, and Nigro, Christie B, to Elkin, Daniel.

\$535,000, 2 Dudley Oxford Rd, Ahsan, Mohammad A, to Cifuentes, Claudia, and Navarro, David R.

\$205,000, 27 George St, Desilets, Urszula, to Dasilva, Aparecido.

\$30,000, W Dudley Rd, Shields, Nancy L, to Djt Properties LLC.

OXFORD

\$240,000, 39 Pine Ridge Dr, Roy, Michael A, to Leblanc, Alex J.

\$225,000, Leicester St, Expedition Rt, and Glickman, Melvyn, to Clinton, Daniel.

\$225,000, Route 56, Expedition Rt, and Glickman, Melvyn, to Clinton, Daniel.

WEBSTER

\$545,000, 8 Whitcomb St, Plasse, Patricia A, to Naicker, Monish.

\$545,000, 9 Whitcomb St, Plasse, Patricia A, to Naicker, Monish.

\$220,000, 5 Brookside Ave, Poulin, Charles E, to Lebel, Douglas.

\$165,000, 12 Vecchia St #B, Lane, Kimberly, and Lane, Robert, to Handfield, Emily.

Harrington Auxiliary presents "DNA and You"

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Harrington Auxiliary invites the general public to an upcoming program, "DNA and You," which takes place on Friday, April 21 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Harrington Hospital in Conference Rooms 1 and 2. There is no charge to attend this program.



Gregory Tsongali

Gregory J. Tsongalis, PhD, HCLD, Vice Chair and Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Audrey and Theodor Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, will examine how DNA influences health and the chances of developing certain medical conditions. His work has focused on identifying mutations in a person's genetic code that might create an opportunity for personalized treatment, specifically targeted to the patient and the condition.

Dr. Tsongalis, a Southbridge native, graduated from Southbridge High School in 1980. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, earned a

Master of Health Science degree from Quinnipiac College as a Pathologist's Assistant and received his PhD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Rutgers (now Rutgers University). He accepted his first clinical position at Harrington Hospital.

Dr. Tsongalis served as the inaugural medical director of the Molecular Pathology Lab at Hartford Hospital for 10 years before joining the Dartmouth Health System in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He is currently the medical director of the Center for Clinical Genomics and Advanced Technology (CGAT) at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Norris Cotton Cancer Center (NCCC) in Lebanon.

Author/ editor of thirteen textbooks in the field of molecular pathology, he has published more than 250 scientific articles, and has been invited to speak at both national and international meetings.

He has served on numerous professional society committees and is a Past President of the Association for Molecular Pathology. He serves on the editorial boards of multiple journals and also sits on

numerous corporate scientific advisory boards.

The Harrington Auxiliary, established in 1932, is a non-profit organization of dedicated and impassioned volunteers whose mission is to support and

enhance the excellent services provided by UMass Memorial Health Harrington.

For more information, contact Kelly at Kelly.Hibbard@UMassMemorial.org or 508-765-9771, ext. 6472.

Isabella Sund of Auburn named to University of Hartford's President's Honors List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Isabella Sund of Auburn has been named to its President's Honors List for Fall 2022.

The President's Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. This is the GPA that must be sustained over a full undergraduate career to qualify for a degree summa cum laude.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approxi-

mately 4,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students from 48 states and 45 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit www.hartford.edu for more information.

Kathryn James of Webster named to Champlain College Trustees' List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Kathryn James of Webster was named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Fall 2021 semester.

Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

Making the Trustees' List is a tremendous achievement in any year. Many of the high achievers balance their classes with serious jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering, as well as a global pandemic. We congratulate you on this great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. From its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain, the College offers an innovative academic experience and more than 100 residential and online programs, including undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher education embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. For more information, visit champlain.edu.

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Gobi supports supplemental state budget

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — The Massachusetts State Senate recently passed a \$368.7 million supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23).

The legislation addresses a number of critical issues across the Commonwealth, including food insecurity, housing instability, the state's long-term COVID-19 response, and economic development.

"This supplemental budget ensures that our Commonwealth continues to support the most vulnerable among us while also building on the lessons we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "I'm proud to say that this body has proven once again that it has the courage to chart a course that leaves no place or person in the Commonwealth behind."

As the state's emergence from the pandemic continues, legislators are confident in the path they have helped create for additional recovery. Locally, Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) is encouraged by the comprehensiveness of the budget.

"As Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, I am glad to see the legislature keep the promise of feeding our students, with the continuation of the free lunch program," said Gobi.

From broadband expansion to manufacturing innovation, the supplemental budget also addresses several other time-sensitive needs, officials said.

The budget includes funding for SNAP food assistance benefits to provide a glide path for families who were receiving enhanced SNAP benefits

during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional funding supports the Early Education C3 Stabilization Grant program; the continuation of free school meals; emergency shelter assistance; and affordable housing for immigrants and refugees.

The bill also authorizes funding for capital expenditures to support economic development projects. These include the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, which provides grants to cities, towns, and other public entities for infrastructure projects.

Additional programs and projects to be supported by the budget include the Clean Water Trust Fund; broadband infrastructure improvements; the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative; the Massachusetts Manufacturing Accelerated Program; and the Smart Growth Housing Trust Fund.

Recognizing the societal shifts that have taken place during the pandemic, the bill also addresses several pandemic-era related measures. These include permanently allowing public corporations and nonprofits to hold meetings by means of remote communication, as well as extending the ability of graduates and students in their last semester of nursing education programs to practice nursing in accordance with guidance from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing.

Because a previous version of this state legislation has passed the House of Representatives, the two branches will now reconcile their differences between the bills.

To learn more about the state budgetary process, visit www.mass.gov.

School Committee adds stipend for safety-care trainer

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee has taken steps to ensure an important piece of their crisis response team is compensated for their work in the district. During the committee's March 8 meeting they approved a stipend to pay the district's only Safety-Care trainer for their continued work certifying members of the district in crisis intervention techniques.

In recent years, the committee approved updated policies for physical restraint of students in the case of a crisis. According to Robert Bergeron, District Director of Pupil Personnel Services, one single individual oversees training for all seven schools in the district which he said was essential to ensuring the safety of both the staff and

students.

"Staff members who are involved in de-escalation and physical restraint of students need to have gone through extensive training in order to provide that service. The program we use in our district is called Safety-Care. Right now, we are down to one Safety-Care trainer in our district, all seven schools. This person needs to track certification timelines of staff, be a resource to answer questions about the program, and she would be assisting with getting additional people trained to be safety care trainers in the district," said Bergeron.

He explained that the district lacks enough trained staff in any of its seven buildings, making added training and recertification a priority especially since the district is required to maintain crisis teams in all facilities. These staff members will assist in any scenario where their ser-

vices may be required.

"It is a real need here and it is one that requires a lot of hours outside of the school day. In working with our single trainer that we have in the district, she is more than willing to take all of this work on which includes hours around the year and into the summer," said Bergeron.

With so much time and dedication, Bergeron made the request to ensure their trainer is compensated.

The School Committee approved a \$4,000 stipend for with the money to come from school choice funds in the current fiscal year. The district will examine how to fund the stipend in future budgets as conversations around Fiscal Year 2024 continue into April and May.

Dudley Police Chief recaps standoff

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Weeks after a standoff involving a suspect ended in the peaceful arrest, Dudley Police Chief Marek Karłowicz had the opportunity to address the situation with the Board of Selectmen on Feb. 27 giving credit to officers of both the Dudley and Webster Police Departments for their response.

On Feb 9 at around 11:45 a.m., police were dispatched to Chase Ave for a disturbance, locating a suspect who quickly left the scene with what was described as a black "training gun." Police pursued the individu-

al through Dudley and Webster with officers from both town departments responding to the call, eventually returning to Chase Avenue where a standoff resulted in the suspect surrendering to police. The suspect was reported to have possessed a replica Baretta which he pointed in the air and fired, shooting off shell casing. Karłowicz told selectmen the gun looked as real as could be based on his more than 20 years of experience. No injuries were reported from the scene and the suspect was taken into custody on numerous charges with their identity withheld due to an ongoing domestic violence situation.

With the incident now weeks into the past, Karłowicz took some time to reflect on the response and publicly thank both his own officers and those who responded from Webster for efforts.

"It just shows the character of the men and women that work for both towns. Some of these officers were on detail, some of them were at home and went to the station and grabbed their vests to respond to the call. I just wanted to point out that both towns have a great group of officers that are willing to put themselves at risk," said the Chief.

He also gave Webster officers credit for helping negotiate with the

suspect who surrendered on their own power after a near half-hour standoff.

"Fortunately, this was an incident where it ended up coming to a peaceful solution, but I give a lot of kudos to the Webster Police Department because they were able to negotiate with the male party to surrender," said the Chief.

In total, around 15 Webster officers and 10 Dudley officers responded to the scene, some while off duty, putting their safety at risk to ensure no citizens or the suspect themselves were harmed.

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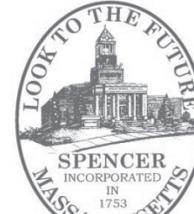
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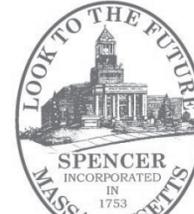
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Office of the Board of Selectmen & Town Administrator

Laborer, Water Department: Town of Spencer Water Department seeks applicants to fill the position of Laborer. This position will work with Water Operators in the daily maintenance of the water supply, treatment, and distribution systems. The ideal candidate will have a High School diploma from a vocational school, have strong math and science skills, and be willing to continue their education in the water industry including obtaining professional licensing as a Water Treatment and Water Distribution Operator. Experience with operating lawn care equipment and hand power tools beneficial. The candidate will be subject to emergency call-ins for water main breaks. This entry level position fits into the succession plan for the department. Pay for this position ranges from \$20.19/hr. to \$24.10/hr. and includes a generous benefits package including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

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Office of the Board of Selectmen & Town Administrator

Light Equipment Operator (LEO): Town of Spencer seeks applicants to fill the Light Equipment Operator position in the Highway Department. This position is responsible for the operation of light equipment, snowplows, motorized and non-motorized hand tools. The work involves repair and maintenance of highway infrastructure including but not limited to roads, sidewalks, stormwater systems and street signs, vegetation control, snow plowing and sanding, maintenance of parks, cemeteries, and grounds. This highly responsible position is subject to emergency call-ins to respond to emergencies. High School diploma or GED plus a Mass CDL Class B are required, additional license and certifications beneficial. The willingness to be trained and increase skills and licensing is required to succeed in this position. Pay for this position ranges from \$20.95/hr. to \$25.03/hr. and includes a generous benefits package including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

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Park Avenue Elementary students complete ST Math journey

WEBSTER — Students at Park Avenue Elementary School are partial to penguins, especially ones that are named Jiji. Jiji is the mascot for the digital learning program ST Math.

ST Math is a learning program designed to teach students problem solving strategies and conceptual understanding of all the mathematical concepts for their grade level. Students follow a journey where they solve puzzles in order to achieve the next mountain. Every two weeks during lunch, the students who have earned the most puzzles from the previous week receive a Jiji certificate.

The prospect of earning a Jiji Certificate has created a momentum of excitement and engagement for all the students. They walk through the halls declaring how many puzzles they have



Mrs. Theriault's Class with Jiji during the class percentage celebration!

Restoring 'old growth' forest needs multiple methods

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Old forests have developed a kind of wisdom, much like old people have. For Paul Catanzaro of Harvard Forest, such forests need to be protected and encouraged, but they're now very rare.

Today's New England forests are "relatively young," being, on average, "right around the 100-year mark." To be considered "old," they need at least another century, maybe half that with some careful management, and to reach "old growth" status, they need a couple hundred years beyond that. Today, just 1119 acres in Massachusetts remain in the latter category (defined as having never seen human impact), most of it in the Berkshires, but prior to colonization, close to 90 percent did.

Much of it is once again forest, but about 70 percent was open farmland around 100 years ago. That change is a distinction that matters ecologically. "Once old growth forest has been impacted, we can't get back to that stage," he told some Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions conference attendees last week. But we can restore "enough of those measurable, trackable characteristics we can observe that likely function as old growth."

Some of those traits are fairly obvious to anyone, such as the presence of old, large trees, but true old growth is a more subtle mix of qualities. Among them are many gaps that allow for younger shade-intolerant trees to take root; a wide range of ages, sizes and canopy heights; "lots of vertical and horizontal diversity;" many downed trees that serve as food and habitat, and other "nuance characteristics," Catanzaro said.

All that variety creates many small environmental niches for a wide range of lifeforms, often including "source populations" for species that can then expand into other areas.

From a long-term perspective, older forests are "storehouses for carbon" and "our savings bank. ... We've had a lot of interaction with our forests," and need to understand what happens "if we take a hands-off approach," he said.

Actually, Catanzaro said, we need both active and passive approaches now, and each will favor different tree species. The latter is simply letting nature do its thing, where "disturbances [storms and fires, mostly] are the drivers of succession, drivers of evolution." The former involves humans mimicking such disturbances with selective cutting practices, browsing animal control, and eliminating invasives. Doing that's important, he said, because today's forest is mostly single-age, single-height and not very diverse, often with large stands of the same species (sometimes planted intentionally).

Active management, he added, "can shave off half a century" in the quest to create old growth characteristics. It may also be important in helping forests adapt to climate change's warming by introducing southern trees here.

The key, he later added, is to "make sure there are elements of the forest still moving through those [seral] stages." One key type that's rare in our area is what's termed "early successional habitat," where trees that need a lot of light and birds and animals that need open areas can live.

Most of today's protected forest is state-, municipal- or land-trust-owned, but the vast majority of the state's forest land is in private hands. Catanzaro said anyone can help create old growth characteristics, even in smaller parcels, but some practices work better than others depending on the property's context. Overall, we "need to continue to pursue conservation-based estate planning," because today is seeing "the largest intergenerational transfer of land" in history, he said.

After his talk, several attendees asked questions, but were unidentified from the chat by the session's moderators who read them. One simply stated "Our unchecked population pressures are the root of all this, and the way we consume habitat."

Another dubbed the years until 2050 "critical," saying we live in "a particular moment in time" for protecting the forests' ability to store carbon. The largest 1 percent of the trees store around half of all carbon, so we "should protect those trees more," she said.

Catanzaro agreed, but said the key issue is "ensuring the continuous stability of carbon in the forest," which requires size and age diversity. "We might be setting ourselves up for a big fall if we only have larger trees," he said, noting we can't get "too focused on one product [carbon, water, biodiversity, timber, etc] at the expense of the health of the system."

Another person asked about the impact of deer and other browsing animals. Catanzaro said that's "having a real impact." While he used to think it was "just a matter of which kinds of trees came back," it's now "scary." In some areas, trees don't return at all due to herbivory, invasive plants and insects, and various pathogens.

There are ways to address that, including purposely cutting some trees to create "slash" that prevents deer from getting into other areas. But he noted some invasives and migrating southern tree species "may be the next important piece of our future forests" over "decades and centuries." He also said he considers genetically-modified trees a possible "tool" to help re-establish forests.

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achieved that week. Last year, Park Ave Elementary School started the initiative and had an average of 42 percent completion school-wide. This year the school has already surpassed the 42 percent completion rate and are projected to reach a completion rate of 72 percent schoolwide! Currently some of our most enthusiastic students have already completed the journey for their grade level. We already have 75 students in the school that have completed their ST Math journey and are now working on challenge bonuses.

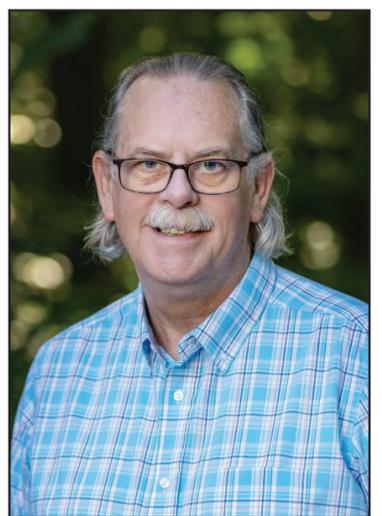
For students who are having some difficulty with the puzzles we are instituting a Tiny Teacher program.

Students in fourth grade who have completed their ST Math journey will go to other grade levels and work with students who are struggling. They are very excited to be mentors for their friends. It couldn't come at a better time because we just started a new competition called Math Madness. Each grade level class will be competing within2 their own grade level to earn the most puzzles each week. The winners of this week will advance to the next week until we are down to the top class in each grade level. That class will receive a surprise visit from Jiji and a chance to play a little basketball with our loveable penguin.

Local author to hold lecture & signing at Booklovers' Gourmet

WEBSTER

Booklovers' Gourmet will host a talk and book signing event with author Ed Londergan on Saturday, March 25, 2-4 p.m. at 72 East Main St., Webster. His latest historical fiction novel about Bathsbea Spooner is entitled "Unlike Any Other," the story of an 18th Century woman from a prominent New England family who went from a life of privilege to the gallows. Signed copies will be available for purchase.



Bathsbea Spooner was the daughter of Timothy Ruggles, a general in the French and Indian War, president of the Stamp Act Congress, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and a leading loyalist in Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War; the epitome of upper class.

Like her father, Bathsbea was smart, strong-willed, and a staunch British loyalist. Forced to marry a man she did not love, Bathsbea withstood her husband's abuse for years until a young Continental soldier entered her life. But when this well-heeled mother of three small children discovered she was pregnant with the soldier's child, her thoughts quickly turned to murder.

Based on a true story, the events that follow Bathsbea's life, her decisions, and her ultimate demise will show readers that Bathsbea Spooner was, in fact, "Unlike Any Other. . ."

Ed Londergan is the author of the award-winning books The Devils' Elbow and The Long Journey Home. Having researched American history for many years, he is a frequent speaker with a focus on colonial Massachusetts. A graduate of Holy Cross, he lives in Warren.

Local students awarded Seton Hall Dean's List honors

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University is pleased to announce the following students who qualified for the Fall 2022 Dean's list and to congratulate them for their outstanding academic achievements.

The following students made the Fall 2022 dean's list:

Aiden Benison of Auburn
Thomas Cowden of Auburn

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership - developing students in mind, heart and spirit - since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more

than 80 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, US News & World Report and Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and caring global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles by train, bus or car to New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The university's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

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Post-Secondary Student of the Year award for Bay Path nursing student

CHARLTON — The MassCTE.org is pleased to announce the Post-secondary student of the year award winner: Ana Hilner of Oxford. Hilner is a practical nursing student of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, Massachusetts.

“The last time Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy had the honor of receiving the Post-Secondary Student of the Year Award was in 2017,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. “We are proud of Ana.”

“I am honored and delighted,” said Hilner. “The support and encouragement of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is so valuable to me!”

Hilner is currently a CNA and works at the Overlook in Charlton, Massachusetts. It was while working as a sub-



Ana Hilner

stitute teacher at the Oxford Elementary School when she realized that her heart was on nursing. She is currently earning her Practical Nursing certificate with an impressive GPA and soon to be inducted for membership to the National Technical Honor Society. She is co-chair for the

UNICEF Club advocating for children’s causes and fundraising. She is a member of the Mock Code Team helping ensure high quality, safe patient care through small group simulations-based sessions supervised by faculty and engaging nursing students in a variety of roles. Ana is certified in Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, Stop the Bleed, and Health Care Provider CPR. Her volunteer activities include mandated screenings for Charlton Elementary School, vision, hearing & BMI screenings at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, and on-site Medical Care for Show Choir at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Hilner will be receiving the Post-secondary student of the year award at the 90th Annual MassCTE Awards Banquet on April 1 at the Renaissance Boston Patriot Place Hotel in Foxborough.

Country Bank welcomes Erin Pope, VP, IT Operations, Architecture Innovation & Technology

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Erin Pope of Westminster has joined its Innovation & Technology Division in Ware. Before joining Country Bank, she worked at Digital Credit Union (DCU) and American Tower. “We are thrilled to welcome Erin to the Innovation & Technology team. Her experience in varying industries from start-up, defense, financial and real estate, which expanded her knowledge and skill-set to lead teams in supporting and implementing lean infrastructures and processes, makes her a perfect fit for Country Bank. We look forward to Erin’s enthusiasm and dedication representing Country Bank and supporting our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity, and we are pleased that she has chosen Country Bank

to be her Employer of Choice,” stated Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President and Chief Culture & Development Officer, Human Resources.

“At American Tower, I managed a network operations team responsible for the global office and data center infrastructure. It was through working with this team that I learned the importance of strength and a diverse team,” said Pope. “I am excited to join Country Bank’s storied history and contribute to its continued success. I hope to support the team by increasing engagement and innovation to support the business and its customers better.”

Pope holds a Bachelor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and received certification in Professional Scrum Master 1.

STORM

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Leicester officials commend the town’s DPW team for keeping roads in top condition throughout the storm.

“DPW was amazing and just kept on trucking,” said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica.

Power crews from throughout the northeast filled into New England on March 14 to get the lights back on. At the height of the storm, over 70,000 customers were without power across the state, with the brunt of the storm striking northern and western Massachusetts. Some communities in the Berkshires picked up nearly three feet of snow.

By noon on March 15, most customers saw their power restored, with only a few remaining patches of isolated outages.

CAMP

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more than 2,200 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

About Camp Invention

Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula inspired by some of the world’s greatest inventors. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 2.2 million children, and 229,000 teachers and Leadership Interns.

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