

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, May 8, 2020

Nichols sends off Class of 2020 with virtual celebration

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Even though the Nichols College graduating class of 2020 were unable to enjoy their final months together on campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school still made an effort to recognize the achievements of these graduates with a special virtual ceremony on Saturday, May 2.

While the college does plan to hold an in-person graduation ceremony in the future, Nichols College did not want to send their outgoing graduates into the world without one more get together even if they had to do it online. The ceremony was held on YouTube the morning of May 2 featuring several speakers including Nichols President Susan Engelkemeyer who recalled her address

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Guest speakers for the Nichols College Class of 2020 Virtual Celebration President Susan Engelkemeyer, Valedictorian Jessica Larsh, Class Speaker Taylor Ward and Class Representative Janey Newman make a toast to the senior class.

Courtesy Photo

School Committee talks graduation, remote learning

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – School may be officially closed by pandemic, but “our remote learning plan is up and running,” Superintendent Ruthann Goguen-Petrunas told the School Committee recently.

The big issues are planning for next year and balancing computers and real life.

“Remote learning is not synonymous with being plugged into a computer,” she noted.

Instead, the district is trying to provide some internet-based material, both recorded and live by Google Meets, as well as having projects in which students get the curriculum hands-on. In the latter case, she pointed to the example of learning science, math and other concepts by “cooking a pizza with your parents.”

“We don’t want to make remote learning three hours of students sitting in front of a computer doing worksheets,” she added. “... This is an opportunity to be creative and tie real-life experience into learning.”

Like anything new, “we’ve been tasked with building a new system as we’re doing it,” and that means regularly looking “at what worked and what didn’t work.” Going forward, she added, the administration is trying to figure out a couple of key things: how to ensure kids without internet access get the material (at present, they’re sending hard copy home), how to enable kids and parents to ask questions (teachers are always available during regular school hours), and “work[ing] around the fundamental needs of our families.” In many cases, that still means parents with jobs and young kids who need them present to get the most of out their online access; that’s where recorded classes come in.

Equally critical, though, is planning for graduation and next year. Goguen said the district is still working out some way to honor this year’s seniors, and asked parents to talk to the high school principal if they have ideas.

“We could never not do a graduation,” she said, noting at least one district is already organizing a “virtual graduation.” “...There’s nothing that will get in our way of celebrating their success as Bartlett seniors.”

The high school is only using first and second quarter grades to calculate class rank and GPA, and the state is allowing districts to certify students met graduation requirements without taking the MCAS this year, she added. Third quarter grades recently went out, and current work is being graded on a “credit or no credit” basis.

The state also recently urged towns to come to some agreement with their bus companies, since they’re largely idle now. Business Manager Monique Pierangeli said the state “wants us to continue to pay transport vendors ... to make sure these companies are still viable” when school resumes in the fall. The towns have contracts, but they include fuel and other built-in costs that are necessary right now.

To bridge the gap, she said, several towns that use AA Transportation are bringing proposals to their school committees to pay the drivers 75 percent of their salaries, with the owner picking up the rest and insurance coverage. Shortly before the state’s guidance came out, AA laid off its drivers, but it will restore them and pay them through the summer (when they’d normally be on unemployment), she said.

Turn To **SCHOOL COMMITTEE** page **A15**

Memorial Day Parade canceled due to Coronavirus concerns

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – While the month of May is usually a time to celebrate and honor the lives of fallen members of the military through Memorial Day celebrations, the people of Dudley and Webster will be honoring the fallen in spirit in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of the annual Memorial Day Parade.

Veterans Service Agent Stephen Rogerson released a notice to citizens explaining that due to the ongoing health crisis across the country and after hearing recommendations from President Donald Trump the towns will not be able to hold their yearly public gatherings to honor fallen soldiers.

“We do ask everyone to spend Memorial Day at home keeping in mind the many veterans we

have lost in their endeavor to keep our country free and our citizens safe,” Rogerson said in a press release. “This is still the time to show respect by praying and honoring these heroes who have passed, however, there will be no public events or gatherings for this Memorial Day.”

While the public won’t be able to gather in recognition of the lives lost in conflicts from decades past, other activities will

still take place on a smaller scale. Veterans will still be placing wreaths, flowers and flags at all Heroes Squares and the monuments in both Dudley and Webster. Rogerson also assured that proper military burials and honors will be given to veterans who were interred during the pandemic’s shutdown period. All cemeteries in Dudley and Webster will also see American flags erected on all military burial markers.

Shepherd Hill Show Choir staff salutes seniors



Courtesy Photo

The Shepherd Hill Show Choir Staff honored their outgoing seniors with a special parade and presentation of senior banners to 30 soon-to-be graduates.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON/DUDLEY – The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the lives of seniors across the country preventing them from enjoying their final month of high school education in a traditional manner. This has forced many school districts and departments to get creative with how they honor their outgoing seniors. For the show choir

seniors from Shepherd Hill Regional High School in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District that involved the choir staff visiting each seniors’ home in the form of a Senior Celebration Parade.

In late April, the Shepherd Hill Show Choir staff took to the streets of Charlton, Dudley and Webster and even Putnam, Connecticut to visit the homes of graduating

seniors and bid them a final farewell. Over the course of five and a half hours Choral Director Becky Bussiere, choreographers Greg Bubba Bussiere and Ashley Racicot, pit band director Lester Boggio, assistants Connie Galli, Jana Deschenes and Zachary Moore, and Technical Director Kristin Marengo drove together parade style presenting banners with each senior’s likeness. Choral Director

Bussiere said this was an attempt by the staff to maintain a longstanding tradition at the school by modifying it for current times.

“Every year, we end our show choir’s season with a banquet. We hang the senior banners we make for the show choir festival we host at our school. They hang in the cafeteria for the show choir community to see.

Turn To **CHOIR** page **A15**



National Nurses Week

Thank you!

Stonebridge Press and the following businesses would like to recognize nurses during National Nurses Week (May 6-May 12). Thank you for your selfless dedication, kindness, compassion, and bravery especially during these pandemic times. You are truly angels in scrubs. Thank you for all you do all year long.



What nurses do each day

There are millions of nurses nationwide. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, there are roughly 3.8 million registered nurses in the United States. That number figures to grow along with the demand for qualified, highly trained nurses.

et of functions, some of which may come as a surprise to those outside the medical profession. Learning more about what nurses do on a daily basis can paint a clearer picture of just how vital these health care professionals are.

Nurses are on the front lines of the medical profes-

sion, often interacting with patients more than any other professional within the health care field. Nurses communicate concerns, answer questions about conditions and care and even administer such care. While there are many tasks nurses can perform, some of their

main responsibilities are observing and recording behavior, performing physical exams and diagnostic tests, collecting patient health histories, counseling patients and their families, and educating about treatment plans. Nurses also are responsible for administering medications, addressing and treating wounds and interpreting doctors' patient information to make decisions about necessary actions, where appropriate.

Nurses excel at listening to patients and analyzing their physical and emotional needs. Nurses also coordinate care with other health care providers and stay current with treatment options and cutting edge research and technology.

In addition to the aforementioned tasks, nurses may draw blood and perform other health-related tests. Testing may differ based on the subspecialty of the nurse. For example, obstetrics nurses may initiate sonograms or oversee urine testing for pregnancy hormones. Pediatric nurses may plot growth charts and administer routine immunizations.

Nurses are also there to listen to patients, and some may offer compassionate advice as they aim to help patients navigate difficult situations.

According to CareerBuilder, nurses who work in physicians'



offices, community health centers, schools, and other health environments may enjoy a regular working schedule and shifts during typical business hours. However, nurses working in hospitals and trauma centers tend to work rotating shifts to ensure patients receive round-the-clock

care. Many nurses work outside traditional business hours, including during evenings, on holidays and on weekends. Some nurses are even on-call like doctors.

Nurses possess a distinct skill set that enables them to handle various tasks.

In honor of Nurses week, I would like to recognize the following dedicated healthcare workers.

Marylynn Pratt (ER Nurse at Baystate Medical)
Laurie Dibara (Nurse at Quaboag Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center)
Colleen Dibara (NP at St. Vincent's)

Your compassion, optimism, hard work, and kindness does not go unnoticed. Thank you, and all healthcare workers, from the bottom of my heart.
Happy Nurses Week!





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How to implement infection prevention measures in the workplace



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Protecting workers has long been a priority for business owners, but that responsibility took on new meaning in the wake of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in late-winter 2020. Business owners accustomed to traditional workplace safety protocols designed primarily to prevent accidents and injuries were now tasked with protecting workers from a deadly virus.

Though many businesses were forced to close their doors in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus, many others remained fully or partially operational. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends employers implement the following hygiene and infection control practices in an effort to prevent workers from infection.

- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing. Workers, customers and worksite visitors should be routinely reminded of the importance of washing their hands. The OSHA advises employers, in instances where soap and running water are not immediately available, to provide their employees with alcohol-based hand rubs that contain at least 60 percent alcohol. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges people to employ the following techniques when washing their hands:

When washing with soap and water:

- Lather the hands by rubbing them together with the soap, making sure to scrub all surfaces of the hands, in-

cluding palms, backs, fingers, between fingers, and under the nails

- Scrub for at least 20 seconds
- Rinse hands clean under running water
- Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry them

When washing with alcohol-based sanitizers:

- Cover all surfaces of the hands with the product before rubbing hands together
- Rub hands together until they feel dry, about 20 seconds

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick. Employers should emphasize to workers the importance of staying home if they feel sick. Even people who feel ill but are not showing any signs of COVID-19 infection, which the CDC notes include shortness of breath, fever and cough, should stay home. That's because any illness can weaken a person's immune system, which makes them more vulnerable to viruses like COVID-19. Staying home when they feel sick is a great way for employees to protect not only themselves, but also their coworkers.

- Encourage respiratory etiquette. The OSHA and the CDC say covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, putting used tissues in the waste basket and coughing or sneezing into an upper sleeve when no tissues are available can help prevent the spread of germs.

- Discourage sharing. Workers should be discouraged from sharing phones, desks, offices, and tools or equipment whenever possible. This can help prevent the spread of germs.

- Choose the appropriate cleaning chemicals. The OSHA advises employers to use chemical cleaners approved by the Environmental Protection Agen-

cy. The OSHA notes that products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens are expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 based on data for harder to kill viruses.

Protecting their employees from COVID-19 is of the utmost importance for employers across the globe. Safety measures can be implemented rather easily and ultimately save lives. TF206046

SOCIAL MEDIA TEXT: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends employers implement the following hygiene and infection control practices in an effort to prevent workers from infection.

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bankHometown provides economic lifelines to local businesses

OXFORD — Through the initial round of funding, bankHometown has approved over 400 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans totaling more than \$51 million, allowing hundreds of local businesses across central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut to keep more than 6,000 employees on the payroll.

One such small business is bankHometown customer Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care, a not-for-profit

rehabilitation and nursing care facility located in Putnam, Conn. Administrator Lisa Ryan said that while the organization has not furloughed any of its 180 employees, it might have had to if PPP funding had not come through.

“We’re on the frontlines in healthcare, so everyone here is essential and we have to operate with all hands on deck,” she said. “For us, the PPP is allowing us to go on delivering care much longer than we

could have without it.”

Ryan said that nursing homes like Matulaitis rely not only on reimbursements from Medicaid for long-term care, but on revenues from shorter term rehabilitative care for everything from cardiac events and strokes, to surgeries like knee and hip replacements. With the drop in non-COVID patients at area hospitals and elective surgeries on hold, the coronavirus has significantly affected their bottom line. “Revenues are down. We’re not seeing the level of referrals from hospitals we typically do,” she said. “So, this loan essentially keeps us in business.”



Courtesy

bankHometown Senior Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer Shawn McNerney with Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Administrator Lisa Ryan.

The Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a small business stimulus program included in the federal government’s \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The PPP provided an initial \$349 billion for SBA lenders like bankHometown to fund loans to businesses on a first-come, first served basis in order to guarantee eight weeks of payroll and other costs to help businesses remain viable. Funds were exhausted in less than two weeks, but Congress recently provided for additional funding capacity of \$320 billion. To qualify, businesses must have 500 or fewer employees and demonstrate that they have been negatively affected by the Coronavirus. If used for payroll and other qualifying expenses, the loans are forgivable.

According to Ryan, Matulaitis also made the decision to provide hazard pay for frontline employees, who often work several jobs but were asked to scale back to slow the spread of the disease.

“We can’t have them work in a COVID-positive environment and then come here. They’ve had to make a choice and a commitment to us, so in turn we’ve made a financial commitment to them,” she said, noting that the fear of contracting the virus and passing it along to residents, who she said are like family, is always top of mind.

Since the PPP funds payroll, Ryan noted that operational cash flow can continue covering expenses that have resulted from, or have been sharply increased by, the pandemic.

One such cost is for personal protective equipment—or PPE—like gowns, masks, and shields. Nationwide, PPE is in short supply and prices have skyrocketed.

“We’ve been scrambling to obtain equipment from a number of vendors, and prices have tripled or even quadrupled. We’re grateful we can continue purchasing the equipment we need to keep everyone safe,” said Ryan.

Another is the cost of tablets that are used for telehealth services and to allow residents to connect virtually with family while their site remains closed to visitors.

“Those are added expenses that no one could have planned or budgeted for and that had to be incurred immediately. We couldn’t wait,” Ryan said.

bankHometown’s commercial lending teams worked tirelessly to submit applications on behalf of hundreds of its small business customers like Matulaitis, knowing that for many business owners, timing was critical.

“These are trying times, and we understand the financial situation our customers are facing and the negative impact it can have on their business, the staff, and the community,” said bankHometown President and CEO Robert J. Morton.

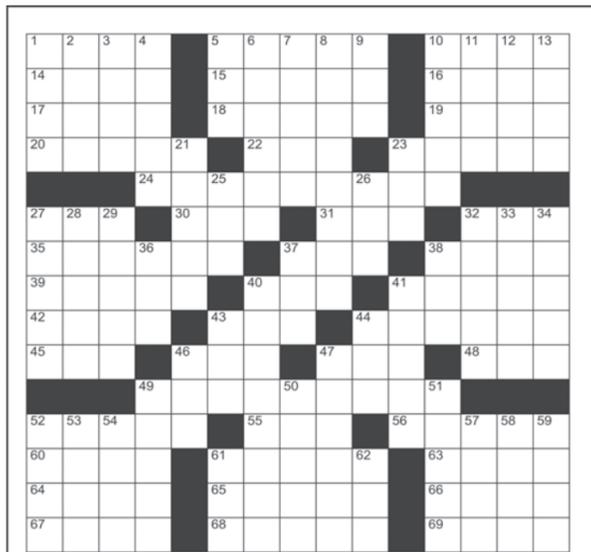
“We’ve moved quickly to get these funds in our customers’ hands so they can meet all of their obligations. As a community bank, this is what we do and I’m proud of our ability to help local organizations like Matulaitis,” he said.

Ryan noted that her organization’s application process with bankHometown “went smoothly” once federal guidance was issued, noting that they received funding in days and were able to put it to use quickly.

But, she admits that the pandemic has had a tremendous psychological effect on their business, though they remain focused on their residents and on trying to make the best of a difficult and unprecedented situation.

“Everyone is scared,” Ryan admits. “But we’re grateful our staff remains here to help keep our residents calm and their spirits up.”

About bankHometown Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford and has \$1.0 billion in assets and 15 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated more than \$368,000 to nearly 270 organizations. Over the last four years, the program has donated more than \$1.1 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Common request
- 5. Department in France
- 10. Fungi cells
- 14. Famed inventor
- 15. Hillsides
- 16. Cold wind
- 17. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 18. Resembling a doddering old woman
- 19. Geological periods
- 20. Assists
- 22. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 23. Jewish spiritual leader
- 24. English soccer club
- 27. Body art
- 30. No (Scottish)
- 31. Clumsy person
- 32. Swiss river
- 35. Belittled
- 37. Luxury car
- 38. Single sheet of glass in a window
- 39. Monetary units
- 40. Supervises flying
- 41. Indian term of respect
- 42. Breezed through
- 43. The bill in a restaurant
- 44. Flower cluster
- 45. Moved quickly
- 46. Shooters need to do it
- 47. High schoolers’ test
- 48. Split pulses
- 49. Salts
- 52. Breaking Bad actor ___ Paul
- 55. Set ablaze
- 56. Semitic Sun god
- 60. Nervous system cells
- 61. Tourist destination Buenos ___
- 63. A way to bind
- 64. Behave uncontrollably
- 65. Feels concern
- 66. Sportscaster Andrews
- 67. Subway dwellers
- 68. Astrological aspect
- 69. You may take one

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Swedish rock group
- 2. Serbian
- 3. Away from wind
- 4. Actor Oliver
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Intricately decorative
- 7. American state
- 8. Type of tumor
- 9. Midway between east and southeast
- 10. On a line at right angles to a ship’s length
- 11. Fruit of the service tree
- 12. Grouch
- 13. Romanian city
- 21. Units of loudness
- 23. British Air Aces
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Hem’s partner
- 27. Turkic people
- 28. Member of the banana family
- 29. Liam Neeson franchise
- 32. Expressed pleasure
- 33. Inward-directed part of psyche
- 34. Insurgent
- 36. Unhappy
- 37. Gateway (Arabic)
- 38. Fundraising political group (abbr.)
- 40. Well-known
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. ___ death do us part
- 44. Jailhouse informant
- 46. French river
- 47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 49. Drenches
- 50. Clouds
- 51. Companies need to make them
- 52. Created from seaweed
- 53. One’s school: ___ mater
- 54. A type of act
- 57. Member of Russian people
- 58. Neutralizes alkalis
- 59. Monetary unit
- 61. Play a role
- 62. Midway between south and southeast



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WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of April 26 to May 2.

Kristin A. Montrond, age 32, of Webster was arrested on April 26 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Stop for Police.

Hailey Lefebvre, age 28, of Webster was arrested on April 26 for Assault & Battery.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 27 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault on a Family or Household Member, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

John M. Baker, age 46, of Webster was arrested on April 29 in connection with multiple warrants.

Kevin J. Szczepaniak, age 50, of Oxford was arrested on April 29 in connection with a warrant.

Christen E. Robinson, age 33, of Webster was arrested on April 29 in connection with a warrant.

An adult female whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 20 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Kevin J. Manfield, age 45, of Webster was arrested on April 30 for Armed Breaking & Entering in the Daytime (a felony), Destruction of Property valued at \$1,200 or less, and Failure to Register as a Sex Offender (subsequent offense).

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 1 for Assault on a Family or Household Member (subsequent), Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official, Indecent Assault & Battery on a Person aged 14 or Older, Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim, Strangulation or Suffocation of a Pregnant Victim, and three counts of Rape.

Jessica Lynn Irish, age 29, of Worcester was arrested on May 1 in connection with a warrant.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported only one arrest during the week of April 24 to May 1.

Jaycob Keevan, age 21, of Dudley was arrested on April 26 for Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim.



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Oxford's Robert Kersting receives promotion at Westfield State University



Professor Robert Kersting

WESTFIELD—Oxford resident Robert Kersting, Ph.D., a long-time professor in Westfield State University's Department of Social Work, has been appointed the University's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. The appointment was announced at the April 30 Board of Trustees meeting by Westfield State President Ramon Torrecilha, Ph.D. Dr. Kersting will start his new role July 1.

According to President Torrecilha, Kersting, as the University's chief academic officer, will most immediately provide key oversight to critical academic initiatives and the planning for the University's upcoming New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) accreditation, as well as ongoing enhancements to the University's student engagement, achievement, and retention measures.

"Dr. Kersting's extensive institutional knowledge and demonstrated leadership with student-centered programs and initiatives and influential University committees position him well for success as provost on the University's executive leadership team," said President Torrecilha.

Kersting founded and directed Westfield State's highly-enrolled social work undergraduate and graduate degree programs. He continues to serve as director for the Master of Social Work (MSW) program, which offers classes at the YWCA in Worcester. In addition to his respected management with both programs, Kersting has provided valuable contributions to a lengthy portfolio of critical committees during his nearly 25 years at Westfield State. These include the Academic Policy Committee, Graduate Education Council, Science Center Building

Steering Committee, Special Committee on University Planning, Campus Technology Committee, Institutional Diversity Advisory Committee, and the 2016-17 Provost Search Committee, among others.

Prior to Westfield State, he taught at Bridgewater State College, Eastern Connecticut State University, and Rutgers University's Graduate School of Social Work. Beyond his teaching experience, he was a practicing social worker for 15 years.

Kersting's national professional affiliations include service on the Council for Social Work Education's (CSWE) Commission on Education Policy and the National Association of Social Work Massachusetts Chapter Board of Directors. He also serves as an accreditation site visitor for CSWE. His current areas of interest include social work practice with individuals and families, critical thinking, gerontology, and HIV/AIDS.

Kersting holds a Ph.D. in social work from Rutgers University in New Jersey, a Master of Social Work from Fordham University in New York, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, sociology, and social work from Hope College in Michigan.

He will assume the role of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Westfield State in July, following the service of current Provost and Vice

President for Academic Affairs Diane Prusank, Ph.D.

"I thank and celebrate Provost Prusank's many achievements and contributions that have paved a path for Dr. Kersting to assume this important role. Her commitment to and exemplary leadership of the Division of Academic Affairs since 2018 will ensure the continued success of our formalized college structure and improved processes to benefit our students and the faculty and staff responsible for inspiring, educating, and supporting them," said President Torrecilha.

Founded in 1839 by Horace Mann, Westfield State University is an education leader committed to providing every generation of students with a learning experience built on its founding principle as the first public co-educational college in America to offer an education without barrier to race, gender, or economic status. This spirit of innovative thinking and social responsibility is forged in a curriculum of liberal arts and professional studies that creates a vital community of engaged learners who become confident, capable individuals prepared for leadership and service to society. For more information about Westfield State University, visit www.westfield.ma.edu, www.twitter.com/westfield-state, or <https://www.facebook.com/WestfieldStateUniversity>.

Dudley Library continuing outreach

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Even though the doors might be closed, the Pearle L. Crawford Library is still in operation providing resources online for patrons to utilize while they are safe at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Library Board of Trustees met for the first time since the pandemic began through a Zoom meeting on April 28 where Library Director Drusilla Carter provided an update on how the library has worked to provide activities and

access to literature even with the doors closed to the public. Carter is one of only two people in the building during the week, along with Youth Services Librarian Lida Carroll, and both are working to continue to connect with citizens through videos and social media on a weekly basis.

"We have been working really hard to come up with online programs. We're doing story time live once a week as well as other readings. A number of libraries on Facebook are swapping various videos and programs. If you keep an eye on our Facebook page over the next couple of

weeks you'll see a number of those coming up," Carter said.

The Facebook videos have proven to be a popular offering with one video, an origami walk-through, earning 113 views after its posting. Story time videos have also seen great viewership with an average of 30 viewers when the videos go live which Carter feels is proof that "we're helping a little bit."

Thanks to the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing, Inc, or CW MARS, the Pearle has also been issued an instant e-card which allows patrons to download

e-books and audio books even without access to a library card. Carter said she has been providing telephone walkthroughs to help citizens utilize that service which has been quite the experience to say the least.

"It's interesting trying to walk someone through how to download an e-book on a Kindle when you're not looking at a Kindle. We've had some fun trying to do that. We've also updated some passwords for those who have forgotten their pins," Carter said.

As for the rest of the

library staff, Carter said they have been in "pretty good spirits" despite the uncertain nature of the pandemic. While it's unclear when the library will be able to reopen Carter said that when the town is ready to return to normal the facility will likely remain closed for an additional week to bring in employees to catalogue and properly plan to restart programs. A reworked format for summer reading is being explored as well to allow children to still embrace literature while school is out even though they

can't visit the library to find books.

Another program effected by the COVID-19 pandemic is the library's tenth anniversary celebration. The current facility opened its doors in July of 2010 but due to the pandemic it's likely those celebrations will be put off until later in the year. As of now, all programs through June 1 have been postponed or cancelled with additional information on the library's future to be released as the pandemic situation becomes clearer.

DAR Good Citizens Awards announced for 2020

OXFORD — The General Ebenezer Learned Oxford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) would like to congratulate the school winners of the Good Citizens Award.

The recipient of the top honor, and representing the General Ebenezer Learned Chapter at the state level, is Ms. Anya Grondlski of Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley. Other school representatives are: Ms. Hannah Picchioni of Bartlett High School, Ms. Sadie Smith of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Ms. Adeline Ford of Quaboag Regional Middle/ High School, Ms. Audra McDuffie of Millbury Jr./Sr. High School, Ms. Gabrielle Gournoyer of North Brookfield High School, Mr. Zachary Bergeron of David Prouty High School in Spencer, Ms. Cynthia Shaw of Oxford High School and Mr. Maxwell Ballou of Tantasqua Regional High School in Fiskdale. The recipients received recognition certificates, pins and cards for their achievement.

The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, is intended to encourage and reward the

qualities of good citizenship.

This award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. These students are selected by their teachers and peers because they demonstrate these qualities to an outstanding degree.

This program is only open to high-school seniors whose schools are accredited by their state board of education.

Only one student per year may be honored as a school's DAR Good Citizen.

United States citizenship is not required.

Additional rules and guidelines can be acquired by contacting your local DAR chapter.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. DAR members are dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism in communities across the nation. All students are invited to participate and learn more about the educational programs the DAR offers.

Dudley Annual Town Election June 15 • 8am-8pm Dudley Municipal Center



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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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Completing the Application

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Submitting the Application

Send the completed application to the local election official Dudley Town Clerk, 71 W. Main St., Dudley, MA 01571. Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible. Fax: 508.949.7115 Email: townclerk@dudleyma.gov. Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day, 6/15 @ 8pm. Find contact information for local election officials at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

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Shopping with zombies

As an extreme extrovert, quarantine is torture. An extrovert gains energy from being with and communicating with others. Quarantine prohibits what gives me energy. I've slept more and have stared at the TV more in the last month than I did in the last year. I can't take much more.

A friend recently posted a meme on social media that said,

"Now that I am living through a plague, I understand why most of the Italian renaissance artists painted pictures of fat, half-naked people laying on their couch."

A few days ago, I decided enough was enough. I donned a mask, slipped on my gloves, and headed to my local grocery store. I should not have gone out, but shopping is a social event for me. I can go in for a quart of milk and spend two hours chatting and meeting people. I can't help it. It's who I am. I'm an extrovert.

So, properly protected, and with much excitement and anticipation of connecting with other human beings, with proper social distancing, I ventured into the store.



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

I grabbed my cart, wiped it down with disinfectant, walked through the door to find the store was both packed with other mask and glove wearing individuals, but the silence was surprising. With a big smile on my shielded face, I began trying to make eye contact, but everyone, eyes down, seemed to resist.

And there was something new and unusual on the floors ... arrows indicating that all the aisles were now traffic coordinated with one-way signs, which limited my ability to smile and make contact in hopes of finding another human in need of a conversation.

Like a horror movie about the living dead, I was shopping with zombies. No eye contact. No smiles. No social interaction of any kind. The brief momentary eye contact I did experience seemed both unwelcome and fearful, as if zombie eyes

can send a virus causing death ray into the eyes of others. I'm making light of it, but the people in the store were scared.

What are we doing? Where are we going? How will quarantine impact the rest of our lives, and will it ever end? I don't have answers but only questions.

As I've said several times before, human beings are herd animals. We thrive with family and friends. Most are happiest within the familiarity of the herd. What we are experiencing is unnatural.

I understand the need for social distancing and cooperating with the directives of our governing bodies. This all began with us knowing so little about this virus that extreme measures were warranted and welcomed. As we learn more about who is at risk and how, we can more intelligently manage the dangers. Isn't it time to begin a slow and measured return to some level of normalcy?

One-size-fits-all measures are rarely, if ever, good. The elderly and those of us with health conditions that make us

susceptible must shelter in place and take every precaution to remain safe. But is that true for the young and healthy?

Our business community is being crushed. Hospitals have been prohibited from doing elective surgery. In the beginning, I understand there was a fear that our healthcare systems would be overwhelmed and collapse. It didn't happen. Instead, like our small business community, our hospitals could conceivably collapse under the extreme mandates and financial pressures of not taking in the cash needed to function. How would we cope without hospitals?

Why can't a young and healthy twenty-something athlete get his/her knee repaired? Why can't a healthy thirty-two-year-old data processor have

carpal tunnel surgery? The hospitals need to function, and the demand is there. Isn't it time to cautiously begin the slow and measured process of returning life back to normal?

As for shopping with zombies, my feeble attempt at humor, I understand that protective measures must be continued, and I'll fully comply. There is no evidence however that the virus is transmitted by making eye contact at a safe distance. As I hope there is a slow return to normalcy in governmental restrictions, I equally hope that we can lift the fear from our minds and hearts and begin making eye contact again and sharing smiles. Smiling does lift our spirits and make us feel better. I don't need you to remove your face mask to see

your smile. Our eyes tell it all. Let's all snap out of our zombie state, become less fearful and start seeing each other again.

My daughter is a pastor and often ends her church service with this statement. "I need you. You need me. We need you and you need us." It's never been truer.

Let's make eye contact. Let's acknowledge each other. We need each other. The herd needs to see your smiling eyes.

Will you look at me once again when I see you?

I miss you.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Smart moves for women business owners

FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Mother's Day is upon us. If you're a mother, you'll enjoy the recognition you get from your family on this day. And given the health concerns caused by the coronavirus, your appreciation of family may be even greater this year. As we all know, mothers have a difficult job. And many mothers also run their own businesses – another demanding task made even more difficult these days. What special challenges do women face who embark on careers as business owners?

Of course, motherhood itself presents a major challenge. As a society, we have not achieved gender equity yet, in terms of family responsibilities, so mothers – even busy business owners – still face time constraints and interruptions from work to care for children. And it's not just children, either – the vast majority of caregivers for elderly

Turn To **FINANCIAL** page **A15**



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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

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

The amazing life of the first Christians

What was life like for the first Christians? We can read a powerful and inspiring description in the Acts of the Apostles:

BEYOND THE PEWS

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

the Hebrew-speaking Jewish Christians when aid was distributed. The Evangelist Luke isn't afraid to record these problems in the book of Acts. He willingly shows the very human side of the Church.

"The first Christians continued steadfastly in the apostles' teachings. They SHARED ALL THINGS in common, even selling their possessions to help those in need. They PRAYED DAILY in the temple and in each others' houses. They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of the Lord with boldness. With great power they gave witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. When they were beaten for speaking in the name of Jesus, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ's name. And great grace was upon them as the Lord added to the church daily those being saved." (Acts 2:42-46; 4:31-34; 5:40-42)

The Church has never been a perfect community. It has always had, though, believers who strive to live a sincere life in Jesus. Christ's teachings drastically change lives of those who follow Him! His followers didn't simply believe that Jesus rose from the dead, and then went on living their lives just like everyone else. NO! To become a follower of Jesus meant that everything in life would be measured according to His teachings. Christ's call to become "perfect as our heavenly father is perfect" was taken seriously. Thus, the first Christians lived lives that were quite different than those around them in society.

What an amazing account of the early church! The first Christians' lives were forever changed by their encounter with the Risen Christ and they were empowered in an unbelievable way by the coming of the Holy Spirit! Obviously, this was why the Church gained thousands of followers during that initial period, and this is what transformed a tiny sect of Jewish believers into a community of faith that would not only eventually conquer the Roman Empire, but would become the largest world religion making up 30 percent of the world's population. People saw how the followers of Jesus lived, and were inspired by what they saw. They witnessed a loving community of faith and wanted to join them, even though it was dangerous to become one of them! Read carefully how the first Christians lived:

- Learning and growing in the teachings of Jesus;
 - Experiencing fellowship that nurtured one another;
 - Sharing all they had with an extreme generosity with those in need;
 - Praying constantly in the temple and in one another's homes;
 - Radiating joy and gladness even when they suffered;
 - Finding courage to speak boldly about the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Allowing their lives to be transformed into becoming more and more like Jesus!

Of course, all Christians didn't always live up to their ideals. The authentic followers of Christ, however, knew that they had to forgive one another. They had to show mercy to not only each other, but even to those outside their community of faith. When people persecuted them, and even killed them, they did not fight back but instead forgave their persecutors and accepted martyrdom joyously. They tried to live out the Sermon on the Mount which Jesus taught them. They lived under the radical reign of the Kingdom of God, which has a quite different standard than that of the world. That is why they sold their possessions and shared with those in need. That is why they would risk their lives to travel the world over in order to share the Good News of Christ's Resurrection and the presence of God's Kingdom on earth here and now! They lived their lives as if their lives had been changed by Jesus! The fact was, that their lives had been changed by their encounter with the risen Christ!

As we read this, contemporary Christians need to ask ourselves if we are also willing to follow the same path of the early Church. Do we sincerely strive to live our lives in a similar manner as the first Christians? Do we allow Christ and His teachings to become the primary guiding force in our lives? Do we strive to live the oftentimes uncomfortable life of Christ - where we sell our possessions to share with those in need; where we sincerely forgive those who hurt us, even if they do something horrible to us; where we ultimately strive to put the "other" before ourselves, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to make this unconditional love the central characteristic that others will see in our lives?

The authentic Christian life is a very difficult one. It is an uncomfortable life that demands sacrifice. It means that we have to change our ego-centric ways and make them Christo-centric. It ultimately means that our lives will be different from most people in the world. But are we willing to be different? Are we willing to live under the reign of God instead of the influence of society? Are we ready to follow the path which the early church walked, which was an extremely difficult one, but in the process was a road by which they discovered an incredible grace and joy?

Let us reflect on the first Christians, and imitate them in our own lives.

Be mindful of young people's online activities



CHIEF'S CORNER
STEVE WOJNAR

The COVID-19 situation continues to create many challenges. Unsuspecting people can unwittingly become the victim of a crime. Another issue brought to my attention this past week, was on-line predators trying to exploit young people. With so much on-line activity taking place now, these

instances are becoming more common. The US Attorney and the Homeland Securities Investigation Offices offered some warnings for parents that I wanted to take this opportunity to share.

"As a result of school closings due to COVID-19, children are increasingly using online resources for schoolwork and entertainment. Due to increased access to and reliance on social media, chatting apps, gaming, and other internet-based platforms, children may be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Now more than ever before, it is imperative that parents and guardians take steps to educate and protect children online. The U.S. Attorney's Office and Homeland Security Investigations have partnered to develop an awareness campaign, 'Think Before You Click,' to encourage parents and guardians to discuss internet safety with children of all ages and to monitor internet use. The goal is to make parents and guardians more cognizant of the dangers to children online and arm them with tools to protect children's privacy."

"According to Jason Molina, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Boston, the marked increase in social media usage, and lessened social interaction, may create opportunity for predators to exploit our children. The combination of parental supervision, open discussions about internet safety, active monitoring, and smarter use of privacy settings will reduce the chance of victimization from child predators." Some recommendations are to position computers in common areas and not in bedrooms, try to maintain the highest possible security settings for on-line profiles and gaming, check their profiles often to know who they are talking to and what they are posting, and have open discussions of internet safety with all children, particularly around the issue of how photos posted on-line, are permanent.

They are promoting a program called, "Project Safe Childhood (PSC)" which can provide a great deal of information on these subjects. This program was founded in May of 2006 by the Department of Justice, as a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. The goal is to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. PSC also conducts education and outreach programs aimed at combating and preventing technology-facilitated crimes." For more information, visit: www.projectsafchildhood.gov, www.netsmartzkids.org, www.missingkids.org, www.ice.gov/topics/iGuardians, www.justice.gov/usao-ma/project-safe-childhood.

Thanks again go out to the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley. Thanks also go out to the many Fire and Emergency Services members, public works and government employees, hospital workers, grocery and retail workers, and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service through this situation. We will get through this and hopefully we will be back in full swing soon, with as limited negative impact as possible.

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

EDITORIAL

An important lesson from history

We have several thoughts now that states are beginning to slowly re-open. Each state is doing it in their own way. We have noticed that this situation has made more aware of the remarkable amount of control state governors actually have. This is a good thing.

As we've seen on the national news, some states are riddled with protesters, in many cases armed with guns. We simply cannot fathom this approach. Governors are taking measures to protect the health and well being of their residents. Mistakes are bound to happen in the face of an unprecedented scenario such as this, but we are quite certain that no one — governors and legislators included — wants to be dealing with a highly deadly contagious disease that has now killed more Americans than were killed during Vietnam. No one.

The Stay at Home orders are not easy on anyone, especially those who are still waiting for unemployment checks, and who are dealing with a backlog of unpaid bills. It's also stressful to have to watch the impact on our economy. Again, no one wanted or invited this situation, but here we are. Whether things might have turned out differently if we had seen a quicker response from the federal government, we cannot say, but in any case, what is in the past should be left there.

The question now becomes, what happens if states rush to open too much too soon? Will we have to close everything down again if a second wave of COVID-19 washes through?

Flashing back to the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic, we can learn a few things about how and what happens when reopening. Cities who kept strict orders in place such as social distancing, earlier and kept them longer, fared better both financially and health-wise in the long run. Noted was fewer deaths and a faster bounce back to their economies. Health and economy went hand in hand.

Studies show that in Denver, San Francisco and St. Louis, measures to distance were taken early; however, those cities made what was, in retrospect, the mistake of reopening too soon, and a second wave hit that was worse than the first. People in states who lifted restrictions too early in 1918 went out into the streets to celebrate the armistice that ended the First World War sans masks, and from there, a severe second wave hit.

In 1918, New York City kept their measures in place for much longer. Officials waited until the death rates were extremely low. Consequently, New York experienced only one wave, and had the lowest death rate in the country. What we can learn here is that it is better to shut down once, for longer, than experience a shutdown far longer, if two shut downs become necessary.

A study recently posted by the CDC tells the story of a woman who was dining at a restaurant while asymptomatic. She spread the disease to nine other diners who were eating nearby. Noted was the fact that those who were infected were in the same zone as the air flow from an air-conditioner.

At the end of the day, we learn from history that the most advisable approach is a slow, steady, and cautious one.

Mother's Day gifts sure to please



Courtesy

Protect mom's hands with quality, colorful gardening gloves.

Each year, we set aside one day to honor mothers. And each year, we struggle to find the perfect gift to show them we care.

Cut flowers are one of the most popular gifts. No dusting and maintenance required, and they are sure to generate a smile. Behavioral research at Rutgers University found the gift of flowers had immediate and long-term benefits no matter the age of the study participants.

Participants demonstrated true or excited smiles as well as delight and gratitude when they received flowers. They also reported feeling less depressed, anxious and agitated long after receiving the gift of flowers. Floral gifts also helped create connections between family and

friends.

A hanging basket or container garden is another way to give mom a season of flowers and more. Gardening helps improve health and well-being by reducing stress, lowering blood pressure, strengthening muscles and increasing flexibility.

If mom likes to cook, a potted tomato, container of greens or window box of herbs may be the perfect gift with increased benefits. Mom can grow and further boost her health with fresh nutrient-rich vegetables.

A gift certificate to her



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

favorite garden center, hobby store or retail location allows mom the freedom to select her own gift. She can enjoy time shopping for something special she wouldn't normally buy for herself.

The gift of time is appreciated by many mothers. Helping mom in her garden, working around her home or

Turn To GARDEN page A16



Insightful

Nostalgic Favorites from the Heirloom Garden

The delightfully heady scent of lilacs in bloom, lofty daylilies swaying in a summer breeze, and dainty purple Hosta buds rising above lush greenery - such are the things an heirloom garden is made of. Generations of New England gardens have been graced with the beauty and simplicity of these historic flowering plants. Poets have penned prose about them and artists have brushed their images for posterity. Heirloom flowers and plants invoke nostalgia, while providing both beauty and sentiment to an outdoor garden. Lilacs, Daylilies, and Hosta are perennial New England favorites. In some cases plants grown a century ago continue to thrive and bloom today, serving as living antiquities in the garden. Read on for a review of these historic New England plants.

Lovely Lilacs
Fragrant clusters of lilacs adorned colonial yards and gardens. In early America lilacs were grown both for their beauty and their medicinal properties. In fact, in the late 18th century, both Thomas Jefferson and George Washington wrote about their lilac plants. The species is so hardy that early lilac bushes, in a testament of survival, have continued to thrive in colonial homesteads, long after the homes were abandoned or destroyed. Lilacs have been known to survive hundreds of years, making them a true heirloom flower. The Governor Wentworth Estate in Portsmouth, NH boasts the oldest surviving lilac bushes, said to have been planted circa 1750. While there are many strains of the flower, the most nostalgic is the common lavender hued lilac (*Syringa Vulgaris*), which was brought to America in the mid 1700s from eastern Europe.

Growing Lilacs
(New England is the perfect climate to grow lilacs, as it is very cold hardy, requiring a frost to prompt budding. For optimum blooms, a lilac bush should be planted in areas that receive full sun (at least six hours per day). Lilacs like a slightly alkaline soil. Spread roots out vertically and cover with topsoil. A newly planted lilac bush should be kept well watered. Add a loose mulch above the roots to help with water absorption. Keep in mind different varieties of lilacs bloom at different times. When lilac flowers have finished blooming, prune the dead flowers back to just above where new buds are forming. Be prudent with pruning, as over cutting can result in a decrease of blooms next year.

Lilac Uses
Lilac flowers have been known to treat liver problems, rheumatism, bronchitis, and bruises. The following is a published "recipe" for a topical rub claimed to aid in relieving the symptoms of bruising: Mix together one cup of lilac flowers and one half liter of vodka. Soak a compress and apply to bruises or wounds. Legend has it lilac drives away evil wherever it is planted or strewn. It is said that lilac bushes were planted on the homestead by colonists in an effort to protect the inhabitants from bad forces.

Hardy Hosta
Hosta plants are a common throughout the New England landscape. The plants abundant lush, green foliage and sprouting blue flowers have made them a favorite for over a century. Originally from Japan, the Hosta was brought to America from Europe in the mid 19th century. Doctor and botanist Englebert Kaempfer (1651-1715), is named as the pioneer researcher of Japanese plants,

including Hosta, which led to the plants eventual import to this country. Hostas were an important element in the Victorian garden, a tradition that continues today as the border plant is often found along pathways to historic New England homes.

Growing Hosta
The Hosta is a very self sufficient plant, requiring little or no sun, fertilizer, or tending. A shade tolerant plant, hostas are very low maintenance and easy to grow, making them a favorite for shady rock gardens, walkways and lawn borders. Little bell shaped blooms emerge from center spikes of the plant in summer. Hosta boasts a variety of different strains, offering various leaf size, texture and color, including an array of variegated leaves. While Hostas are known as shade plants, they should not be planted in deeply shaded areas. For best results, choose an area with morning sun and afternoon shade. Dig a hole one and a half times the width of the root ball, as the plant's roots with grow and spread horizontally. Hostas grow and spread fast, making them a popular offering at spring garden club sales, as members typically divide and share their plants. Hostas are best divided in early spring as the plants are just beginning to sprout. Dig out the whole plant clump to separate the plants.

Hosta Uses
While Hosta is a gorgeous, lush plant, its usefulness may not be limited to its spectacular eye appeal. According to some gardeners, Hosta is an edible plant, with young leaves best enjoyed steamed in the same manner as dandelion greens.

Dazzling Daylilies

The historic orange Day Lily, which blooms but one day, is a common sight along New England back roads, flourishing within the confines of picket fenced yards as well as sprawling through countryside fields. Daylilies, originally from Asia, made their way to Europe and arrived in this country with the colonists where they became a backyard reminder of their homeland. Daylilies belong to the genus *Hemerocallis*, which translates from Greek to "beautiful for a day." While many new colors and varieties of the Day Lily are offered today, the heirloom flowers of our ancestors are the orange Tawny Day Lily (*Hemerocallis Fulva*) and the yellow Lemon Day Lily (*Hemerocallis Lilasphodelus*). Daylilies were another mainstay of the Victorian garden, often lining a path through a garden gate or walkway. The familiar orange Day Lily still serves as nature's mark of summer today. In New England, the tubular's blooms begin to open between the start of school summer vacation and 4th of July. (Much to her delight, the first blooms coincide with our daughter Katie's July 2nd birthday each year.)

Growing Daylilies
The Day Lily is easily established, growing quick and vigorously. It enjoys full sun, which will maximize blooms, but adapts to light shade well. Daylilies are tolerant of most soils, but do best in ground that is slightly acidic. The plants should be well tilled and hole should be large enough to accommodate roots without crowding. When planting, be sure the crown of the plant is at least an inch below the ground and water thoroughly. The plant is hardy and very forgiving, usually flourishing with little effort. Daylilies grow and multiply vigorously, so they should be divided about every three years. Divide and transplant plants in early spring or just after flowering. Be sure divisions have two to three stems or leaves with roots intact.

Day Lily Uses
The flowers of Daylilies are edible, and are typically served cooked in Asian dishes and soups.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House
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 helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Old stock certificates

We sometimes find old stocks and bonds certificates when we handle multigenerational New England estates. Some date back over 100 years. Some of these stock certificates are only worth around one dollar. Rarer ones may be worth as much as a new car though.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Certificates Are Gone With the Winds of Change" according to an Investopedia article. Most companies no longer issue paper stock certificates. For example, Disney stopped issuing certificates picturing cartoon characters in 2013.

Now that you have a little background on stocks and bonds, how do you find how much yours is worth? Even if the stock is cancelled or the company went out of business years ago, the stock certificate may be prized by collectors. Two examples are mining and sports related stocks.

Some mining stocks are desirable to collectors. An Alabama Gold and Copper Mining certificate signed by lawman Pat Garrett (famous for shooting Billy the Kid) brought \$2,200 at auction in 2012. An 1863 Governor Stanford Gold and Silver Mining Company signed by Leland Stanford sold for \$5,500 in 2013. An 1865 San Francisco District Bella Gold and Silver Mining Company stock certificate reached \$35,000 in 2011.

As you might expect, sports related stock certificates are often highly desirable. A 1940 Coca Cola stock certificate that was signed by Ty Cobb while he was the Twin Falls Bottling Company president was auctioned for over \$11,000 in 2012. Share number 1 of Red Sox stock from 1901 went for \$19,120 in 2011. A 1923 Green Bay Packers stock certificate sold for \$44,000 in 2019.

If you have an uncanceled stock it

may still be valid. Beginning in July of 1964, CUSIP (Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures) numbers were introduced. You can research your stock using the CUSIP number listed on it. You may also be able to find the transfer agent for a stock on the company's investor information page of their website.

Older stocks are harder to evaluate by yourself, unless you are fortunate enough to have a certificate from a company that is still in business today. Sometimes companies have merged and the stock for a defunct company may even have value. Stocks may have split over the years and your certificate may actually be worth more. Checking your old stock certificates may be an interesting project to take on while we are all sheltering in place. You may even get lucky and find that you have stock worth millions.

I have found that online auctions continue to bring strong prices despite the current health crisis. We are currently cataloging an online auction of antique paintings, gold jewelry, sterling silver, coins, vintage sports memorabilia, comic books and other valuable items. You can call or email us for no-contact options for consigning your items.

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

Scripophily is the study and collecting of stock and bond certificates. Like with most collectibles, there is a dedicated group of serious collectors.

A 2016 CoinWeek article on scripophily reported that the "Stock and Bond Collectors Association (ASBCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the education and study of American historical securities. ... certificates which otherwise have no value as financial claims, are bought for their artistic and historical value by collectors."

There are estimated to be tens of thousands of scripophily buyers worldwide. They range from casual buyers looking to decorate their home or office to serious collectors and museums. The Museum of Finance in New York holds a large collection of certificates. Their Web site states "stocks and bonds comprise a large portion of the Museum's collection with thousands of examples ranging in date from the 18th century to contemporary corporations including the Internet bubble."

With people trading stocks online and day traders buying and selling multiple stocks within hours "Paper Stock



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
RALPH TRUE

All it took was a few warm days to get trout and other numerous fish species to actively start feeding. Trout were surface feeding at many ponds throughout the valley. This week, Wallum Lake had set up a thermocline, and fishing improved dramatically. Fresh water bass are also being caught at local waters throughout the area. There are more people fishing now, which is a good thing. Unfortunately, all boat ramps in Rhode Island are closed to out of state residents. Hopefully, that will change soon.

Local turkey hunters harvested some impressive birds after the weather warmed up a bit. This week's picture is of Steve Rondeau with his 22 pound tom which was a nice bird with a 10 inch beard and sporting one inch spurs. Numerous other successful hunters harvested some nice birds also.

A bit more history on Wallum Lake involving attempts by Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife to make it a trophy brown trout pond (lake). Many attempts to introduce live smelt from the Quabbin Reservoir into Wallum Lake more than 40 years ago seemed to be working, and anglers were catching some impressive brown trout in the four to six pound range until the smelt failed to spawn in a couple of tributaries in the lake.

A second attempt to get a permanent population of smelt into the lake was made by the Mass.Fish &Wildlife by setting up screens of fertilized smelt eggs at a couple of tributaries in the lake, but that failed because of the acidity of the water. As mentioned in last week's column about the liming of the

lake by "Living Lakes," which seemed to take care of the problem a few years later, but the Division abandoned their efforts to restock smelt.

Under pressure from local sportsmen, the Division of Massachusetts fisheries started to stock shoal spawning alewives, and fishing started to improve. Unfortunately, the D. F. W. stopped stocking many brown trout in the lake, and removed the 2 brown trout limit. Rhode Island did continue to stock brown trout in the lake, but they were quickly fished out before they had a chance to grow into trophy fish, because of the six fish limit at that time. The daily bag limit is now five trout under Rhode Island Regulations of any species.

Massachusetts Fish & Wild Life seemed to have enough of Wallum Lake, and now considers the lake a put & take fishery. Local anglers had hoped to convince the Division to acquire some fingerling brown trout from upstate New York 40 years ago or so, and stock them into Wallum Lake. Myself and a couple of local anglers convinced New York to give a stocking of brown trout to Mass. for Wallum Lake.

Unfortunately the fish biologist at that time felt he had enough species of brown trout in the state, and he turned down the offer. Anyone that has fished upstate New York's Lake Ontario know how fast they grow. They are footballs in only a couple of years. I often think of what Wallum Lake could have been. Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife did stock some impressive trout throughout the state this year. Wachusest Reservoir has also been hot, giving up some large Lake Trout.

A call from Harry Salmon a former Douglas resident now living in Florida, reported on some great fishing for crappie and bluegills, with a largemouth

bass once in a while. He is fishing almost every day aboard his pontoon boat ,with a couple of buddies. He had hoped to return to Douglas this past week, but decided to stay a bit longer because of Covid-19.

An attempt to make it easier to obtain a permit to carry a concealed hand gun

Corps of Engineers will hopefully pass soon. Any lawful person that has a License To Carry cannot bring a handgun onto Management property at this time.

Stay safe! Keep them Rods Bending & Take a kid Fishing.

From trout to turkeys



Community Connection

Your area guide to buying, dining & shopping locally!

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OBITUARIES

Armand J. McCarthy, 88

WEBSTER - Armand J. McCarthy, 88, died Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at home surrounded by his family.

He leaves his wife of 60 years, Rita (Gallant) McCarthy; a son, Richard J. McCarthy and his wife Mary C. McCarthy of West Boylston; a daughter, Kathleen A. Flibbert and her husband David J. Flibbert of Webster; 2 grandchildren, Jason Flibbert and his wife Valerie, and Jeffrey Flibbert and his wife Brittany, all of Dudley; 2 great-grandchildren, Kayla Flibbert and Connor Flibbert; a brother, Albert McCarthy and his wife Lorraine of Coral Gables, FL; 4 sisters, Claire Ugalde of Worcester, Claudia Seale and her husband Arthur of Oxford, Frances Normandin and her husband Roland of West Brookfield, and Gail Sivret of Dudley; a sister-in-law, Dolores LeBlanc of Webster; nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by 3 brothers, Walter, Kenneth and Roger McCarthy and by a sister, Janet Williams.

He was born on June 18, 1931 in Worcester and lived in North Oxford, a son of Walter and Blanche (LaPlante) McCarthy, who died in childbirth. He was raised by his father and stepmother, Irene (Strack) McCarthy. He obtained his high school diploma through a correspondence course from the American School in Chicago.

He was an Army veteran of Vietnam, serving as a medic from 1956 to 1958 and then remained in the Army Reserves for 4 years.

Mr. McCarthy worked at First National Stores, later known as Finest Supermarkets, retiring as the deli manager in 1993.

He was a communicant of Saint Louis Church and a weekly adorer at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. For many years, he attended a retreat at Calvary Retreat House in Shrewsbury. He belonged to the swimming club at the YMCA in Southbridge. He liked walking at the track at Webster Lake.

The family would like to thank the staff of Care Central VNA & Hospice for their compassionate care during Mr. McCarthy's illness.

A funeral Mass at Saint Louis Church will be held privately. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Donations in his name may be made to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com



Barbara A. O'Leary, 95

THOMPSON, CT - Barbara A. (Lathrop) O'Leary passed away peacefully at the age of 95 from natural causes at Matulitis Nursing home on Thursday, April 23, 2020. She was welcomed into heaven with open arms by her husband Vernon and sons Ronald and Wendell who predeceased her. Barbara was born March 5, 1925 and was raised by Hazel and Walter "Pappie" Burton and their son Davis in the Quaddick area of Thompson. She was a resident of Thompson her whole life. Predeceasing her was her half-sister Fae Hewko. She is survived by her daughter and best friend, Audrey of Thompson, son Craig and his wife Pauline of N. Grosvenordale and son Linden and his wife Jane of Webster. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Jason O'Leary of Dayville, Jeremy O'Leary of Middletown, Tyler and Katie O'Leary of Webster.

Barbara was a wonderful and loving mother, grandmother and friend. She was a member of the Thompson Congregational Church. Barbara

enjoyed cross-stitching, going to yard sales, reading books, watching game shows and Jane's cherry nut bread. Joy also came to her when she was around animals. She cared for many children in the Thompson area, especially the Vercelli family, whom she was very close to. Until a year ago, she was working as the secretary for O'Leary Construction, which was a role she had for many years. Barbara was a woman of strong support for anyone who needed it, was sharp-witted and creative, qualities that made her a true treasure. Barbara had a wonderful group of life-long friends whom she cherished. Above all else, Barbara loved visits and phone calls from her family and friends.

Her wish was to have neither calling hours or a funeral and ironically, it would be in her nature to pass during a pandemic to have that wish granted. We would like to thank the staff at Matulitis for their compassionate care while she was a resident. Burial will be private at a later date. If you would like to make a donation in her honor, please donate to the Thompson Hill Fire Department 70 Chase Road Thompson, CT 06277.

Earl N. Guyette Jr., 71



WHITINSVILLE— Earl N. Guyette Jr., 71, passed away on Fri. May 1, 2020 at Landmark Medical Center in Woonsocket, RI after a period of declining health.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Duranta "Dee" (Sansone) Guyette. He is also survived by his lifelong friend and housemate, Lorraine Balanca; a sister, Elaine Barbosa of Oxford, and 2 nieces, Tracey Bourque, and Karin Pinheiro and her husband Hugo. Born in Walla Walla, Washington on October 9, 1948 Earl was son of the late Earl N. Sr. and Sylvia (Legg) Guyette and grew up and lived in Uxbridge many years before moving to Whitinsville 35 years ago.

Earl attended Uxbridge public schools and then after went straight into the service. He was a proud U.S. Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era serving 2 tours and 6 years. He met his wife Dee during the service where he was stationed and she worked at

Fort Knox. They were married in 1973. After serving his country, he came home and worked for a few local area companies including, Fenwal where he worked 18 years, the former Coz Chemical, and Temp.

Flex out of Grafton. Earl was primarily a homebody, but as well as watching TV, he took great care of his yard, gardening plants and tending to his lawn, and took immaculate care of his truck, which was his "pride and joy". He also loved his dog, who unfortunately passed away on the same day, and joins him in Heaven.

Earl's services will be privately held at the convenience of his family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Earl's memory may be made to: The Parkinson Foundation, 8830 Cameron St., #201, Silver Spring, MD 20910. To leave a condolence message for his family please visit:

www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com



Rebecca K. LaCerte, 35



WEBSTER - Rebecca K. LaCerte, 35, died Friday, May 1, 2020 in Harrington Healthcare at Hubbard after being stricken ill at home.

She leaves her mother, Doreen M. LaCerte and her husband Paul Solem of Rio Rancho, NM; a sister, Kerrilynn LaCerte of Framingham; a brother, Aaron LaCerte of Rio Rancho, NM; her maternal grandparents, Peter R. LaCerte and Shirley B. (Nowicki) LaCerte of Webster, with whom she lived; her godmother, Kelly A. Tiffany of Thompson, CT; her fiancé, Christopher McLaughlin of Oxford; aunts, uncles and cousins

Born in Worcester on March 21, 1985, she was a lifelong resident of Webster; She graduated from Bartlett High School in 2003 where she was a member of the band, the show choir

and the woodwind specialty group. She also played the flute and was chosen to perform with the Worcester Youth Orchestra.

She first worked for Life Skills as a personal care attendant. She then was a pharmacy technician at Rite Aid Pharmacy.

Rebecca had a beautiful soprano voice and enjoyed singing opera and karaoke. She was a former member of the Salisbury Singers in Worcester.

Rebecca was a member of Saint Louis Church and served as a cantor there for many years.

A graveside service will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours. Donations may be made to Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation (www.chronicpainpartners.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.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. WO20P1150EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Alan J Bloniasz
Date of Death: 04/01/2020**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/07/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 28, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
May 8, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. 20P1120EA
Estate of:
Richard R Guerin Jr.
Date Of Death: March 1, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joan E Guerin of Southbridge MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Joan E Guerin of Southbridge MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
May 8, 2020

**DUDLEY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Notice of Public Meeting**

A Public Meeting will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:15 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** of Mark Nowosadko for the property located at 186 Dudley Oxford Road. This is a Public Meeting under the requirements of G.L. Ch. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Conservation Commission's office at the Dudley Municipal Complex on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10:30-4:30 PM. For information, call 508-949-8011.
May 8, 2020

**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. WO20P0938EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Joseph R Goddard
Date of Death: 02/05/2018**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/02/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: Mach 31, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
May 8, 2020

**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. WO20P0939EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Austin Gary Moran
Also Known As:
A. Gary Moran
Date of Death: 02/14/2020**

To all interested persons:
A **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Patrick J Scanlon of Worcester, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Patrick J Scanlon of Worcester, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/02/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: Mach 31, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
May 8, 2020

OBITUARIES

Janice A. Zukowski, 63



WORCESTER—Janice A. (Slate) Zukowski, 63, passed away suddenly at the UMass Memorial Medical Center on Monday April 20, 2020.

Janice is survived by her two daughters Michelle of Biddeford, ME and Kimberly of Auburn; three brothers: John of CT, Henry of Auburn, and Ray of Worcester; her sister Tina of Worcester; her two grandchildren Tianna and Bethany both of Biddeford,

ME; she also leaves many relatives and cherished friends.

Janice was born in Worcester, MA on June 11, 1956, daughter of Harold and Barbara (Ramsey) Slate; she worked as a property manager for many years. Janice loved reading books and shopping online.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Janice.

Keith David Roemer, 66



Keith David Roemer 66, of Dudley, Massachusetts died from the natural progression of Alzheimer's Disease on April 29th, 2020 at The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center, Charlton,

Massachusetts. Mr. Roemer was a devoted and loving father who leaves his daughter Kaitlyn Roemer of Attleborough, Massachusetts, a brother, Dale Roemer and his wife Sharon of Dudley, Massachusetts and a sister Karen-Beth Gillon and her husband Ken also from Dudley. Mr. Roemer's son Kirk Roemer and Mr. Roemer's brother Curtis Roemer predeceased him. Mr. Roemer leaves a large extended family including nieces, nephews and their families.

Mr. Roemer was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, the son of the late Albert H. Roemer and Frances (Potter) Roemer. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1971 and earned a BS degree in biology from Clark University in 1976. He worked for Factory Mutual Global Insurance Company for 33 years as an engineer educator in the International Training Division. He

conducted safety training for industrial settings around the world.

Mr. Roemer was a devout Christian and cherished his church communities at the Union Church of South Foxboro, Massachusetts and The First Congregational Church of Dudley, Massachusetts. Mr. Roemer was an avid hiker, often walking eight to ten miles a day. After his retirement in 2012, Mr. Roemer volunteered at Borderland State Park in Easton, Massachusetts where he assisted with trail maintenance and other projects. Mr. Roemer loved gardening and grew produce for family and friends throughout his life.

The Roemer family wishes to thank personal care attendants Donna Sari and Randy Kolodziej of Elderwood Home Care and the staff of the Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: The Union Church of South Foxboro Guardians Men's Group 384 South Street Foxboro, Massachusetts 02035.

A memorial service celebrating Keith's life will be held at the First Congregational Church of Dudley Massachusetts sometime after state shelter-in-place restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, Keith's family invites those who loved him to visit his tribute page at bartelfuneralhome.com.

Rhonda L. Doney, 55



OXFORD – Rhonda L. (Crosby) Doney, 55, of Old Howarth Road, died peacefully and comfortably on Friday, April 17, 2020, at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester with her family by her side. She is

survived by her husband, Mark R. Doney of Oxford; two sons, Keenan J. Doney and Braden C. Doney, both of Oxford; two brothers, Jeffrey Crosby of Natick and Paul Crosby and his partner Sharon Dawes of Mendon; a sister, Kathy Gurley of Marlborough; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins; and many friends, including Pat Hokanson of Oxford. She was predeceased by her brother Mark Crosby who died in 2018. She was born in Framingham, daughter of the late Curtis and Winifred (Keenan) Crosby, and lived in Framingham before moving to Oxford in 1995. She graduated from Keefe Technical High School in Framingham in 1982.

Mrs. Doney worked in the cafeteria and snack shack at Oxford High School for 12 years. She loved working at the high school and interacting with the students. Her greatest joy was her family and spending time with her boys. She will be remembered as a happy, positive person who enjoyed doing things for others, being a great friend, and being the best mother.

Rhonda was an amazing woman and devoted mother. She changed the lives of many students at Oxford High School. She was the glue that held everything together and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Due to gathering restrictions in Massachusetts, a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Keenan and Braden Doney Memorial Fund, c/o Hometown Bank, 31 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, MA 01540. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

paradisfuneralhome.com

Rita Blaine, 94



UXBRIDGE / DOUGLAS—Rita (Royer) Blaine, 94, died Monday, April 20, 2020, at Care One of Millbury, after a period of declining health and complications of COVID-19.

Rita is survived by her brothers, Harvey Royer of Uxbridge, and Charles Royer and his wife Madaline of Millbury, and her sister Therese Bingham of Uxbridge. She was a much-loved Aunt of her nieces and nephews who thought of her as their second Mother. She was predeceased by her sister Gilberte Lepage, and her husband Edward Blaine.

Rita was born in Whitinsville on August 6, 1925, daughter of the late Charles and Maria (Lamontagne)

Royer. Rita grew up in Linwood, before building her first home in Uxbridge; She enjoyed spending summers at her cottage on the Douglas Reservoir where she loved to host family gatherings. Rita worked at the Waukentuck Mill in Uxbridge and retired from the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security. After her retirement Rita enjoyed spending many Winters in Estero, Florida; She will forever be remembered for her devotion to her family, her strength and her generosity.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St. Webster, MA

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Rita.

Beverly L. Krukoff, 76

ASHFORD—Beverly L. (Maulucci) Krukoff, 76, passed away peacefully at home on Monday April 20, 2020.

Beverly was born in Hartford, CT on August 13, 1943, daughter of Joseph and Nellie Maulucci; she is survived by her husband John W. Krukoff Jr., with whom she has shared nearly sixty years of marriage; three sons: John Krukoff III, Glenn Krukoff, and Nicholas Krukoff; her sister Lee Berry; her grandchildren: Glenn Krukoff Jr., Danielle Kudlach, Ashley Krukoff, Amanda Krukoff, Hunter Krukoff, Lillian Krukoff, Max Krukoff; her great-grandchildren: Adriana Kudlach

and John Kudlach Jr.; she also leaves many relatives and friends; she was predeceased by her brother Joe Maulucci.

In lieu of flowers, Beverly's family requests that memorial contributions be sent to the Ron Foley Foundation in her honor.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Beverly.

Jason Nicholas King. 37



Jason Nicholas King of Ashford, CT. 37, went to be with his Lord on April 27th, 2020.

Jason was born April 7th, 1983 in New Haven, CT to Peter and Melinda Basto King. A 2001 graduate of Woodstock Academy, he worked as a skilled carpenter and became versed in plumbing and electrical. He made his home in Maine, Rhode Island, East Killingly, Eastford and Ashford. Jason was a gentle soul, always eager to say a kind word and lend a helping hand. Nature was his soul mate. In the woods

with Ox, his loving golden lab, was where he felt most comfortable.

Jason is survived by his parents, Peter (Springfield, Ma) and Melinda King (Ashford, Ct.) His brothers, Peter (Woodstock CT) and Brandon King (Eastford, CT) and his Grandparents, Dana Basto (Woodstock, CT) and Marieann MacGinnis (Auburn, MA).

Due to current pandemic limitations Jason's Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date. Interment at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jason's memory may be made to: The Evangelical Christian Ctr., 574 Ashford Center Road, Ashford, CT 06278.

Mildred R. Devault, 90



Mildred "Millie" R. (Perron) Devault, age 90, of Pawcatuck, CT passed away on April 28, 2020. She resided in Oxford, MA for 57 years prior to moving to Pawcatuck in 2017.

She is survived by Kenneth D. Devault, her loving husband of nearly 70 years; three sons, David V. Devault and his wife Lorraine of Westerly, RI, Andrew J. Devault of Oxford, MA, and Jeffrey P. Devault also of Oxford, MA; three granddaughters, Alison Devault Enk and her husband Jacob Enk of Dexter, MI, Rochelle Devault of San Francisco, CA, and Heaven Pajala of Raleigh, NC; and one great grandchild. She was predeceased by her sister, Dorothy (Perron) Twarowski.

Born in Auburn, MA, she was the daughter of the late Camille and Anna (Bourgeois) Perron. Millie enjoyed a loving childhood with fond memories of her days in Auburn. She was a Girl Scout and served as a volunteer nighttime airplane spotter in her high school years during World War II.

Millie was a graduate of Auburn High School, class of 1947. As a young

woman, she was a talented hairdresser. Later, she was proud of her many years at the David Clark Company in Worcester, which produced spacesuits for the NASA moon landing and space shuttle programs. She was an avid reader throughout her life.

Mildred was a devoted mother and friend and especially enjoyed spending time with her granddaughters. She was an exceptional cook and baker, learning her skills from her sister-in-law, Earline Poirier. Her casseroles and desserts, especially red velvet cake, were always in demand at gatherings of family and friends. Her wonderful sense of humor made those gatherings even more enjoyable.

Mil and Ken spent many happy times in their camping trailer, fishing and bicycling along the Cape Cod Canal. Together, they accomplished two memorable cross-county camping trips.

The family wishes to thank the health-care workers and staff at Westerly (RI) Hospital and Beacon Hospice (CT) for their kindness, support and excellent care.

There will be no calling hours. A celebration of Mildred's life will be held later this summer on a date to be determined.

Roberta Battista



ROCKVILLE, VA—Roberta Frances (Pollone) Battista, formerly of Dudley died peacefully at home on Thursday, April 30, surrounded by her loving family following an illness.

Roberta was married for over 52 years to the late William Battista who died in March of this year. Roberta leaves her daughters, Rebecca S. Dubois and her husband Garry R. Dubois of Rockville, VA, and Pamela J. Fleming and her husband Robert W. Fleming of Midlothian, VA. Roberta was the proud grandmother of Phoebe, Patrick and Andrew. She also leaves her brothers, Ralph Pollone and his wife Kay of Tampa, FL, Richard Pollone of Southbridge, Ray Pollone and his wife Joan of Flower Mound, TX, Ronald Pollone and his wife Marlene of North Andover, MA, her sister Mona Pollone of Southbridge

and her sister-in-law, Bernadette Joyce of Southbridge. Roberta was preceded in death by her brother Robert. Born in Southbridge, Massachusetts, she was the fifth of seven children of Dominic and Pacina (Trifone) Pollone.

Roberta was a graduate of Southbridge High School and worked at Commerce Insurance in Webster and Mario's Restaurant in Southbridge for several years. Roberta loved travel, especially cruise travel, volunteering at her church, gardening, decorating and entertaining friends and family. Her greatest joy was in spending time with her grandchildren and she moved to Virginia to be closer to them after her retirement. Roberta was a member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Glen Allen, VA.

Services for Roberta will be held in Southbridge at a later date to be announced due to gathering restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Shara R. Bates, 40



THOMPSON-Shara R. (Lamontagne) Bates, 40, passed away tragically on April 24, 2020 at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester with her devoted children by her side.

She was the loving wife of the late Fredrick Bates who passed away in 2019.

Shara leaves behind her two children; Dylan Mark and Larrissa Mark both of Thompson, CT., her parents; Robert and Tara (Butts) Lamontagne of Woodstock, CT., two brothers; Jeff R. Lamontagne and Adam R. Lamontagne and his wife Shevaun of Woodstock, and two nieces; Lily Sage Lamontagne and Mariah Lynn Lamontagne, both of Woodstock. Shara also leaves behind many, many, many, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Shara was born February 8, 1980 in Putnam, CT. She graduated from H.H. Ellis Technical High School in Killingly, CT. as an automotive mechanic. Shara loved to work with her Dad on cars and carried immense

pride in the knowledge he bestowed upon her. She also loved working side-by-side with her husband, Fred on their sawmill and in their junkyard, Bates Auto Parts in Thompson, CT.

Shara loved to party with family and friends and was, undeniably, the life of any party she attended. She treasured the time spent with her children, Dylan and Larrissa.

She had an incredibly loving heart and will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Shara believed in God, Jesus and in Angels. She was incredibly generous and was always willing to help anyone who needed it. She took great pride in her garden, flowers, cooking, and loved listening to music.

There are no calling hours.

Funeral Services will be Private at the convenience of the family, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School St., Webster is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave an on-line condolence, or to Share a Memory of Share, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

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



Please see additional Obituaries, on next page

NICHOLS

continued from page 1

from 2016 when many of the Class of 2020 started their Nichols College journeys. It was then she assured them that upon graduating in 2020 they would look back with “2020 vision” on their experiences. However, given recent events, she added to that sentiment calling the Class of 2020 one of the most prepared groups to face the trials that lay before them in their unknown futures.

“While you’ve learned lessons of fear and loss you’ve also found courage, hope and a greater sense of community. This pandemic has dramatically changed the celebration we had planned for today with your family and friends surrounding you, but in the not too distant future you may come to realize that this has given you a very special legacy and a really great story,” President Engelkemeyer said. “You will not only get past this, but you will be stronger because of how these past two months have shaped you. You are more prepared than most to come out on top because your resilience has enabled you to succeed in the face of adversity.”

Class Representative Janey Newman served as the guest speaker hand-picked by the Class of 2020 for the ceremony. She held back tears as she addressed the students she helped lead through their college careers one final time. She called the unique and unprecedented virtual celebration a fitting one for the Class of 2020, a group she said was “anything by tradi-

tional.”

“This is a time when our relationships and our communities are an integral part of our daily lives. The world that we’re living in right now has brought us back to the basics. It has given us the rare opportunity to focus on what is important to each of us and a time to reflect on what matters most,” Newman said.

She capped off her address by recalling the words of the late Mr. Rogers and his famous quote about looking for the helpers in times of need. Just as many at Nichols College have helped the Class of 2020 reach their full potential, she believes the graduates are entering the world ready to step up to the plate when called upon.

The virtual ceremony also allowed a few students to address their class in one final farewell to their college years. Class Speaker Taylor Ward took the time to thank Nichols College and her classmates for giving her bonds that she will cherish for the rest of her life.

“If it wasn’t for Nichols, I’d still be an only child but now I have hundreds of brothers and sisters and I can’t wait to support each other for the rest of our lives,” Ward said. “We gave a lot, left our legacy like they told us to, but we didn’t know how much more we would gain. An education, endless networks, role models, opportunities and countless memories but most important we got a family.”

Class Valedictorian Jessica Larsh admitted

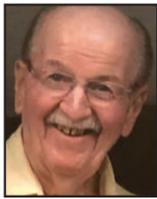
that her speech changed significantly from when she first wrote it in February, a month before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the school to close. She admitted had she known what was on the horizon she would have made a few more memories with her classmates before returning home, but said the memories she did make and the lessons she learned at the school will forever be a part of her life.

“I hope that this experience we are all going through can bring our class closer together and make our return, whether it be for an in-person graduation or on homecoming weekend, something we can cherish more than we could have ever imagined. Going through this quarantine has taught me to appreciate my friends that I made at Nichols more than ever and to not take anything for granted,” Larsh said. “Just because our graduation will be held in a different format right now and on a different day in the future that has yet to be determined doesn’t mean that it takes away our achievements as a whole. Class of 2020, we will forever be united and remembered as the class that persevered despite these difficult times.”

The ceremony closed with educators from the different departments all coming together to wish the graduates good luck. Finally, it was all capped off by a toast to the future and a promise to remember the Class of 2020 as one of the most enduring group of students in Nichols College history.

OBITUARIES

John I. ‘Jack’ Flynn, 86, Noted Worcester-area media and community personality



N O R T H OXFORD—Well-known Worcester-area broadcaster and corporate executive Jack Flynn signed off for the last time on April 28, 2020, at the age of 86.

The son of Irving and Cecelia Flynn, Jack was born in Boston on November 24, 1933, and grew up in the city.

He attended Northeastern University for Civil Engineering and Emerson College for a BS in Speech and Broadcasting. He studied three years at night while also working full-time before finishing two years of day school and graduating from Emerson.

Jack married Grace M. Cerullo—his “Amazing Grace”—on August 22, 1959. They were married for 54 years. They were the proud parents of six children.

Jack’s love of flying and travel may have been spawned by the four years he spent as an airborne radio operator with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Military, personal and business trips throughout his lifetime took him to 43 states, 13 countries and most of the Canadian provinces.

Jack’s illustrious media career began when he joined Knight Quality Stations in 1964. It would ultimately lead to awards for his professional accomplishments and to recognition for his contributions to community life.

Jack programmed WSRS in the 1960’s and was promoted to operations manager, sales manager and then general manager. In 1987, when Knight purchased WTAG, Jack took on the additional responsibility of GM at the AM news-talk-sports station.

In a salute to Jack’s work, a senior VP of Knight Quality Stations said “Jack Flynn’s quarter century of dedication to our company and to Worcester is a remarkable exception in an industry where many job-hop every two or three years. We feel fortunate to benefit from his expertise.”

Jack was especially proud when WSRS-FM was named the #1 Beautiful Music Station in the USA in 1981.

For twenty-one years after leaving broadcasting, Jack served as executive director of the Worcester Executives Association, a business exchange organization with a global reach. During this time he served on the WEA’s national and international boards.

He finally retired at 82 years old. Jack was dedicated to community and family. He served as president of the Worcester Area Advertising Club, the

Sales Executive Club of Greater Worcester and the Kiwanis Club of Worcester. He also served as a director of the Central Massachusetts Better Business Bureau, the Worcester Fresh Air Fund (Camp Putnam), the American Red Cross, a trustee of the Oxford Free Public Library and as treasurer of the Oxford Little League.



He was a longtime member of St. Ann’s Parish, a member of American Legion Post 0058, a life member of K of C 4241 and a member of the Greendale Men’s Club.

He was given the key to the city by then-Mayor Sara J. Robertson in 1982. He earned the Worcester Ad Club’s award for Professional Excellence in 1982, the Oxford Lions Club’s Volunteer Appreciation Award in 2009 and a Silver Award from United Way. He was named WEA Executive of the Year in 2013.

Above all else, Jack loved his family dearly and always looked forward to family gatherings. He was devoted to his Amazing Grace and enjoyed all their activities together. He always looked forward to attending daily mass at St. Ann’s Church in North Oxford.

Jack was predeceased by his wife, Grace Flynn; his son, Francis Flynn; his sister Marie Hickey; and two daughters-in-law, Julie Flynn and Katarina Flynn.

Jack is survived by sons John M. Flynn and his wife Angelica of Ankara, Turkey; Mark Flynn and his wife Kristine of Akron, New York; Stephen Flynn of Atlanta, Georgia; Joseph Flynn of Sutton; and daughter Christine (Flynn) Golub and her husband Steven of Smithtown, New York.

Jack is also survived by his seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren: Callen (Flynn) Pacier and her husband Gage; Brenna Flynn; Merris Flynn; Alexa (Flynn) Hill and her husband Steven; Olivia Flynn; Andrew Golub; Michael Golub; Lillian and Miles Pacier; and Mailyn Flynn.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Oxford Free Public Library or St. Ann’s Parish in North Oxford.

Due to gathering restrictions in Massachusetts, a private graveside service will be held at North Cemetery in Oxford. A public memorial Mass will be held at a later date. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

paradisfuneralhome.com

Local student graduates from UMass

AMHERST — The University of Massachusetts Amherst congratulates the following student who earned a degree in February, 2020 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

WEBSTER
Scott Charles Ambrosia

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

Friday’s Child



Photo: Maura Wayman

Braydon
Age 12

Hi! My name is Braydon and you can call me Brady!

Braydon “Brady” is a polite and caring boy of Caucasian descent. Braydon has many talents and interests including dancing, music, sports, drawing and playing games. His favorite activities are basketball, football, video games and being active! Braydon is described by those who know him as enthusiastic and fun-loving.

Brady shares that he loves going to school. His favorite subject in school is math. He reports his favorite colors are red and blue and his favorite food is pizza but is open to trying different foods. Braydon can be a good advocate for himself and has shared he is looking forward to having his own family.

Legally freed for adoption, it will be important to Braydon that he continues to maintain contact with his two older siblings. Braydon sees them at least monthly and has a positive relationship with them and their families. Braydon absolutely loves animals and hopes his future family will have a dog and that one day he will become a vet! Braydon shared that his three wishes for his future family are for them to always make hot breakfast (or buy sweet cereal and a lot flavored oatmeal), to have dogs, and to have a bike and a helmet! Braydon would do best as the only child or youngest child in a family.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



Oxford’s Caleb and Jacob Shaw join American Angus Association

OXFORD — Caleb and Jacob Shaw, Oxford, are new junior members of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association.

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For more information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Association, visit www.angus.org.

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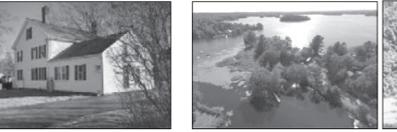


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|  <p>OXFORD – 10 Huguenot Rd! 8 Rm Colonial! 1.36 Acres! Country Setting! Country Kitchen w/Bay Window Overlooking Back Yard, Front to Back Living/Dining Rm w/French Doors to Deck! Office! Side Entry Breezeway! 3 Bdrms Plus a Study/Craft Rm on the 2nd Floor! 1 Car Detached Garage w/Workshop! Easy Access to Shopping and Highways! \$179,000.00</p> |  <p>DUDLEY – 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quiet Eat-in Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/New Picture Window! Fam Rm w/Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer Windows! Solar Panels! \$239,000.00</p> |  <p>DUDLEY – 231 Dresser Hill Rd! 8+ Rm Custom Built 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath Split Set On 2.63 Acres Professionally Landscaped w/Panoramic Views of Nichols College at a Distance! Stamped Concrete Walk Leads to the Transom Side Light Door Entry! Custom Granite Kitchen w/SS Appliances including Gas Range! Dining Area w/3 Walls of Windows for the Views! Formal Din Rm! Beautiful Frplcd Liv Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & French Doors to the New Deck with the Incredible Views! 3 Comfortable Bdrms w/Crown Moldings, Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath! Finished Lower Level w/Fam Rm Offers a Potential In-law! LP Gas Heat & C/Air for Comfortable Living! 3 Car Garage! Recent Driveway! Don't Delay! \$449,900.00</p> |  <p>WEBSTER LAKE – 23 Beacon Rd! Killdeer Island – Middle Pond – Southern Exposure – Full Day Sun! Level 90' Waterfront Lot w/1,011 Square Feet! Meticulously Maintained 5+ Rm, 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Home w/Room to Expand! Soaring Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm w/Stone Fireplace Opening to the Maple Cabinet Kit & 4 Season Sunroom w/Anderson Slider to the Expansive Deck! 2nd floor Lake Facing Master w/Master Bath! Huge Closets & Slider to It's Lake Facing Deck! C/Air! 2 Car Garage! Lake Living at its Best! Listed by Another – "SOLD" by Century21 Lake Realty! \$645,000.00</p> |
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REAL ESTATE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

continued from page 1

“AA has been our vendor as long as I can remember,” member Mike Makara observed before the committee voted unanimously to do that. “[This] makes sense. We need the buses and need to keep these people in business.”

Most of the rest of their meeting focused on Goguen’s self-evaluation for her annual performance review. Members said they’d received “very detailed” material from her and did not discuss it in detail, but asked her to put it online so the community can see it.

“I sure hope you see evidence of my leadership every time you see me,” Goguen said, especially in how she’s handling the pandemic issues. A big part of why things are working now, she added, is the fact the district has been adding resources and content over the last three years. When teachers ask for things, she said, “we do our best to get them what they need.”

The committee plans to review her submission and draft their review scores for the next meeting.

Regarding the budget, Pierangeli said things are still in limbo on the state level, and she hopes for get updated figures in late May or early June. While she does not expect cuts in state aid, she noted federal coronavirus relief funding won’t arrive until next year, mostly via Title 1 grants.

“This year’s going to be OK of us, but we really need to look at what next year will be like,” Goguen agreed. (That was an allusion to the fact the state expects tax collections to fall significantly.)

Additionally, the committee voted unanimously to cap its student population for school choice purposes as follows: Park Avenue, 140 kids per grade; middle school, 150; and Bartlett, 160.

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

CHOIR

continued from page 1

Since we never got to finish our competition season or have our banquet, the show choir staff decided to make a parade and deliver some joy to our kids,” Bussiere said.

A total of 30 seniors were honored during the parade, a group Bussiere said was “a very talented and special class.” While the students

couldn’t finish their school year on site and graduation festivities still have yet to be announced, the Show Choir staff didn’t want to wait to make sure their seniors knew how appreciated they are and how much they will be missed.

“The focus was trying to restore the traditions we lost by having to leave school unexpectedly. I wrote each student a letter and gave it to them with their poster. I

would have given them the letter with their gifts at the banquet. We also gave them their superlative awards,” Bussiere said. “In the next couple of weeks, they will get their senior letters written by the underclassmen in the choir. We are finishing up their senior video that will also have the seniors from the concert choir. This would have been played at Seniors Last Jam where the seniors performed solos for the final

time. We can never replace what they lost, but they will leave knowing they were loved.”

Staff members also posed for pictures with the graduates during each presentation being sure to respect social distancing guidelines while leaving a lasting memory for the Class of 2020 Show Choir seniors to cherish forever.

FINANCIAL

continued from page 7

relatives are women, according to a study from Northwestern University. So, many women business owners may be coping with multi-generational family issues.

You can’t change the demographic pressures you may face, but, as a business owner, you can take some steps to help improve your financial outcomes. Here are a few ideas:

Seek networking opportunities. You can find useful, and empathetic, allies in other women business owners, who may be able to direct you to valuable resources. To illustrate: Women’s businesses often lack financial support to a greater degree than men’s, and it is unfortunately not uncommon for women to be denied loans because of gender and cultural biases. But if you become active in a network of women business owners, you could find some leads to financial institutions that have showed themselves to be free of gen-

der-based prejudices.

Be extra aware of investment risks. Everyone should always be aware of investment risk, of course, but if you have most of your assets tied up in your business, you may need to be extra diligent. You’re already taking a fair amount of risk by just having a business, so you may need to balance this risk in your investment portfolio by choosing the mix of investments that can help you move toward your goals without subjecting you to excessive market volatility.

Establish a retirement plan for yourself. Have you established a retirement savings plan for yourself? About one-third of business owners haven’t, and 40 percent are not confident they can retire before 65, according to data compiled by SCORE, a nonprofit organization that works with small businesses. Fortunately, you have several good retirement plan options, including an “owner-only” 401(k), a SEP-IRA, a SIMPLE IRA or even a solo defined benefit plan, which functions like a pension.

Create a succession plan. You may need a strategy for transferring or selling your business. Do you want to keep the business in the family? If so, who do you want to take it over? Or would you prefer to simply sell it to someone else? Your decisions, whatever they are, will affect your financial picture and possibly that of your family, so you will want to consult with your tax, legal and financial advisors to arrive at a plan that works best for your needs.

You’ve got some twists and turns ahead of you on the road to financial security. But planning ahead, considering various possibilities and seizing your opportunities can help you smooth out the journey.

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



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REAL ESTATE

GARDENING

continued from page A8

assisting her with another hobby is a great way to spend time together doing something mom loves.

Update her garden tools if she is an avid gardener. Consider a tool caddy and fill it with her favorite hand tools such as a weed knife, hand pruner, sunscreen, and gloves.

Add elegance and function to your

mother's daily activities with durable and fashionable gloves. Their practical and fashionable nature makes them a popular add-on or stand-alone gift item.

Elbow length garden gloves, like Foxgloves (foxglovesinc.com), protect forearms and hands from sun, scratches, and plant oils. The 'cottony soft' feel of Supplex® nylon makes them comfortable but extremely durable and tough. They can be washed and dried quickly, so mom always has a pair of gloves ready to use. Add some fun to this functional gift by choosing one of

the bright colors.

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Take the pressure off and make mom's day extra special with one of these Mother's Day gifts that provide immediate and long-term benefits. She'll appreciate your thoughtfulness when she opens the package, unwraps the flowers or puts the tools and gloves to use all season long.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Foxgloves for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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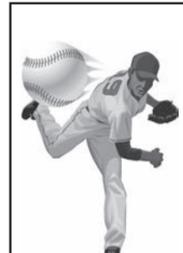
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