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From Uganda to Jamaica

VISITING PRIEST CONNECTS WITH SAINT JOSEPH STUDENTS

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School recently welcomed Fr. James Kandole Saturday, a Catholic priest serving in Jamaica, for a two-day visit on Tuesday, Dec. 2, and Wednesday, Dec. 3. Fr. Saturday is a longtime friend of Rev. Richard Polek, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, and the two met through Food for the Poor, an international relief and development organization that supports communities in need through emergency aid and long-term assistance, including housing and other basic necessities.

Fr. Saturday began his visit by joining the school community for its Advent Prayer Service on Tuesday morning. Afterward, he spent the day in the school's classrooms, meeting students and staff across every grade level. Teachers noted how naturally he connected with younger children—at times sitting on the floor with them to talk about their interests and questions. In the Pre-K 3 classroom,



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School National Junior Honor Society member Axel Kapitulik (Grade 8) presents a \$500 check to Fr. James Kandole Saturday. The donation will support Fr. Saturday's ministry and help fund repairs to his church following Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane that struck Jamaica in October 2025.

Fr. Saturday used a small Nativity set as a hands-on way to discuss the birth of Jesus, helping students

reflect on the meaning of the season in an age-appropriate, engaging way. Later that afternoon,

students in Grades 5–8 gathered in the parish center for an energetic question-and-answer session. Students asked everything from his favorite foods—such as matoke (green bananas) and Jamaica's well-known jerk chicken—to thoughtful questions about his childhood in Uganda, his decision to become a priest, his favorite Bible verse, and his guiding purpose in life. Fr. Saturday emphasized a consistent theme throughout the discussion: his hope is to help others “fall in love with God,” encouraging students to live with humility, perseverance, and trust in God.

Middle school students were especially interested in Fr. Saturday's reflections on his ministry in Jamaica and his community's experience during Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm that struck Jamaica in 2025. He spoke candidly about the fear and uncertainty of the hurricane, the practical steps people took to find safety, and the lasting emotional impact of the destruc-

tion—while also sharing a message of faith and resilience in the aftermath.

Fr. Saturday returned on Wednesday for a final gathering with the entire student body. Beth Boudreau, Principal of Saint Joseph School, presented him with a school gift bag and Saint Joseph School items as a token of appreciation. During the assembly, the Saint Joseph School National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)—advised by Mrs. Karen Lefebvre—presented Fr. Saturday with a \$500 donation to support his church's work.

NJHS is a national student organization that recognizes middle school students for scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. At Saint Joseph School, members commit to service throughout the year and organize regular fundraisers to support a variety of charitable causes—both local and beyond. The donation to Fr. Saturday's ministry is one example of how NJHS stu-

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Piwowarczyk sets indoor high jump record at Bartlett High School

WEBSTER — The Bartlett High School Indoor Track team competed in the CMAC (Small) indoor track meet last week at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, Massachusetts, and posted an impressive day of performances and personal records achievements.

Leading the way was senior captain Eryk Piwowarczyk, who set the BHS indoor high jump record with a personal-best jump of five feet 10 inches, tying for the highest jump, overall, in the event.

In the sprints, Xavier Sarfo placed third overall in the 55 meter dash with a time of 6.96 seconds. Personal records in the Boys' 55 meter dash were also set by Hunter Claypool and Jaid Montesinos. For the Girls' the 55 meter dash saw personal bests from Deborah Lamptey, Brittany Jubin, and Jetsun Lama.

Strong improvements continued in the 300-meter run, with personal records from Brittany Jubin, Jetsun Lama, Xavier Sarfo, Eryk Piwowarczyk, Hunter Claypool, Jaid Montesinos, Benjamin Horan, and Alexis Benito Torres. In the 600-meter run, Josh Gonzalez set a new personal best, and in the 1,000-meter run, Ben Horan recorded his fastest time, as well.

In the girls' shot-put, Brittany Jubin made her personal-best throw, while Cameron Forsythe and Hunter Adams each set personal records in the boys'. Xavier Sarfo also added another personal best in the high jump event, rounding out a strong all-around performance.

Overall, the meet showcased the team's continued growth, effort, and commitment to improvement. The BHS Indoor Track Team continues to work hard and build momentum as the season moves forward.

Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation to host Fourth Annual “Heroes Among Us” event

HEATHER BOWES

LAURIE CAMPOS

MARYELLEN CERBONE

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LEN HARMON

DCEF “HEROES AMONG US” 2026 HONOREES

MICHELLE HOOPER

STEVE LAABS

PETER OLSON

CINDY SNOW

WAYNE TOWER

CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF), which awards thousands of dollars in grants annually, will host its third annual “Heroes Among Us” event on March 28 to recognize and honor the exemplary individuals in our DCRSD community.

This event will be an opportunity to thank the many educators and support services staff who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of the students of our community. The event will be held at the Wellsworth Hotel (formerly Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center) and will include a dinner and dancing, awards ceremony, and

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Central Massachusetts Lions package 13,002 meals to combat food insecurity



Courtesy

Volunteers from the Oxford Lions Club Members, District 33A Governor, and a Leo Volunteer from Baypath.

OXFORD — Oxford Lions joined other Lions of Central Massachusetts, representing 23 Lions Clubs across the region, came together to fight hunger during Lions Club International's Global Week of Service to Combat Food Insecurity, demonstrating the power of community collaboration and service.

As part of this District-Wide Service Project for Lions Club International District 33A, more than 100 volunteers, including Lions members, local high school Leo Club members, and community volunteers—worked side-by-side to package 13,000 nutritious meals for individuals and families facing food insecurity throughout Worcester County.

This meal packing event was hosted at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, with meals prepared through a partnership with End Hunger New England, part of The Outreach Program. These meals will be distributed to local food pantries and community organizations throughout Worcester County, helping ensure access to nutritious food for those most in need.

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WPI student Kevin Duong completes Intensive Research Project

WORCESTER — Kevin Duong, from Auburn, a member of the class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled “Developing a User-Friendly Tool to Evaluate Parks.”

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for

people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university’s 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

“The WPI project-based curriculum’s focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,”

said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture—from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today’s global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused

university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI’s distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and more than 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

EcoTarium selected for call to International Space Station

AMATEUR “HAM” RADIO TO CONNECT STUDENTS WITH ASTRONAUTS AS THE ISS ORBITS 250 MILES ABOVE EARTH

WORCESTER — The EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature has been selected to host a live contact with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) through ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) in spring 2026. In collaboration with the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA) and North High School, hundreds of students will be invited to participate in the event and related education programs, and 10 students will have the rare opportunity to speak directly with an astronaut in orbit.

“The ARISS contact is an exciting opportunity for museum visitors, and school children from across the region,” said Jason Gurtman, manager of educational programs at the EcoTarium. “By giving students the chance to speak directly with an astronaut aboard the ISS, we’re sparking wonder and affirming that there is a

place for everyone in space science. This project will serve as a catalyst for curiosity, equity, and lifelong engagement with STEM learning.”

The EcoTarium’s contact with ARISS is scheduled for the week of March 9. NASA will confirm the exact date and time in late February or early March, depending on ISS orbital passes. Recent changes to ISS crew operations may affect the availability of participating astronauts, and the contact schedule remains subject to adjustment. A public community celebration will follow at the EcoTarium on Saturday, March 14, featuring hands-on activities and educational experiences focused on amateur radio and space exploration.

“What a thrill to be able to place a call to outer space using radio waves,” said EcoTarium CEO Noreen Johnson Smith. “For over 125 years, scientists have been expanding the way we use radio waves to communicate and discover distant objects in the universe. Calling the

astronauts is an exciting lesson on the power of electromagnetic waves.”

This initiative advances the EcoTarium’s mission of igniting curiosity and inspiring a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math. The Museum offers year-round astronomy programming for visitors of all ages, including the new NASA-funded permanent exhibit Lift Off! Space Explorers, full-dome shows in the Alden Planetarium, newly renovated observatory, and a monthly Astrophysics Speaker Series.

“Space science and wireless communications technology are foundational to our high-tech future,” said Fred Kemmerer, ARISS technical mentor and American Radio Relay League (ARRL) New England Division director. “An ARISS contact gives young people hands-on exposure to these technologies and often sparks a lifelong interest in high-tech communications and related career paths.”

George Gumbrell, a CMARA board member

and parent, emphasized the long-term impact of early exposure to amateur radio.

“If you’re interested in science and engineering,” he said, “amateur radio provides a foundation for lifelong exploration.”

Gumbrell’s son Connor, now in high school, was introduced to amateur radio at age 5 and has since spoken directly with an astronaut aboard the ISS.

“The exposure to amateur radio and hands-on problem-solving showed me what was possible,” Connor said. “It’s why I plan to pursue electrical engineering after high school.”

For more information, visit ecotarium.org/iss.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Finding warmth in winter’s quiet days

Late January is rarely anyone’s favorite moment on the calendar. The sparkle of the holidays has faded, spring still feels far away, and winter has settled into a routine that can feel heavy. In towns like Webster and Auburn, this stretch of the season often tests patience, energy, and optimism all at once.

Yet it is precisely during these quieter weeks that something important continues to happen, largely unnoticed. Community life does not pause. It adjusts.

Library meeting rooms remain busy with storytimes, clubs, and programs that bring residents together for an hour or two at a time. Local boards and committees continue to meet, reviewing budgets, policies, and plans that will shape the year ahead. Small businesses, nonprofit groups, and civic organizations gather to assess where they are and where they hope to go next. None of this work is flashy. Much of it happens with little fanfare and modest attendance. Still, it is the steady foundation that keeps a town functioning.

Winter has a way of shrinking daily life. People go from warm house to warm car to warm building, minimizing stops along the way. Neighbors see one another less often. Casual conversations grow fewer. That makes these intentional points of connection even more meaningful. A parent bringing a child to storytime. A retiree attending a knitting group. A volunteer showing up for a committee meeting after a long day. These small acts are how communities stay intact when conditions are less than ideal.

There is also value in the slower pace winter forces upon us. Without the distractions of summer events and packed calendars, residents have time to focus on essentials. What needs fixing. What needs planning. What needs care. Municipal budgets are reviewed. School programs are assessed. Community organizations evaluate what worked last year and what did not. This quieter season often produces some of the most thoughtful decision-making.

It is easy to underestimate this period of the year because it lacks visible excitement. But towns are not sustained only by festivals and parades. They are sustained by consistency. By people who show up week after week, even when the weather is uninviting and the days are short. That reliability builds trust, familiarity, and a sense of shared responsibility.

For families, winter routines can be grounding. For seniors, they can be a vital source of social connection. For young people, they provide structure and a sense of belonging. The impact may not always be obvious, but it is real. These moments add up to a feeling that one is part of something larger than oneself.

As January draws to a close, there is no need to rush past this season or wish it away. Winter will end on its own timetable. In the meantime, our communities continue to function as they always have, through the quiet work of residents who remain engaged even when it would be easier to stay home.

That persistence deserves recognition. It is the kind of strength that does not announce itself, but it is there all the same, carrying the community forward until the longer days return.

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

Skating on bones

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The winter cold used to invoke the thoughts of gliding over the outdoor frozen ponds for fun and enjoyment with friends. Taking to the local mill ponds that weren’t running in the winter in Auburn provided plenty of places to go. People don’t usually think about where the ice skates started and how they evolved.

Archaeologists have discovered drawings that depict people gliding over frozen surfaces and artifacts of bone and leather skates.

It shouldn’t surprise people that the environment probably influenced the development of skating. Places like Scandinavia and Eastern Europe which have prolonged periods of cold and ice needed a way to travel over the ice efficiently. Skating provided a silent way to pursue animals across frozen terrain, a crucial survival need. The first skates were made from reindeer or oxen rib bones, with holes drilled in to pass straps through to secure the blade to the foot. The thickness of the bone lying flat could allow the skater to glide in all directions. The blade traveling over the ice melts a thin layer of water that lets the

skate glide. It was about the 13th century when skates got metal blades which were made from iron then embedded in wood. The wood would be fastened to the shoe with leather straps. Later on, there were spikes that attached the blades to the bottom of the shoe. Hopefully the sole was thick enough for the spike not to go all the way through to the foot. In 1850, E.V. Bushnell of Philadelphia patented the first all-metal clamp skates. This allowed the steel blade to be permanently screwed directly onto the sole and heel of a dedicated skating boot.

The Auburn Historical Society Museum has a collection of “vintage” ice skate as well as roller skates on display. There are no bone ones, but there are the wooden and medal strap on skates and some with keys. Come in and hear stories about what happens when you lose the key to the skate and you can’t get the skate off.

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

Lanterns Along Main Street

There was a time when every important message in life arrived in an envelope. You could tell what kind of day it was going to be by the look of the mail. A thick envelope meant paperwork. A thin one with careful handwriting meant something better. Sometimes it was a birthday card. Sometimes it was a note from an old friend who had not forgotten you. Either way, it required a small ritual. You carried it inside. You sat down. You opened it slowly. You read it more than once.

These days, most of our messages arrive silently. They pop onto a screen and vanish with the swipe of a finger. Efficient, yes. Convenient, absolutely. But I sometimes wonder what we lost when we stopped holding words in our hands.

I was reminded of this last week, when I found a small stack of old letters tucked inside a desk drawer. They were not famous letters. No historic figures. No dramatic confessions. They were simple notes from people who mattered to me at different points in life. A thank-you card from a neighbor after we helped move a couch. A short letter from a relative who has since passed. A postcard sent from a vacation years ago, the handwriting slightly crooked, the ink faded around the edges.

What struck me was not the content alone. It was the care. Someone took time to sit down, choose a pen, and

shape each word. Someone thought enough of me to place a stamp in the corner and walk it to a mailbox. That effort carried meaning all its own.

In our Massachusetts towns, we still see glimpses of that slower rhythm. You notice it when someone holds the door at the post office and waits, rather than rushing past. You see it when neighbors exchange Christmas cards that arrive days after the holiday, yet feel no less warm. You hear it when someone says, “I wanted to tell you this in person,” and means it.

We live in a world that rewards speed. Faster replies. Faster news. Faster everything. There is nothing wrong with progress. I appreciate being able to check in on family with a quick message or send a photo across the state in seconds. But speed should not replace intention.

There is something grounding about slowing down long enough to put thoughts on paper. When you write a letter, you tend to choose words more carefully. You pause. You reconsider. You often soften your tone because you know the message cannot be edited after it is sent. That alone might improve a few conversations in modern life.

I am not suggesting we abandon technology or return to quill pens and candlelight. I am suggesting we remember that human connection benefits from effort.

A handwritten note does not need to be long. It does not need perfect grammar. It needs sincerity.

Imagine what would happen if more of us sent a simple card to a teacher who made a difference, a neighbor who checked in during a tough week, or a family member who rarely hears how much they matter. Those envelopes would carry more than paper. They would carry recognition.

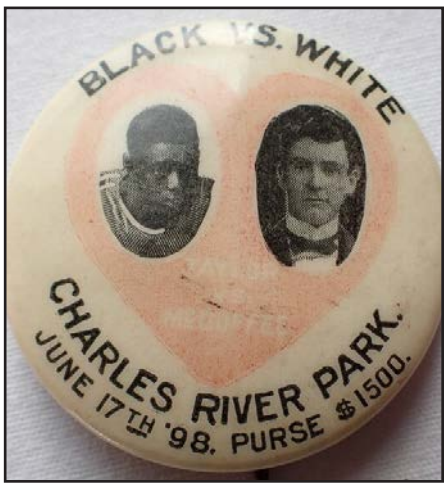
Our small towns have always thrived on these quiet gestures. The casserole dropped off without being asked. The wave to a familiar face at the grocery store. The short conversation at the hardware counter that turns into advice about life rather than screws. These are the lanterns along our main streets. They do not blaze. They glow steadily, guiding us back to one another.

This week, I plan to write a few notes and send them the old-fashioned way. No special occasion. No dramatic reason. Simply a reminder to people I appreciate that they are seen and valued.

If you are looking for a simple way to make the world around you feel a little warmer, consider doing the same. Write one letter. Address one envelope. Drop it in the mailbox and walk away knowing you have sent something more lasting than a notification.

In a fast-moving world, choosing to slow down, even briefly, can feel quietly revolutionary. And sometimes, the smallest acts carry the brightest light.

Pinback buttons



Today’s column will focus on pinback buttons. Pinback buttons are usually round metal discs with a pin attached to the back that you can wear on a shirt, jacket, etc. We often associate them with political campaigns, but they were used in advertising, political messaging, and for other purposes.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

I’ll start by providing some history on pinback buttons. Prior to pinbacks several variations of clothes fastener buttons were created by craftsmen to commemorate George Washington’s inauguration in 1789. Mount Vernon has nine different inaugural button versions in their collection, according to their website. One has an eagle with the date March 4, 1789, when Washington was originally scheduled to be inaugurated. It was rescheduled to April 30. Another popular president’s campaign advanced the use of buttons. During Lincoln’s 1860 campaign ferrotype (also known as tintype) photographs were made into campaign buttons. The images on thin metal sheets were reproduced and typically inserted inside of brass holders with campaign messages embossed on the brass. In 1896, the Whitehead and Hoag Company began producing brightly colored pinback buttons using a new plastic material called celluloid.

Political buttons are some of the most popular with collectors. The American Political Items Collectors group lists several subcategories of pinbacks. Some are presidential campaigns, focus on a single election year, single political parties, 3D items, local campaigns, Women’s Suffrage movement, Prohibition movement, social causes, and Civil Rights.

Other types of collectible pinback buttons include comic characters, events, advertising, funny or serious sayings, entertainment, and sports.

You can buy some pinbacks for under a dollar while others can sell well into the thousands, and we’ve seen some good results in our auctions. A group of political pinbacks, including McKinley for president, sold for over \$200. A group of 17 advertising, souvenir, Temperance Movement, circus & other pinbacks went for \$330 in 2024. As you might expect, sports related pinbacks are some of the most collectibles. Twelve early 1900s tobacco premium and 1930 Cracker Jack baseball pinbacks brought over \$260. Major Taylor was an African American cyclist who lived in Worcester and is in the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame. A pinback button labeled “Black vs. White” promoted an 1898 race between Taylor and Eddie McDuffee. It sold in one of our 2022 auctions for over \$1,400.

There is also a Worcester connection to one of the most iconic pinback buttons ever made. Harvey Ball is said to have created the iconic smiley face image that became popular on buttons since the 1960s. An article in the Smithsonian Magazine said that Ball was paid \$45 for what took him about 10 minutes to design the image for the State Mutual Life Assurance Company. Smiley face pinback buttons with the original State Mutual markings on the back have recently sold between \$10 and \$60 in online auctions. It’s not a windfall but still enough to put a smile on your face.

The single-collector Civil War auction we’ve been working on will begin soon. We’re preparing for a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles that will take place after that. We also have been accepting consignments for a major sports and comic book auction that will take place in the summer. It will feature the first baseball Ted Williams signed when he signed a contract with the Boston Red Sox. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

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Rita Zielinski Gelinas Alumni Scholarship available to Bartlett 2022 alumni

WEBSTER — The Bartlett High School Guidance Department is once again offering the Rita Gelinas Scholarship for the study of math or science.

Students from the BHS Class of 2022 who will be immediately entering a graduate program in a math or natural science field are encouraged to apply. Funds are available up to \$5,000 per semester with a minimum award of 1,000 per semester for one year. Please pick up an application in the Guidance Department or contact Kim Granger at (508) 943-8552, ext. 34017. Complete applications are due to the Guidance Department by Friday, April 10.

Bartlett Class of 2026 invited to apply for Gelinas Scholarship

WEBSTER — The Rita Gelinas Scholarship is also available to students in the Class of 2026. Two seniors will be chosen to receive up to \$10,000 a year for all four years of an undergraduate program.

Applicants must have over a 3.0 (B average) and be pursuing a major in either a math or natural science field. The application process is very extensive so all applicants should start the process early. In addition to other materials, students must supply their SAR (Student Aid Report through the FAFSA process) as well as the financial aid award letter from the college that the student WILL attend if given the award. Applications are due to the BHS Guidance Department by Friday, April 10.

If you have any questions about either of these scholarships please contact Kim Granger in the Guidance Department at Bartlett at (508) 943-8552, ext. 34017 or via email at kgranger@webster-schools.org.

Local students earn Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2025 Dean’s List.

Dean’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students have achieved Dean’s List honors for the fall 2025 semester:

Innis Acosta Bernazar of Webster
Felicia Benoit of Webster
Nico Borgia of Dudley
Ryan Bray of Oxford
Nasir Bridgewater of Dudley
Samantha Buchanan of Dudley
Anthony Burke of Oxford
Alexander Card of Dudley

Marc Dinary of Dudley
Jeremiah Dorbor of Dudley
Damien Dumont of Dudley
Abigail Graham of Webster
Brady Holden of Webster
Madeleine Jean of Oxford
Julia Lech of Dudley
Myla Leite of Dudley
Anna Lesperance of Oxford
Lizzy Mahler of Oxford
Owen Marengo of Dudley
Mackenzie Masters of Oxford
Alexandro Montreuil of Oxford
Ava Pederson of Dudley
Nevaeh Pepper of Webster
Alymarie Rodriguez of Webster
Sammie Russell of Dudley
Samantha Tremblay of Webster
Kyle Banfill of Auburn
Anthony Casillo of Auburn
Daniel Handfield of Auburn
Trystan St. Pierre of Auburn

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

Local students earn President’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2025 President’s List.

President’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President’s List honors.

The following local students have achieved President’s List honors:

Daniel Adamuska of Dudley
Kaitlin Baca of Webster
Brea Brunelle-Jacoby of Oxford
Izabella Coughlin of Dudley
Cy Ducharme of Dudley
Pamela Gonzalez Vallardi of Dudley
Zachary Hebert of Dudley

Marta Hellstrom of Oxford
Thalia Hernandez of Dudley
Anthony Jancewicz of North Oxford
Kaiden Keddy of Webster
Lexani Lewis of Webster
Chase Marengo of Dudley
Nataasha McClay of Dudley
Ethan Minarik of Webster
Leah Monti of Webster
Tomasz Pater of Dudley
Anthony Pellegrine of Dudley
Joseph Salonis of Dudley
Jonathan Vitkus of Dudley
Adam Warner of Webster
Aiden Wolfram of Webster
Tommy Burny of Auburn
Alex Leblanc of Auburn
Alex Mercadante of Auburn
Cindy Ngo of Auburn
Tyler Poshkus of Auburn
Lorenzo Santos-Diaz of Auburn

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www.StonebridgePress.com



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Community Connection

Sheriff’s Office announces promotions of local officers



Sheriff Evangelidis (Right) and Sergeant Matthew Culley (Left).

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud to announce the promotion of four officers to the rank of sergeant at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction.

Matthew Culley of Auburn and Lindsay McNamara of Dudley.

In their new roles, these sergeants will take on increased leadership responsibilities, including supervising officers and civilian staff, overseeing inmate activities, and ensuring the safety and security of both staff and inmates within the facility.

“These promotions recognize individuals who consistently demonstrate leadership, professionalism, and a deep commitment to public safety,” said Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “Each of



Sheriff Evangelidis (Right) and Sergeant Lindsay McNamara (Left).

these officers has distinguished themselves through their dedication and ability to lead by example. I am confident they will continue to strengthen our mission to serve the residents of Worcester County with integrity and excellence.”

The Worcester County Jail and House of Correction houses pre-trial detainees and inmates serving sentences of two and a half years or less. In addition to managing the facility, the sheriff’s office operates community resource centers in Fitchburg, Worcester, and Webster.

For more information about the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and opportunities to join as a Correctional Officer, please visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com.

WARM UP

To These Deals



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2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmars.org

Adult Programming
Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Library for All – Mondays and Fridays at 10am
Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

Grief Support Group – 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday of the Month (6:30pm on Tuesdays; 10:00am on Saturdays) in the Local History Room
Losing a loved one is never easy. Please know that you are not alone. If you need support in trying to navigate the changes in your life, join us in a place of safety and comfort with others who have also experienced loss. This grief support group is a place to find understanding as we explore our grief, share coping strategies, and begin to heal.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays in January, at 8:15am; No Class on January 23rd
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

The Chatty Chapter Book Group – Thursday, January 22nd at 6:00pm
Join The Chatty Chapter, our genre book group! Each month we read a different genre. January's genre is a dark comedy: Sky Daddy by Kate Folk.

New England Ice Harvesting – Thursday, January 22nd at 6:30pm
Join us for this illustrated talk by Jane Henneidy as she provides a crystal-clear look into a process that was once commonplace for people in past centuries. The program includes examples from regional collections on food preservation methods used prior to ice boxes, the opportunities for cold cash from this seasonal industry, how activity invigorated food culture here and around the world, and with the advent of electrical refrigeration, the slow melting of the ice business. Jane Henneidy is a museum professional with more than thirty years of experience in caring for and sharing local history. She is the site manager for two 18th century farms in southern Rhode Island owned by Historic New England.
Writing Group – Monday, January 26th

at 6:00pm
Do you enjoy writing but struggle to find the time or excuse to sit down and do it? Join us for a low pressure evening where you can sit and write creatively with others in a cozy setting. There will be prompts available, and time to share and discuss our projects, or just chat about the writing process, but sharing is not required. Bring something you are currently working on, or start something new! Snacks and drinks will be available.
LUK Mentoring Drop-In Information Session – Tuesday, January 27th from 3:00-7:00pm
Are you interested in becoming a mentor? January is International Mentor Month and our community is in need of role models. Drop in to meet with Hannah from LUK to learn more about how you can provide crucial support to young people seeking mentorship. No registration is required.

Something from Nothing Pantry Series – Thursday, January 29th at 6:00pm
Join us for our pantry staples cooking series, Something from Nothing, from January-March. Each month we'll focus on creating a simple recipe from low-cost ingredients that you can put together at home again and again. In January we'll be making hummus. This program is for adults and requires registration.

Winter Armchair Travel Series for Seniors: Paris – Friday, January 30th at 10am
Join us on an unforgettable journey through the enchanting city of Paris. Our expert guide, Cecelia, will lead you through iconic landmarks and hidden gems that make Paris a true global treasure. This program is for senior citizens and will be facilitated by one of our librarians. Please come with questions for your tour guide! Bon Voyage!

Programming for All Ages
The Dangerous Art of Chainsaw Sculpture! – Saturday, January 24th at 11:00am
A fun, interesting, interactive and engaging journey through the amazing career of world-famous Master Chainsaw Sculptor, Dr. "The Machine" Jesse Green (AMERICAN CHAINSAW on National Geographic Channel, ESPN/ Disney and more.) Through an incredible series of photos, the process of creating gigantic, death-defying works of art from trees is brought to life in a BIG way! Attendees will be able to ask questions throughout and fully participate in the discussion. You've never seen anything like it!

Bingo – Saturday, January 31st at 11:00am
Join us for a fun all ages Bingo event! Mystery prizes will be rewarded to the winners. All are welcome, no registration required.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am
Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM
We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! January's theme is Clay Art.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige for a new story-

time! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes using while instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy rhymes, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

Tween Cupcake Wars – Monday, January 26th at 5:30pm
Time for a cupcake battle! Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join our first-ever Cupcake Wars, competing in teams of two to decorate cupcakes based on a surprise theme. Anonymous judges will vote, and

one duo will take home a prize!
Due to limited supplies, registration is required. Please only register if your child falls within the required age range. If you are registered for the previous session please do NOT sign up for this one.

Mini Chefs Club – Wednesday, January 28th at 5:30pm
Welcome to Mini Chefs Club! Our food focused series is back, offering kids 7-12 the opportunity to practice knife safety while learning new recipes that involve cutting a variety of ingredients. During this second session, participants will often be split into groups of two or more and collaborate to prepare larger dishes for everyone to share. Due to limited supplies, registration is required.

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LIONS
continued from page A1

“We are seeing pandemic-level need among our families, and we anticipate that it will continue to grow,” said Boys & Girls Club of Worcester CEO Liz Hamilton. “The only way to truly make a difference is by coming together as a community: sharing resources, collaborating with new partners, and collectively planning. We will do whatever it takes to alleviate as much of the burden as possible that unfairly falls on our youth and families. We are grateful for the Lions partnership in helping us address food inequity.”

“This project reflects the heart of what Lions do—bringing people together to serve our communities in meaningful ways,” said Andrew Keane, District Governor, “By working collectively across Central Massachusetts, we are making a real, measurable impact in combating food insecurities in local communities.”

Community impact at a glance
13,002 meals packaged
More than 158 volunteers including Lions, Leo Club members, and community volunteers
23 Lions Clubs participating across Central Massachusetts
6 districts of Leos/advisors 60 volunteers in total
District-Wide Service Project – Lions District 33A
Meals distributed throughout Worcester County
The project was made possible through generous support from our corporate sponsor, bankHometown, along with additional financial support from local Lions Clubs. The initial effort was enabled by a \$3,000 grant from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), bringing total funding support to \$5,200.

About the Lions of Central Massachusetts
The Lions of Central Massachusetts are part of Lions Club International District 33A, a network of 45 local Lions Clubs dedicated to serving the communities of Central Massachusetts. Lions focus on addressing critical community needs, including hunger, vision care, youth services, and disaster response.

About Lions Club International’s Global Week of Service
Each year, Lions around the world unite during Lions Club International’s Global Week of Service focused on Hunger to take action globally through local hands-on service projects and community partnerships.

About The Boys and Girls Club of Worcester
The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester serves more than 8,000 kids annually. Every day, 550+ kids (ages 5–18) participate in programs at the three Clubhouses located in Main South, Great Brook Valley and Plumley Village. The Club offers award-winning arts programs, sports and games, tutoring and college prep, leadership opportunities, mentors, job readiness and employment, and provides free, nutritious meals to all who attend.

About The Outreach Program/End Hunger New England
End Hunger New England is one of seven coastal regions involved in the national Outreach Program. Our sole focus is to help those who struggle with food insecurity in the six states throughout New England. Over the last 15 years, we have packed 51,500,000 meals for local food pantries, backpack programs, and homeless shelters. To learn more, go to www.EndHungerNE.org

For more information or to learn how to get involved: www.lionsdistrict33a.com, Facebook: LionsDistrict33A Contact Email – kkeanect33a@gmail.com or colleen@oncay.net

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., with one Thursday a month 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY (1/19) FOR MLK JR. DAY!

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week’s menu: Tuesday, 1/20: Lasagna and meatballs with marinara sauce, roasted broccoli and carrots. Wednesday, 1/21: Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn. Thursday, 1/22: Vegetarian chili with cheese, roasted potatoes, country blend vegetables. Friday, 1/23: Soup du jour, roast beef sandwiches, bean salad.

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

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

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

Now introducing Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo! Classes will start on January 26th, and will be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on every 4th Monday of the month.

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

Molly Starczewski named to Fall Dean’s List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Molly Starczewski of Dudley excelled during the fall 2025 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean’s List. Molly’s major is Dance.

Hofstra University’s primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

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

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

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

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

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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

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

Nomination papers available for Webster town election

WEBSTER — The Annual Town Election will be held in Webster on Monday, May 4. Nomination papers are now available in the Town Clerk’s Office for those that wish to run for local office. The offices with positions available are as follows:

- *Board of Selectmen - Two Seats - Three Years
- *School Committee - Two Seats - Three Years
- *Board of Health - One Seat - Three Years
- One Seat - Two Years
- *Finance Committee - Two Seats - Three Years
- *Board of Library Trustees - Two Seats - Three Years
- *Housing Authority - One Seat - Three Years
- *Redevelopment Authority - One Seat - Five Years

Nomination papers require 50 Webster registered voter signatures for all town-wide offices. The last day to take out nomination papers is Thursday, March 12. Nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office for certification of signatures by Monday, March 16 at 5 p.m.

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO23P4268EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
David McKay
Date of Death: 08/26/2023**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for has been filed by **Paula L McKay of Webster MA and Carleen A. Lewis of Thomspen CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that: **Paula L McKay of Webster MA and Carleen A. Lewis of Thomspen CT** be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/10/26.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 09, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate
January 23, 2026
**Docket No. WO25E0146PP
Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court**
To Linda Berisha of Oxford and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Zenel Cazimi of Oxford in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common an undivided 50% part or share of that certain land lying in Oxford in said County Worcester and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner of the lot to be conveyed at a point on Clarence Drive; THENCE along a curve to the left with a radius of 278.10 feet a distance of 8.88 feet; THENCE proceeding west along a curve to the left with a radius of 825.00 feet a distance of 116.12 feet to a point; THENCE N. 48° 34’ 32” W. a distance of 323.69 feet to a point; THENCE N. 6° 23’ 41” E. a distance of 57.11 feet to a point; THENCE N. 86° 53’ 29” E. a distance of 171.49 feet to a point; THENCE S. 38° 40’ 51” E. a distance of 247.45 feet to the point of beginning. setting forth that he/ she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than five hundred and fifty thousand (550,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the twenty fourth day of February 2026 the return day of this citation.

Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-ninth day of December 2025.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

January 16, 2026
January 23, 2026
January 30, 2026

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 26 SM 000131
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Jeffrey Lucewich
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 64 Myrtle Avenue, given by Jeffrey Lucewich to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for NewRez LLC, dated December 16, 2020, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64002, Page 140, 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 March 2, 2026, 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 January 15, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
28844
January 23, 2026

**Town of Dudley
Notice of Public Hearing**
Order for Joint or
Identical Pole Locations

National Grid and
Verizon New England, Inc.
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 166, § 22, a Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2026 beginning at 6:40pm** at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA in Room 321A The Purpose of this Hearing: To Act on a National Grid Pole Petition No. 31178149 Old Southbridge Road - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Old Southbridge Road beginning at a point approximately 180 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Roberts Road and Old Southbridge Road. Installing Stub Pole# 30-84 to support pole line. Pole line was originally supported by tree guy and anchor, but the tree is gone and no longer supporting utility pole line.
Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the date and times specified or forward concerns in writing.
Jana Deschenes
Dudley Board of Selectmen
January 23, 2026

**Town of Dudley
Notice of Public Hearing**
Order for Joint or
Identical Pole Locations
National Grid and
Verizon New England, Inc.
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 166, § 22, a Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2026 beginning at 6:35pm** at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA in Room 321A The Purpose of this Hearing: To Act on a National Grid Pole Petition No. 31209149.
Cottage Road - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Cottage Road beginning at a point approximately 335 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Cottage Rd. and Pierpont Rd. Installing Stub Pole 3-84 with anchor attached to support Pole #3 and accompanying pole line.
Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the date and times specified or forward concerns in writing.
Jana Deschenes
Dudley Board of Selectmen
January 23, 2026

KANDOLE

continued from page A1

dents at Saint Joseph School put their values into action

through planned giving and ongoing service initiatives.

The assembly concluded with the school community singing “Sto Lat” and taking a group photo with Fr.

Saturday. Staff and students expressed gratitude for his visit and shared hope that he will return to Saint Joseph School again in the future.



Fr. James Kandole Saturday sits with Saint Joseph School’s PreK three-year-old students during his classroom visit, speaking about the Nativity and the birth of Jesus as the children listen attentively.

HEROES

continued from page A1

silent auction.

Honorees are:

- Cindy Snow, music teacher, Dudley Middle School
- Michelle Hooper, kindergarten teacher, Mason Road
- Laurie Campos, food service worker, Charlton Middle School
- Peter Olson, principal, Heritage School
- Heather Bowes, parent volunteer

Steve Laabs, custodian, Heritage School

Wayne Tower, custodian, Dudley Elementary School

Nicole Fossas, girls cross country coach, Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Len Harmon, cross country & track coach, Shepherd Hill Regional High School

MaryEllen Cerbone, director of human resource, District Office

“As we celebrate this year’s extraordinary ‘Heroes,’ I continue to be humbled by the depth of

their dedication and the lasting impact they have on our community,” shares DCEF President Sabrina Webb. “Their unwavering commitment to our students goes well beyond the classroom. I offer my heartfelt thanks to each honoree and to everyone who champions the mission of DCEF.”

Tickets for the dinner are \$75 per person, and can be purchased online at <https://dcefoundation.org/event/4th-annual-heroes-among-us-awards-night/>.

OBITUARY

Irene Dabrowski, 96



PLYMOUTH - Irene (Borowski) Dabrowski, 96, formerly of Dudley, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on January 14, 2026. Her husband of 49 years, Louis A. Dabrowski,

died in 1999.

Irene was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by her 5 children, Eric and his longtime partner Susan Hall of Laguna Hills, CA, Paul and his wife Elaine of Webster, Karen Monahan of Thompson, CT, Linda and her husband Kevin O’Neil of Plymouth with whom she lived, and David and his wife Lori Gooch of Charlton; 4 grandchildren, Benjamin, Zachary, Joseph, and Dylan; 5 great-grandchildren, Ellah, Otto, Elsay, Ozzie and Odin. Irene is predeceased by her granddaughter Emily Dabrowski, and by her brother Frederick Borowski.

She was born in Dudley, MA in 1929 to Jenny (Szewczyk) and Stanley Borowski. Irene graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster. She spent the majority of her life in Dudley where she raised her family.

In addition to raising five children, Irene maintained a career as a bookkeeper. Over the years she worked for Cranston

Print Works in Webster, Table Talk Pies in Worcester and Xtra Mart in Woodstock CT.

Upon retirement Irene began to explore her talent for painting and drawing. She enrolled in various local art classes including at the Worcester Art Museum. Her talents were rewarded with ribbons and prizes for many of her beautiful oil paintings. She continued her passion for painting and drawing well into her 90’s. She was generous with gifting her art to her beloved family that she often used as subjects.

Irene also loved animals of all kinds, rescuing many needy dogs and cats over her lifetime. There wasn’t a stray cat that she didn’t care about so she volunteered for the Community Cat Connection Animal Shelter in Webster.

Her funeral will be held on Wednesday, January 28, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley (please meet at church). Burial will follow in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Donations in memory of Irene may be made to the Community Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster. www.websterfunerals.com

Send all obituary notices to

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or by e-mail to

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- Annual Bonus

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- Demonstrates commitment to quality, safety, and continuous improvement

Sign-On Bonus Eligibility:

The \$10,000 sign-on bonus is available to candidates who meet experience and skill
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Assumption students
named to Fall Dean's List

W O R C E S T E R
— Assumption University has
announced those who have
been named to the University's
Dean's List for the fall 2025
semester. Students named to
the Dean's List must achieve a
grade point average of 3.5 for
a five-class, 15-credit semester
to be included on this presti-
gious list, which is announced
at the completion of the fall and
spring semesters.
Brooke LeBlanc of Dudley
Sebastian Podgorny of
Oxford
Isabella Direda of Oxford
Benjamin Duquette of
Webster
Abigail Frappier of Oxford
Evan Remington of Oxford
Daniel Gronek of Oxford
Vanessa Piowarczyk of
Webster
Abigail Ruda of Dudley
Annabella Tran of Webster
Sean Tyrrell of Dudley
Logan Alexander of Auburn
Owen Fitzgerald of Auburn
Marta Brzoska of Auburn
Ashley Wilbur of Auburn
Lia McDonald of Auburn
Jordan Tatro of Auburn
James Deneault of Auburn
Shannon Finan of Auburn
Hannah Murray of Auburn
“Earning the right to be
named to the Assumption
University's Dean's List is an
extraordinary accomplishment
and we congratulate those stu-
dents who demonstrated exem-
plary academic excellence this
semester,” said Assumption
University President Greg
Weiner, Ph.D. “These students
have demonstrated a deep com-
mitment to the pursuit of truth
in the company of friends that
lies at the heart of the Catholic
liberal education Assumption
provides.”
About Assumption University
Assumption University,
founded in 1904 by the
Augustinians of the Assumption,
is a premier New England uni-
versity for high-quality educa-
tion, integrating career prepara-
tion and education of the whole
person, drawing upon the best
in the rich and centuries-long
tradition of Catholic higher edu-
cation. Assumption's graduates
are known for their intellectu-
al seriousness, thoughtful citi-
zenship, and devotion to the
common good. The University
offers 37 majors and 49 minors
in the liberal arts, sciences,
business, nursing, professional
studies, and other areas, as well
as graduate degrees and pro-
fessional credentials. For more
information about Assumption
University, please visit assump-
tion.edu or follow us @
AssumptionUMA.

Brigham Arthur Dubey of Dudley
named to Clarkson University's
Dean's List

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Brigham Arthur Dubey of Dudley, a junior
majoring in engineering and management, was named to the Dean's
List for the Fall 2025 semester at Clarkson University.
Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point
average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.
Clarkson University is a proven leader in technological educa-
tion, research, innovation and sustainable economic development.
With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate
program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson
Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800
students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate
and graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business,
science and health professions; executive education, industry-re-
levant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries
among the top 2 percent in the nation: one in five already leads in
the c-suite. To learn more, go to www.clarkson.edu.

www.StonebridgePress.com

Food
FACT:

This soup is
traditionally smooth
and creamy and
often begins with a
shellfish stock.

Answer: Bisque

Crossword Puzzle

1				2		3	
				4			
5							
						6	
7			8				
			9				

ACROSS

1. Related to onions
4. Passage of minutes
5. Reason
6. Artificial intelligence
7. Liquid meals
9. Browned bread

DOWN

1. Scoops liquid
2. Bases for soups
3. Importance given
8. Cooking vessel

Answers:
Across
1. Leeks 4. Time 5. Logic 6. AI 7. Soups
Down
1. Ladles 2. Stocks 3. Emphasis 8. Pot 9. Toast

THIS
DAY IN
HISTORY

1789: The first
American novel is
printed in Boston.
1915: Kiwanis
International is
founded in Detroit.
1948: The Flag of
Quebec is adopted
and flown for the
first time over the
National Assembly of
Quebec.

NEW
WORD

CHOWDER

thick, hearty soup
defined by its
chunky texture



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* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

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On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.



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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF. 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



SORRY, SOLD!

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates \$775,000

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop. Patrol Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline. \$599,000



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- *2 Full Baths
- *Finished Lower Level-
- 3 Bedrooms-Bath
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Courtesy
Central Mass Conference Football Officials (CMFCO) presented the 2025 Sportsmanship Award to the Oxford High School Football team. The award reflects exemplary sportsmanship exhibited by the team, coaching staff, administration, student body and fans as voted by the officials of the CMFCO. Past sportsmanship award winners can be found on the CMFCO Web site, <https://cmfo.org/>. If interested in becoming a high school football official, please reach out to the CMFCO via its Web site.

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Camryn LaPrad named to Dean's List at Miami University

OXFORD, Ohio — Camryn LaPrad was named to the Dean's list at Miami University for the 2025 fall semester.

Miami University students who are ranked in the top twenty percent of undergraduate students within their division for the 2025 spring semester have been named to the Dean's list recognizing academic performance.

Congratulations to LaPrad, from Auburn, for this academic achievement.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of over 22,600 undergraduates and 2,200 graduate students, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by the U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio-with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg-Miami serves more than 22,600 undergraduates across more than 100 areas of study, and more than 2,200 graduate students through 78 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds \$2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is an NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student-athletes across 19 varsity sports. For more information, visit MiamiOH.edu.

Joseph Hall of Auburn achieves Dean's List at NECC

HAVERHILL — Congratulations to Joseph Hall of Auburn on being named to the Northern Essex Community College Fall 2025 Dean's List.

To be included, students must attain a grade point average of 3.3 or higher within the term, carry six or more credits within the term, and be matriculated in a degree program.

Northern Essex Community College, the first federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC offers many bachelor's degree transfer options, workforce development and community education classes, and is host to the NECC Police Academy, MassHire Merrimack Valley, and Gallaudet University's Regional Center for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit Northern Essex online at www.necc.mass.edu.

Friday's Child

Kassidy

Age 15

Registration #7379

Kassidy is a bright, energetic child with a big personality and a love for being the center of attention. She enjoys singing, dancing, and doing arts and crafts—especially when she can show off her creative side. Kassidy is imaginative and expressive, often turning everyday moments into opportunities for fun and performance. She has a great sense of humor and loves to make people laugh with her jokes and silly antics. Kassidy especially enjoys spending quality time with adults and responds well to positive attention and encouragement. She's at her best when she knows what to expect and feels supported by the people around her. Kassidy is curious, spirited, and full of life. Whether she's working on an art project or putting on a dance routine, she brings joy and excitement to every activity she takes part in.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22540928059>

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. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER: