

Auburn News

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Selectmen postpone junk license, revisit museum plan

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Selectmen put on hold a local business's request to approve its junk dealers' license due to unresolved contamination issues cited by Conservation and the Board of Health.

"I can't see a reason to issue that until it's cleaned up," Chair Earl Gabor said, specifically citing the property's proximity to the Bigelow Well as a key issue.

The license in question is currently held by LaPlante Bros at 114 Worcester Rd, but Lomuscio Trucking seeks to claim it. The firm's owner Vito Lomuscio and his attorney David Dupont said they need the license to be able to sell some of the junk there to get some funds to fulfill the conservation issues.

"That stuff predates everybody in town," Lomuscio said. "It's been there 75 years." He said it's "not my sole focus. I'm going to address it and get it done, but I'm not there every day."

Gabor noted "that's been an eyesore for the town for quite a number of years" and "you've been the operational manager" for years, making him wonder "why it wasn't attended to" in that time.

Town Administrator Rick Lafond agreed, saying it's been subject to an enforcement order for more than two years.

"Until today [Nov. 18], there has been no conversation whatsoever with the agent or members of the Commission to forward this goal," Lafond said, noting Dupont did speak to Conservation Agent Joey Wigglesworth that day.

Mark Rogers said he sees the situation as "willful disregard for the town and the state." He added he might be willing to accept a "temporary solution" to allow for solving the problems, which have "too many unknowns."

That led to the board accepting Dupont's proposal of an extension of this hearing to the first meeting in January, which would technically be after the license lapses. Dupont said he needed such time to work out a plan with the various town boards.

Board members said they thought that was enough time to see the owner making an effort. As Gabor noted, Webster needs to see "what you can live with and what the town can accept."

Afterward, they got another update on proposed changes to the Samuel Slater Experience from museum director Barbara Van Reed. Over the museum's two and a half years in business, she said they've learned

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Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as October Students of the Month at St. Joseph School: Pre-K 3-year-old Program: Divya Nasis; Pre-K 4-year-old Program: Sophia Dowd; Kindergarten: Isabella Valenti; Grade 1: Liam Buschle; Grade 2: Wrenna Shemansky; Grade 3: Logan Derry; Grade 4: Gabriella Powaza; Grade 5: Charlotte Rumsey; Grade 6: Jacob Manzi; Grade 7: Neli Kuznecki; Grade 8: Adam Wozniak. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

DCRSD reassessing three-year District Plan

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (DCRSD) is beginning to reassess its three-year plan to build off the success of the last three years while also establishing goals to help the district continue to progress.

During a School Committee meeting in November DCRSD Assistant Superintendent Kelly True provided insight into how the district has embraced the existing District Plan while also examining how the new plan may continue those efforts or introduce new ones into the district's long-term goals for success. The existing plan was approved in 2022, and contained three main goals: strengthen-

ing the continuum of learning by providing access and opportunities to all students, strengthening systematic practices and processes improving student achievement and outcomes, and strengthening family and community engagement, partnerships, and communication. True said she feels the district has made great strides towards accomplishing all three of those goals.

"We're going to be developing a new district plan based on where we are with these three goals. This will kind of feed into what our new district plan is, and we'll look at aligning our new district plan with DESI's (Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) new vision that they came out with and what

DESI's plan and vision is so that we're aligned from DESI's vision to the district's vision to the school improvement plans all the way down so that we're in alignment and we're all kind of rowing in the same direction, which is the important part," said True.

Looking at each of the existing goals in the plan, True said their mission to strengthen the continuum of learning has included the embrace of universal design learning, reduced reliance on academic support classes, development of therapeutic learning classrooms, increased staffing and improved specialized support, and added support for academic and behavioral needs among other enhancements. The district hopes the new plan will continue

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Dudley to maintain single tax rate

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Once again, Dudley is staying with a single tax rate as selectmen barely debated the concept of shifting more tax burden on businesses during their annual tax classification hearing in November.

The tax classification hearing is an annual affair that determines how Dudley seeks to delineate the tax burden. Like many communities in the area, Dudley is predominantly residential and while shifting some burden off taxpayers onto businesses would loosen the impact on residents, many officials fear such a move would negatively impact the town's economic growth and business friendly atmosphere.

That sentiment continued during the Nov. 18 hearing, where town Assessor Lisa Berg revealed that historical percentages show a growth in residential taxpayers in the town. She recommended that the share of the tax burden remain a single tax rate.

"There are 351 towns in Massachusetts. Only 125 of those towns have a split tax rate. Dudley has the 47th lowest tax rate in Massachusetts amongst the towns that don't have a split tax rate. We went from 57th last year to 47th this year," said Berg, who presented a look at surrounding towns revealing Dudley remains one

Turn To DUDLEY page A13

A page-turning surprise lands at Chaffee Elementary!

OXFORD — Exciting news for Chaffee families! There's a buzz in the halls, and it's all about the brand-new Inchy's Book Vending Machine, proudly standing in the cafeteria. Thanks to the amazing work of the Chaffee PTO and the support of all Chaffee parents, this literary treasure trove is here to bring the joy of books to our students!

So, what exactly is Inchy's Book Vending Machine? Picture a traditional vending machine—but instead of snacks or sodas, it's filled with books! Yes, books! From colorful picture books for our youngest readers to exciting chapter books for older students, there's something for every budding bookworm.

This shiny, book-filled beauty isn't just about convenience; it's about inspiration. Students can earn special tokens as rewards for positive behavior, academic achievement, or acts of kindness. Those tokens can then be exchanged for a book of their choice.

That's right—students can take home a brand-new book to keep and treasure forever.

This fantastic addition to Chaffee Elementary wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our PTO. Their hard work organizing fundraisers, like the Fall Festival and Fun Run, paid off big time. A huge thank-you goes to every single parent who contributed, whether you donated, volunteered, or cheered from the sidelines. Your support has turned a dream into reality!

Our PTO truly went above and beyond to bring this idea to life. They spent hours researching, planning, and coordinating to make sure this magical machine could find its home here at Chaffee. "We wanted to do something special that would directly impact students and encourage a love for reading," shared one PTO member. "Seeing their excitement makes it all worth it!"

A huge thank you to Lori

Martinez and Amanda Borbeau, and their team - Rachel Reilly, Katie Phelan, Madelyn Conover, Amanda Bolio and Lori McCassie.

When the vending machine was unveiled during an after-school assembly, the room was filled with gasps, cheers, and wide-eyed wonder. "I can't wait to use my first token!" said one first grader, clutching her backpack. Another student chimed in, "It's like a treasure chest full of books!"

Teachers are equally thrilled about this innovative addition.

"It's a fantastic way to encourage reading while also celebrating our students' accomplishments," said a first-grade teacher.

The Inchy's Book Vending Machine is just the beginning of Chaffee's literacy journey. As students begin collecting books and expanding their home libraries, the PTO and school staff are already brainstorming new ways

to keep the excitement going.

So next time you're in the building, be sure to swing by and check out this marvelous machine. And don't forget to pat yourself on the back, Chaffee community—

you made this happen. Together, they're turning the page to an even brighter future for the kids.

Here's to more books, more smiles, and more learning



Turn To WEBSTER page A13

Bay Path Academy Director attends Books for Pinoy Foundation Gala

WARWICK, R.I. — Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol (formerly of Dudley and Douglas), Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton was joined by her husband, Joseph Bolandrina in the second annual Books for Pinoy Foundation (BFP) Nov. 9 Foundation Gala at University Ballroom of the Double Tree by Hilton. The mission of Books for Pinoy's Foundation (<https://www.booksforpinoy.com/index.php>) is to build a library which will serve as a hub to different provinces in the Philippines. BFP is a 501c nonprofit organization 87-1616616 designed to help educate children in the Philippines. BFP have been sending books to less fortunate children, schools, and libraries across the Philippines. BFP opened eight (8) libraries and have started taking applications to help other schools, libraries across the islands. BFP connects and works with different institutions in the USA including Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy to help facilitate collection of books, eBooks, and computers. BFP continues helping build libraries and explore the wonderful world of books.

Photo shows Joseph and Gretheline Bolandrina with the BFP backdrop. Joseph was the volunteer emcee for the event while Gretheline previously helped with the Authors Alley.

Gretheline stated, "The mission of BFP aligns with my belief in literacy advocacy and I fully support their efforts."

Funds raised at the Nov. 9 Foundation Gala help support BFP's literacy advocacy. Live music, dancing, photo booth, and fabulous prizes from raffles and silent auctions along with delicious food made for a memorable evening.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$920,000, 11 Whitetail Run, Langlois, Scott P, and Langlois, Amy L, to Thai, Long, and Bycenski, Kim.
 \$615,000, 15 Brook St, Cox Mary Ellen Est, and Cox, Michael D, to Cipriano, David.
 \$510,000, 17 Murray Ave, Croteau, Roland, to Norwood, Lauren V, and Haddad, Tyler E.
 \$449,900, 5 Lorna Dr, Tessman 3rd, Henry B, and Tessman, Cindy L, to Neves, Natalie, and Cardoso, Joao P.
 \$420,500, 284 Oxford St N, Ouellette, Clare R, to Farrell, Kevin, and Farrell, Matheus R.
 \$405,000, 69 Appleton Rd, Campbell, Shawn S, and Armstrong, April B, to Samera, Joyce.
 \$400,000, 242 Central St, Grinnell, Byron G, to Rosel-Morales, Heather.
 \$385,000, 195 Pakachoag St, Falk, Blaise W, and Smarra, Sierra J, to Marshall, Devereux.
 \$350,000, 52 Hampton St, Freemam, James P, to Day, Devon C, and Stanovich, Nicholas R.
 \$338,000, 3 Perry Pl #3, Lowkes, Kara E, to Mensah-Essien, Rachel D.
 \$335,000, 10 Inwood Rd, Grier, Kwame M, to Olson, Judith.
 \$255,000, 11 Pinehurst Ave, Butrym Ft, and Roseberry, Laurie-A K, to Peters, Jerrika M.
 \$248,000, 38 Elbridge Rd, Sarli, Gerardo A, to Khalaf, Adam N.
 \$190,000, 347 Pakachoag St, Kulig Helen J Est, and Brady, Stephanie, to Royal House Invs LLC.
 \$10,000, Brook St, Cox Mary Ellen Est, and Cox, Michael D, to Morse, Gregory.

DUDLEY

\$880,000, 37 Lawrence Rd, 37 Lawrence Road Nt, and Conner Land TLLC Tr, to Khirallah, Ralph, and Khirallah, Sandra.
 \$650,000, 1 Sophies Way, T Reardon Builders Inc, to Majka, Christopher J, and Majka, Lisa.
 \$620,000, 241 Dresser Hill Rd, Bourgoin, Kristina, and Bourgoin, Chase, to Rorebeck, Cecile.
 \$620,000, 31 Sunset Dr, Letourneau Jr, Andrew J, to Hollenbeck, Nicole M, and Hollenbeck 2nd, Enzo W.
 \$512,000, 10 Duval Rd, Poole Lt, and Poole, William E, to Parsons, Scott, and Parsons, Estenia.
 \$510,000, 154 Dudley Oxford Rd, Weinhardt, Donald R, and Weinhardt, Elizabeth M, to Upshaw, Derek J, and Machuca, Karla.
 \$445,000, 56 Airport Rd, Lopez, Jorge A, and Lopez, Gladis D, to Gamil, Mina S.
 \$407,500, 164 Corbin Rd, Mcdonald, Dana, and Leblanc, Shannon S, to Toohey, Alexander J.
 \$375,000, 16 Dalessandro Ave, Spiewakowski, Walter F, to Woods, Brynn S, and Woods, Nicholas R.
 \$60,000, Airport Rd, Shaw, Diane M, and Cashes, Marlene P, to Carmignani, Richard A, and Carmignani, Cathleen A.

OXFORD

\$740,000, 3 Maple Ave, Virginia Maple LLC, to Brady, Sean.
 \$590,000, 8 Founders Ct, Thai, Long, to Bessette, Joseph W, and Bessette, Michelle H.
 \$490,000, 51-53 Wells St, Stevens, William J, to Cabrera, Manuel A, and Acosta, Ana J.
 \$460,000, 15 June St, Mccullough, Gina, and Mccullough, Andrew, to Nobrega, Nayara, and Caetano, Luis A.
 \$445,000, 60 Mcintyre Rd, Gregoire Blanche H Est, and Ossene, Kathy A, to Meyers, Nathen.
 \$430,000, 45 Church St, Denning, Mark P, and Denning, Ashley M, to Thibault, Charlene, and Thibault, Christine.
 \$400,000, 427 Main St, Danforth, Michael J, to Hassani, Djaffar, and Bouchha, Samira.
 \$375,000, 314 Main St, Cadml LLC, to Goyette, Hilary.
 \$300,000, 66 Pleasant St #5, Land Of The Roses LLC, to Chalifoux, Olivia R.
 \$275,000, 647 Main St #A, Rydzewski, Michelle D, to Rhinehart, Herbert L, and Caissie, Lynn.
 \$268,500, 36 Old Southbridge Rd, Lorus Group LLC, to Sdb Homes LLC.
 \$240,000, 10 Thayer Pond Dr #11, Marley Beverly A Est, and Lockwood, Michelle M, to Bucaro, Cynthia.
 \$210,500, 5 Wallace Ct, Lawson, Gail J, to House Buyers Of Amer Inc.

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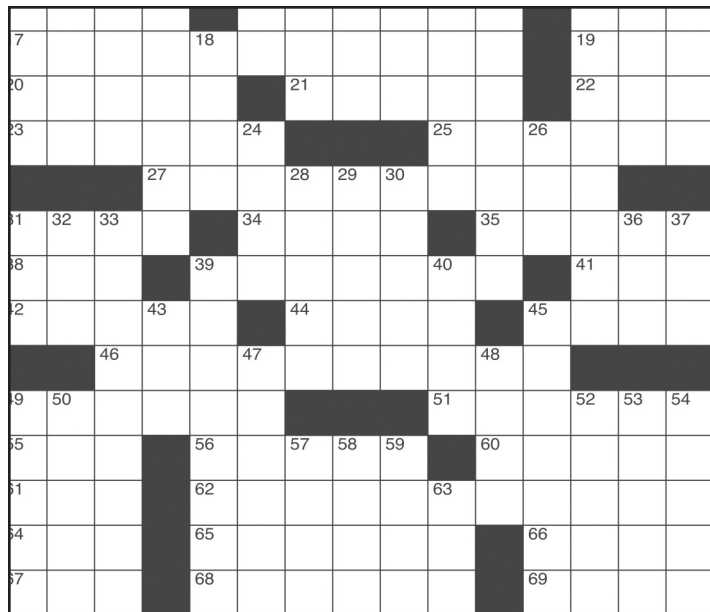
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CLUES ACROSS

- Separate with an instrument
- State clearly
- One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- Broad in scope
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Caps
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Checked
- One-sided
- Having an extreme greed for wealth
- Potted plants
- We all have one
- Lake north of the Kalahari
- Unidentified flying object
- Aging persons
- Small amount
- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental waist box
- Officials
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Extensive, treeless plains
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Consumer advocate Ralph
- Notable Spanish sports club
- Body part
- One's responsiveness
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Muslim ruler title
- Unhappy
- Gradually disappeared
- Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units
- We all have one
- Marine invertebrate
- One who institutes a legal proceeding
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uncomfortable feelings
- Cross to form an X
- Remove
- Some pages are dog-__
- Capital of Ukraine
- A citizen of Denmark
- Eighth month (abbr.)
- Hindu queens
- Acids structurally related to amino acids
- Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- Wet dirt
- Russian city
- Observed
- Irate
- Travelers need them
- Musical composition
- Auction
- Form of "to be"
- Women
- Inspire with love
- Think Japanese ankle sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The lead dancer: __ ballerina
- Protein involved in motion
- Rosalind Franklin biographer
- Popular 1920s style art __
- __ Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to rest

JZZLE SOLUTION

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\$ 1 7 5 , 0 0 0 ,
 158 Leicester St, Mallette, Catherine E, and Metropolitan Life Ins Com, to Edmunds, Keith A.
 \$168,500, 38 Sunset Ave, Zaczek Jr, Michael E, to Revolution Dev LLC.

WEBSTER
 \$663,000, 95 Birch Island Rd, Strode, Scott A, and Strode, Kaitlin E, to Leverone, J D, and Friedman, Randi.

\$550,000, 16 Brookline St, Sciannameo, Barbara J, to Cherestall, Jean S.
 \$520,000, 20 Cooper Rd, Arm Renovations Inc, to Appiah, Simon, and Appiah, Emmanuella.
 \$460,000, 19 Grenier Ave, Majka, Christopher J, and Majka, Lisa, to Cooke, Rebecca, and Cooke, Michael.
 \$454,000, 51 Rawson Rd, Farhat Imad Hussein Est, and Farhat, Samaher, to Gingrich, David, and Gingrich, Emma.
 \$430,000, 11 5th St, Baniukiewicz, Katelyn, and Chabre, Mathew S, to Dawood, Salwan.
 \$422,000, 22 Negus St, Greco, Andrea, to Wps Webster LLC.
 \$395,000, 6 Ash St, Marcinczyk, Christine, and Osimo, Barbara A, to Perkins, Jared W, and Tremblay, Jordan.
 \$355,000, 63 Park Ave, Chausse, Jean M, and Tkachuk, Dmytro, to Tkachuk, Oksana, and Tkachuk, Dmytro.
 \$351,000, 11 Black Point Rd, Polymeros, Christian, to Cornell, Jace.
 \$250,000, 34 Eastern Ave #P, Nunes, Tarcisio D, to Nunes, Danilo D.
 \$240,000, 37 3rd St #A, Lebel, Tina, and Lebel, Amanda, to Troy, Jennifer.
 \$160,000, 944 School St, Gordon, Donald W, and Lottridge, Christy L, to Horanzky, Shawn.
 \$69,000, 29 Elm St, Shaw, Carol D, to Elm St Development LLC.

Recent rain may help “critical” statewide drought

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Last Friday, state and local officials started a series of online conferences to address the current drought conditions. Although our region saw some rain straddling that meeting, the amount received hasn't done much more than dent the drought in place since August.

According to mass.gov's Drought Management page, all of Massachusetts but the Cape and Islands was in a Level 3 “critical” drought as of Nov. 19.

“Over the past 30 days, most of the state received less than an inch of rain, which is three to four and a half inches below normal,” it states. “Many areas recorded their lowest rainfall ever for this time of the year. Since August, when dry conditions began, all regions except the Cape and the Islands have seen an eight- to 11-inch rainfall deficit.”

On federal drought maps, that situation has

made the northeast one of the driest parts of the US despite not being hot.

“The onset has been fast, it has moved fast, and it has intensified fast,” Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Vandana Rao told the more than 400 people who attended Friday's meeting. She said this drought's “particularly unprecedented” progression “has reshaped our thinking” of how droughts develop and affect the state.

Its most notable impact has been in brush and forest fires. According to Department of Conservation and Recreation Fire Marshal Dave Celino, the total number of 1,226 fires for 2024 is about average, but the 4202 acres burned is “historical,” as is November's total of 2,800-plus acres. He noted November's average for number of fires is 20-21, but we've seen 433 this year.

“The numbers are very impressive for us.

We've never been here in decades,” he said.

Later, he added, “these fires are going to burn deep, they're going to burn long” because of how dry the conditions are. That makes them hard to fight, because “we've had fires break out of containment. ... Every ember can cause a fire to blow out on us.”

On average, Celino said, the state is tracking “10 priority fires a day” and had 21 active fires on Thursday. But he noted some of them were receiving rain and/or snow that would help the effort to control them.

The largest fire was the Butternut Fire in Great Barrington, which had burned 1388 acres and had a two mile perimeter. Its geography was partly responsible – it started on a ridge, burned to the top and then started burning down both sides. But Celino noted Thursday's precipitation included snow in that area, helping to control it.

Besides fire, the drought has had serious

effects on water, both in terms of water bodies and drinking supply in some areas. Department of Environmental Protection's Kathleen Baskin said DEP's water withdrawal permits normally just limit “non-essential” water uses from May to September, but in light of this drought, the agency is going to look at making that last all year.

The mass.gov drought page has a fairly long list of “recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within Level 3 – Critical Drought Regions, including those utilizing a private well.” For households, those include checking for water leaks frequently, limiting showers to five minutes or less, stopping “all non-essential water use,” and only running dishwashers and washing machines full. For communities, it encourages keeping people informed about drought conditions, using “increasingly stringent penalties” to enforce restrictions, and

“strongly discourage or prohibit” such washing such things as driveways.

Among other things, the list also warns people to “refrain from outdoor cooking and heating” and “use caution with lawnmowers, leaf blowers, all-terrain vehicles, and other power equipment.”

Regarding conservation issues, Baskin said certain parts of the Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Act change in declared droughts. Specifically, land developers cannot use current low- or no-flow conditions in rivers and streams to define them as “intermittent,” nor can they base buffer zone delineations on them, among other things. She urged commissions and others with questions to contact DEP.

Generally, surface water supplies are still good, with the MWRA-run reservoirs holding at least five years' worth, Rao said.

However, some areas are seeing groundwater concerns. The most recent state hydrological report (for October) listed central Mass as having the lowest median streamflow value of any region statewide at just 4 percent, lake levels of about 21 percent, three of the region's eight monitoring wells with water levels below 30 percent of normal, and just 17 percent of average precipitation. By then, our region was already in Level 3 drought, and those levels got worse in November, although the monthly data wasn't yet online by deadline. October's report is here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-october-hydrologic-conditions/download>.

Out in the woods, those issue manifest as trails so dry as to be dust or sand, most smaller streams and many wetlands being completely waterless, major brooks being very low, lakes and ponds having notably low shorelines, and all of the leaf litter, dead plants and other ground material being extremely dry.

Regarding health issues, the Department of Public Health is tracking air quality from smoke, both due to local fires and that drifting from elsewhere in North America. Meg Blanchett said those most at risk are people under age five or over 65, pregnant people, those who may not speak English and don't get messages in their languages, those who work and exercise outdoors, and those with various health concerns. Among the ways to reduce risk are to create a filtered “clean air room” in the house or to use N95 masks.

Dr Marissa Hauptman said the agency has not yet issued any health alerts for the drought itself, but did have “a lot of extreme heat alerts” this summer and a “wild-fire smoke alert” on Oct. 29. Those went to about 43,000 recipients, including hospitals and Boards of Health.

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

DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL RELEASES HONOR ROLL

DUDLEY — Dudley Middle School has released its honor roll for the first term of the 2024-2025 school year.

Grade 8
High Honors: Charity Acquaah-Mensah, Madelyn Audet, Arianna Breault, Ava Cincotta, Teddy Cunkovski, Avery Desautels, Connor Gasco-Albro, Elizabeth Haynes, Nikolas Mason, Marina Morgan, Georgia Niforos-Ortiz, Victoria Norton, Finley O'Shea, Amilia Piarulli, Aslynn St. Laurent, Connor Stackpole, Noah Torres, Brayden Trybulski

Honors: Kimberly Agim, Angelina Ayad, Callum Blackwood, Timothy Booth, Julian Brockway, Miranda Carlson, Kenadie Caruso, Rachael Ciuchta, Rose Cole, Lilly Connor, Nicholas Cryan, Baylee Dashnaw, Michael Devine, Amelia Donahue, Mckenna Doyle, Lila Evanski, Emerson Fedish, Kayla Flibbert, Shay Fournier, Caroline Fuentes, Lena Gago, Tyrone Giteru, Noah Hamelin, Gavin Hanson, Eliot Havens, Emma Hopper, Zachary Kaiser, Mason Kokocinski, Vincent Menzone, Aden Patterson, Jesse Rumrill Andino, Jack Shorten, Margaret Straw, Tobias Swanbeck, Maibelis Torres, Kourtney Tucker, Olivia Vivenzio, Maya Wierzchowiec, Julian Wilcox-Richardson, Kaiya Zaczek

Grade 7
High Honors: Abigail Avakian, Yosneiry Baez Pena, Oltina Bektashi, Gwyneth Boudreau, Sofia Cabrera, Kolby Campbell, Richard Carmignani, Isabella Congdon, Tiffany DePaula, Addison Duval, Jasmine Hansen, Phoebe Houatchanthara, Eliora Ibrahim, Camden Karle, Olivia Laskowski, Calista Lawless, Maria Mankarios, Victor Mensah, Jolene Ndegwa, Arianna Norton, Carter Paquin, Nathan Shay, Maddex St. George, Evan Steriti, Ayla Tombeno, Lucas White

Honors: Erik Anderson, Jordan Ashton, Griffin Bachand, Sophie Barcelo, Jackson Bell, Jason Bianchi, Paul Chabot, Celeina Collins, Matilda Cronauer, David Curran, Evan D'Ambr, Ana-Clara Dallorto, Olivai Dubreuil, Dylan Dufresne, Benjamin Durgin, Chase Dzivasen, Jaxon Flagg, Jameson Groh, Milani Hammel, Shawn Hastings, Karolina Janusz, David Kruszewski, Taylor Laskowski, Noah LePage, Cooper LeVierge-Mallet, Alexander Lewandowski, Macy MacDonald,

Chidimma Madu, Julia Mahadeo, William Martel, Eleanor McCool, Camden Melendez, Michael Menard, Jayce Monfette, Autumn Palmer, Kiersten Plocher, Alayna Pontbriand, Alivia Rada, Jolena Renaud, Ariana Rodriguez, Valentina Sedykh-Gil, Justen Shenouda, Jacob Strafer, Aiden Sulsona, Anastasia Towadros, Ryder Trajanowski, Paul Trujillo Reyes, Ivanka Twumasi-Ankrah, Avianna Vega, Devante Whitcomb, John Whitcraft, Rofail Youssef

Grade 6
High Honors: Ivory Agim, Miah Amorelli, Connor Ares, Grayson Belley, Lily Blessington, Jason Broadmeadow, Abigail Chojnacki, Silas Ciuchta, Logan Connor, Ronan Coulson, Arianna Dos Santos, Kylie Ebbeling, Malcolm Goetz, Leo Guardiani, Penelope Habib, Elliott Harnois, Henri Hokanson, Ava Hortance, Timothy King, Charlotte Langlois, Anthony LeBlanc, Alexandria Lundy, Olivia Macek, Benjamin Moisan, Rhys Myler, Ella Padgett, D'Andre Parra-Olivera, Peter Penesis, Sara Rabski, Amarie Rosario, Aaliyah Sabara, Leilani Sobinska-Colon, Ivy St. Laurent, Zachary Standing, Braden Traverso

Honors: Jasmine Arboleda, Avery Battista, Ava Baxter, Rihnaya Bembridge, Dylan Bort, Jacob Casey, Brynlee Chickering, Fiona Cole, Daxton Colella, Liv Cushing, Dante Defranc, Lana Denson, McKenna Devine, Logan Dunn, Ayla Flores, Jayson Irafasha, Jack Joyce, Michael Kaloyanides, Michael Keefe, Cynthia Kerry, Lukasz Krawczyk, Whitney Kungu, Aaron Lamusta, Abigail Larrabee, Eliana Lempicki, Giada Manzi, Marcus Meschke, Rylee Mongeon, Andreas Niforos-Ortiz, Delaney O'Grady, Adriana Panu, Jacob Paradis, Gavin Patenaude, Pierce Patriarca, Skyline Rivera, Anthony Rodriguez, Ava Rosario, Maya Rousey, Jenna Rousseau, Sabella Rust, Jackson Smith, Isabella Soto, Anthony Stasiewicz, Natalie Stinehart, Claire Synal, Joselys Torres, Lorenzo Trifone, Hunter Trybulski, Matteo Umansky, Jacob Wilson, Ishak Youssef

Grade 5
High Honors: Jayden Agosto, Hunter Baldwin, Nicholas Bandeleon, Audrey Barcelo, Colin Barnes, Riley Bell, Mary Carmignani, Maya Caron, Nestor Castenada Garland, Austin Cazeault, Abigail Craver, Connor Hains, Elaria Ibrahim, Carter Lebeau, Bryce MacCormack, Maxwell Matthews, Amora Mello, Jameson Metzler, Zachary Moisan, Liam Nelson, Irvin Nyatuka, Kalisia Roldan, Aniela Slanda, Alexander Vivenzio

Honors: Shehab Abdelmalak, Julianna Androlewicz, Natalia Androlewicz, Noah Aubin, Charlie Audet, Gavin Audet, Raegan Barrile, Janie Belsito, Nina Browning, Azeriah Brunson, Gabriela Cabrera, Mason Cahill, Juliet Carter, Anthony Coccia, Kaiden Coulson, Seth Cregg, Rebecca Czernicki Ramsey, Vincent D'Ambr, Eleanor Daniel, Ella DaSilva, Luca DiDonato, Robin Donais, Logan Duarte, Tristan Ducharme, Mia Fifield, Madison Fortin, Wyatt Foskett, Amelia Gago, Autumn Griffin, Maddox Harden, Lucas Henderson Mendoza, London Hogan, Gabriel Kaiser, Aislyn Knorr, Owen Laro, Sid Lindsay, Riley Mackowiak, Samuel Majka, Zachary Marrier, Liam Mason, Alexus McGinty, Maddox Millette, Cody Mitchell, Iyla Navin, Gabriela Prusinski, Jameson Quaiel, Alexa Racine, Broderick Raggione, Alayah Ruskin, Xander Sanchez, Hailey Shaw, Grace-Ann Smith, Camellia Sobinska-Colon, Camden Spencer, Hannah Staruk, Andrew Szpakowski, Hunter Tomlinson, Bentley Toto, Geovanny Vazquez, Giselle Velasquez Bonilla, Theodore Weimbs-Txvid, Zayden White, Charlotte Young



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(Snow Date: Saturday, December 14th)

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Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
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Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Program Coordinator Randa Cox at rcox@cwmar.org.

Toy Swap Drop Off Join in on No Clutter November and get ready for the holiday season by cleaning out your closets and toy rooms. Bring your unwanted toys and kids items in good condition throughout the month and come "shop" our selection on 12-3 and 12-4. All items are free and this program is open to anyone regardless of whether you dropped off items. Leftover toys will be made available in the children's room after the event and donated to local charities.

Adult Programming

YOGA – Saturday: December 14th, 21st, & 28th at 9:30 AM
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Hot Flashes – December 12th at 6:30 PM

The Hot Flashes are an exciting and eclectic group fronted by three female vocalists who have made a name for themselves on the New England music scene showcasing their tight vocal harmonies and jazzy acoustic stylings. The Flashes are Amy Gallatin, who with her expressive soulful singing has made a name for herself both in North America and overseas, award-winning singer-songwriter/guitarist Gail Wade, and multi-instrumentalist Peggy Harvey, founding member of the legendary bluegrass group Traver Hollow. Backed by the solid chops of mandolinist JD Williams, Dobro veteran Roger Williams—both from Gallatin's band Stillwater's—and bassist John Urbanik, the instrumentation also includes the occasional clawhammer banjo. As a group these six veteran musicians meld their collective experiences, voices and instruments into a unique and rousing musical experience as the three women fuse their distinct voices into one soaring, harmonious musical element.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— December 16th at 6:30 PM

The Group will be discussing *The Wager* by David Grann. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmar.org for inquiries.

COOKBOOK CLUB— December 10th at 6:00 PM

Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and least favorite things of the cooking adventure.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT-- December 17th at 6:00 PM

Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn!

Library for All: A drop-in event for Teens & Adults with Developmental Disabilities Mondays in November at 9:00 AM

This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed. We are happy to accommodate! Sensory Bins: Chair Yoga: 11/25/24 Craft Program:

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt— All Month Long

What's more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children's room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you've completed the scavenger hunt, check in with the Children's Librarian to redeem a prize.

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT-- All month long

Take and Make craft kits are now available for pick up upstairs in the Children's Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to one per patron.

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

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

Me and My Mini: December 5th, 12th, & 19th at 10:00 AM

A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

KIM THE LEGO LADY: December 3rd and 17th at 4:00 PM

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Our brand-new LEGO Club is launching, and we want YOU to be part of the adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11.

MINI BLOCK PARTY Tuesday December 10th at 3:30 PM

Love building? This revamped program invites kids to explore their creativity with magnet tiles, wooden blocks, hollow blocks, LEGO, and more

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM

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

OPEN PLAY TIME ADVENTURE-- Fridays at 10:00 AM

Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

Sensory Bin Storytime: Desserts-- Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Come join us for a fun filled Storytime as we read together and then let our imaginations fly through different sensory bin activities. Each week will offer a different theme exploration related to the books and bins provided. Perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

WEDNESDAY STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME---- December 11th and 18th at 10:00 AM

Join Andrew the Youth Services Librarian for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. For ages 0-3.

DECEMBER WINTER CRAFT SERIES: Cookie Decorating Party (2 Sessions) December 9th 3:30-4:15 and 4:30-5:15 PM

Who doesn't love cookies and hot chocolate on a cold winter day? Join us for the opportunity to decorate some cookies and sip on hot cocoa. Space is limited and will be held in two sessions. Please register in advance for only one session. PJs are encouraged! Registration for this event opens Monday, November 25 at 9:00 AM.

Brooke Leblanc of Dudley inducted into Psi Chi Honor Society for Psychology

WORCESTER — Assumption University's Department of Psychology has announced that Brooke Leblanc of Dudley, Class of 2026, has become a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.

"We are extremely proud of our newly inducted Psi Chi members. May this honor be a stepping stone to even greater success," said Associate Professors of Psychology Maria Parmley and Karen Lionello-Denolf, Co-Faculty Advisors to Assumption University's Psi Chi Chapter. "We are confident that these members will support our chapter's dedication to promoting the science and application of psychology and integrating it with the University's mission of thriving in the company of friends. Congratulations to our inductees! May they continue to inspire others with their dedication, passion, and pursuit of excellence."

Psi Chi was founded with the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduates, of sophomore, junior, or senior academic standing, who major or minor in psychology. Inductees must have completed nine semester hours of psychology courses, rank in the top 35 percent of their class, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.25. Members of Psi Chi have the opportunity to submit scholarly articles to the Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research, apply for research grants, and attend and present at regional and national conferences.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England University for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and dedication to the common good. Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, Assumption has undergone a series of major advancements since transitioning to a university, including new academic buildings, degree programs, and athletic facilities for our NCAA Division II student athlete population. The University offers 37 majors and 50 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, and professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Nov. 17-23.

Larry E. O'Brien, age 39, of Southbridge was arrested on Nov. 18 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon.

Jayvyn Omar Guadalupe, age 19, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 18 in connection with a warrant.

Steven Anthony Gardener, age 60, of Southbridge was arrested on Nov. 19 in connection with a warrant.

Alan R. Gates, age 45, of Glastonbury was arrested on Nov. 20 in connection with a warrant.

Amianna D. Bravetti, age 24, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 21 in connection with a warrant.

Heidijo Moores, age 43, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 22 in connection with a warrant.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845

Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with every first Thursday 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, Dec. 3, Greek Chicken, steamed white rice, roasted broccoli. Wednesday, Dec. 4, Meatloaf w/ Gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn. Thursday, Dec. 5, Turkey Supreme, cornbread stuffing, Brussels sprouts. Friday, Dec. 6, Soup du Jour; ranch chicken salad w/ bacon, pasta salad.

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

FUEL ASSISTANCE is returning to the Senior Center. As of Thursday, Nov. 7, WCAC will be here every other Thursday from 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Please call WCAC for an appointment at 508-754-1176.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

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

We are now offering movie matinees every Wednesday at 1 p.m.! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for Dec. 4 is "Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square," Dec. 11 is "That Darn Cat," and Dec. 18 is "Die Hard."

The first Thursday of every month we will be open until 7 p.m., with entertainment starting at 5:45 p.m. Dec. 5, we will be making burlap mesh poinsettia wreaths. This event is full.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3 donation per class. Classes are on Mondays, and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10 a.m.-noon.

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

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

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

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1 p.m. Beginners welcome!

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

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

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Bay Path nurse educator completes SIM workshop



Shannen Sherman

at Montgomery College and the co-chair of the Simulation Committee. Her dissertation topic is 'Faculty Competence in Facilitating Clinical Simulation,' a quantitative study that she undertook in Maryland. She also served as a Simulation Lab Support Facilitator for the Maryland Clinical Simulation Resource Consortium. She is a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator. She was a participant of the National League of Nursing Leadership Development for Simulation Educators cohort of 2017. She was an Assistant professor of nursing at Fitchburg State University where she led simulation integration, and faculty development during the COVID 19 period. She helped faculty find clinical simulation to replace clinical. She also led the conversion of the Fitchburg State Student Health Center to a Sim Center in the Spring 2021. As a director of the lab, she has collaborated with faculty and staff to meet student learning needs. She has presented on Simulation locally and internationally."

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy full-time faculty Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN of Woodstock Valley, Conn. recently completed the workshop, Simulation Facilitation Training for Health Educators presented by the Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN) on Friday, Nov. 8 at the UMass Chan Medical School Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing.

The goal of the Simulation Facilitation Training for Health Educators workshop is "to provide faculty and educators with succinct yet high quality training for faculty and educators before facilitating simulation."

From the MARILN Web site, the presenter, "Dr. Rose Kronziah-Seme PhD, MSN, RN, CHSE is an Assistant Professor of Nursing and the director of the Simulation and Lab of the Graduate Entry Pathway (GEP) Program at the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Dr. Kronziah-Seme received a B.S. in Nursing from Howard University and an M.S.N and a Ph.D. in Nursing Education from Walden University. She has been involved in Nursing education and simulation since 2009 as a clinical instructor. She trained by the Train the Trainer program series called Maryland Faculty for Simulation Teaching (NSP11) in 2013. She was the simulation coordinator from 2012 to 2018

Gladys E. Kelly Library celebrates grand opening of "The Nest"

WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library hosted a crowd of around 40 people for the Grand Opening of their new grant funded space called "The Nest." The Nest is a collection of tools, technology, and resources for small business owners and entrepreneurs to help start and grow their businesses.

The event featured several speakers including Library Director, Sondra Murphy, who spoke about how The Nest came to be, Assistant Director, Evan Hale, who spoke about the technology that will be housed in the space, as well as some of the workshops that will be available for small business owners. Webster Town Administrator, Rick LaFond, and representatives from the Center for Women and Enterprise, and E for All also spoke. The event was capped off by Representative Joseph McKenna and Senator Ryan Fattman presenting the Library with citations to honor the opening of the new space.

Free headshots were provided by Renak Photography from Worcester, and food and refreshments were provided by The Rose Room Café in Webster.

Later that evening The Center for Women and Enterprise hosted an event in the space called "Steps to Start Your Small Business," hosted by Suzanne Graham Anderson who owns Positively Suzanne, a consultation firm in Worcester. There were 12 attendees who were thrilled with the presentation. Additional upcoming events for the Space include "Starting and Growing a Business" by the Small Business Administration on Monday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m., and "Business Plan Basics" hosted by the Center for Women and Enterprise on Monday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Visit the Library Web site for more details and to register.

Dudley library to host Holiday Jewelry Sale

DUDLEY — The Pearle Crawford Library will hold a holiday jewelry sale Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

We are liquidating our Baubles & Bling inventory! Shop for anyone who loves jewelry. This event is the perfect place for kids who want to shop independently for an affordable and special gift. Volunteers will be available to help young shoppers & there will be a gift wrap station too!

More than 1,000 unique vintage pieces will be available.

Proceeds go to the Friends of the Crawford Library. All items are \$2, \$3, or \$5. Gift wrap is \$1.

Tri-Valley Inc. announces vaccination clinic

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



DUDLEY — Tri-Valley Inc. will offer a free COVID and flu vaccination clinic Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 10 Mill St., Dudley.

All Massachusetts residents aged six months and older are eligible for vaccination, but parental consent is required for those under 18. No insurance or ID required. Walk-ins are welcome, but online registration is also available at <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/cdrmaguire?site=tri-valley-inc>.

The first 100 people to be vaccinated will receive a \$75 gift card (please note that you must be 12 or older to receive a gift card).

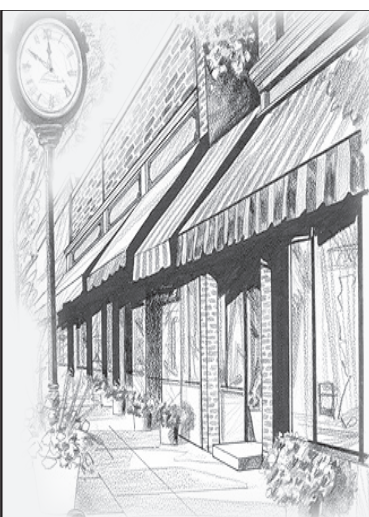
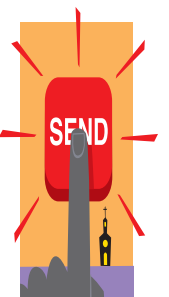
Blood drive planned at Futures Room

DUDLEY — The Rhode Island Blood Center will conduct a blood drive Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Futures Room, located at 10 Mill St., Dudley.

Please sign up in advance at ribc.org/drives using the code #M062.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Rediscovering the lost art of handwritten recipes

In an era of digital convenience and instant gratification, some of life's most cherished traditions are quietly slipping away. Among these, the art of handwritten recipes. These are a tangible connection to the flavors of our past, the love of our grandmothers, and the warmth of family gatherings. In a world dominated by cooking apps and online recipe repositories, the simple act of putting pen to paper to share culinary secrets seems almost archaic. Yet, it's precisely this nostalgia and intimacy that make handwritten recipes a lost art worth preserving.

Handwritten recipes are more than just a list of ingredients and instructions; they are pieces of culinary history, infused with the personality and heritage of those who penned them. Each smudged, stained, and dog-eared card or piece of paper tells a story, a tale of generations passing down family traditions, the evolution of tastes and preferences, and the love and care that goes into creating a homemade meal.

The act of writing out a recipe by hand is an act of devotion. It's a moment where the cook imparts their wisdom, tips, and variations to the next in line. The penmanship, the flourishes, and the personal notes ("This one's always a hit at family gatherings!") add a layer of character that cannot be replicated by sterile digital text.

One of the most remarkable aspects of handwritten recipes is their adaptability. They are not bound by the limitations of standardized formats and measurements. Instead, they encourage creativity and experimentation. A pinch of this, a handful of that, and a dash of love, these imprecise yet heartfelt instructions allow each generation to put their own spin on the family classics, ensuring that the recipes remain dynamic and relevant.

In an age where convenience often trumps sentimentality, it's easy to overlook the value of preserving handwritten recipes. But as we flip through fading recipe cards and rediscover the treasures hidden in old recipe boxes, we are reminded that these handwritten culinary heirlooms are more than just instructions; they are a link to our past, a source of inspiration, and hold tradition.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

VIEWPOINT

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

Giving thanks in all circumstances

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Listen to these words from Saint Paul - the will of God for us is to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give to give thanks in all circumstances."

God's will for us is to be connected with Him in prayer, and thus be filled with joy of the Lord and to give thanks at all times and in every circumstance. His will is not for us to complain about life, to grumble about what we don't have, to whine about our circumstances, or to compare how others may have something we don't. Our Lord Jesus wants us to face life with joy - His deep, inner joy that abides despite any disappointments and struggles. Christ wants us to confront life not with pessimism and negativity, but with thanksgiving and gratitude!

How beautiful it is to live lives of gratitude and thanksgiving. Living with such a spirit transforms our whole perspective on life. We won't focus on what we don't have, or on what others have. Instead, we thank God for each and every blessing and strive to share those blessings with those who don't have what we have! We understand life itself as the greatest gift given to us - the world around us with all its nature and beauty; the love of family and friends; our health and well-being; our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His beloved Church and the meaning of life our faith gives us; the opportunity to experience the Kingdom of God here and now. Life is the most precious gift for which we need to thank God daily.

Living lives of gratitude means even giving thanks to God when we face the unexpected and tumultuous challenges and tragedies of life. For when we face life's challenges with gratitude, we will learn new perspectives and grow to new heights.

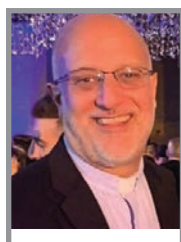
I remember watching some years ago a CNN Heroes program which highlighted a woman who was a breast cancer survivor. "When I faced this challenge in my life," she said, "I didn't ask God 'Why Me?'" but instead "What for?" And then I discovered how I could turn this challenge into a blessing for others!" She responded by realizing how many low income women don't have health insurance, and because of this, never do any testing to detect early stages of cancer. As a result of her own illness, she began mobilizing volunteers who went door to door throughout low income neighborhoods - to tens of thousands of homes - offering to these women free testing to help them detect early stages of cancer.

Not 'why me' but 'what for!' That reflects an attitude of gratitude! "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Here is an important secret of life, and an imperative attitude for the Christian journey. If we learn to rejoice always, and give thanks in all circumstances, then we will be people filled with a positive spirit. No problem will ever overwhelm us. Nothing will defeat us. We won't allow the negative and unexpected events of life to control us.

We will have cultivated an attitude of gratitude.

Of course, this isn't always easy. Our problem is that we forget to rejoice



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

and give thanks in all circumstances. In fact, we often are tempted to do the very opposite. We complain. We worry. We get anxious. We become angry. We forget about God's role in our lives and ignore the greatest source of comfort and inspiration - our faith.

In order to cultivate gratitude as an ongoing perspective of live, however, we need to understand gratitude not as a spontaneous emotion, but as a spiritual discipline to be lived every day. As the spiritual writer Henri Nouwen taught, "The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and all I have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated."

Just like with any other spiritual disciple, it takes effort and it takes the grace of God. For example, Christ teaches us to forgive one another even up to 70 x 7. We are called to forgive and even love our worst enemies. This is surely one of the most challenging commandments and disciplines in our lives. If we forgive and love in such a manner, we won't simply respond to an emotion that naturally pops up in our lives. Absolutely not. It will take discipline to cultivate, and then to learn to forgive others even when our emotions don't agree with our actions. In fact, this is how we develop all our spiritual disciplines, whether the discipline of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving.

In like manner, we develop a daily discipline to look for ways to express gratitude. We develop "eyes of gratitude." We learn to see everything in life as a gift from God, and learn to thank Him continuously throughout the day for things both small and great. When we are tempted to look at something as a problem, a nuisance, a matter of great anxiety and worry, we instead put on our "eyes of gratitude" and thank God for whatever new challenge He places in our lives. Without God the problem may seem to be a serious issue. With God, we remember that all things are possible, and that He is with us in the midst of whatever we face. Thus, we express gratitude. We "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Let me conclude with an example of how to cultivate these "eyes of gratitude" from an example that Saint Basil the Great offered. He says remember the fly and the bumble bee. The fly goes into a garden with many beautiful flowers, and yet, if there is a pile of feces in the midst of the flowers, the fly will occupy itself with the feces. In contrast, the bumble bee can go into a garbage heap, with all kinds of rotting trash, and yet, if there is one rose or beautiful flower within that heap, the bee will fly to it and spend its time around what is beautiful.

The fly is attracted to the waste of this world, while the bee is giving thanks for the rose in the midst of the trash.

May we cultivate our own eyes to see the roses of life that are all around us. Let us constantly be aware and offer thanks for the blessings seen and unseen that surround us in our lives. And in this way, let us "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances" remembering that this is "the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Happy Thanksgiving!

Buying and selling at auction



Auctions had an inauspicious start when brides were first auctioned in Greece back in 500 BC. Thankfully, that practice ended, and auctions have evolved into a tried-and-true method for selling everything from diamond rings to factory buildings. I'll focus on antiques, collectibles, and estate auctions in today's column.

There are many reasons why people sell items at auction. One of the top reasons is that competitive bidding is an effective way to get fair market value for items. Auctions help a consignor do their due diligence if they have a financial obligation to an estate or trust.

For the types of auctions that we run, we're typically contacted by estate personal representatives or attorneys. The representative may request that we appraise an estate for IRS or Probate. However, we're typically contacted to see which estate items may be a good fit for our auctions. We handle higher valued items of all types ranging from smaller antiques and collectibles like gold jewelry to larger items like vintage automobiles.

Of course, not everything in a home is antique, collectible, or valuable. There are other auction companies that sell pretty much everything in a home from a sofa to pots and pans. Sometimes we handle the more valuable items and offer suggestions to the seller for the rest.

There are of course many other reasons why people might decide to auction their items. They may be downsizing. They may have inherited things that they don't collect and would like to convert those items into cash. Consignors often have items of value like gold jewelry, sterling silver, or coins that they don't want anymore. Peoples' tastes change and they may no longer want the old painting that hung in their living room. People often tell me that they are getting older and their families have no interest in their belongings, therefore leading them to auctions.

Auctions can be online or live. We were unable to run live auctions during the pandemic and switched to all online auctions. This has expanded our reach to bidders across the world, but other auctioneers are still finding success running live auctions.

Bidders can search multiple websites including liveauctioneers.com, invaluable.com, auctionninja.com, hibid.com, bidsquare.com, and others to find items that they collect.

There are tools available for online bidders. Many online auction sites offer bidders the ability to create a want list. They can enter search terms for whatever they collect. For example, you could enter "Waltham gold pocket watches" and get an email when watches meeting your criteria are being sold. If you see something that you like, many sites will allow you to follow that item and receive an email or text when your auction item is about to be sold. If it is something that you really want, you can place a proxy bid. You enter the maximum amount that you are willing to pay such as \$500. The bidding is competitive so you may get outbid, but you might also win it for less than your \$500 bid. Whether you're a consignor or a bidder, hopefully you'll be a winner at auction.

We are currently cataloging a large collection of Civil War memorabilia from a local estate as well as running an antique auction in a Beacon Hill Boston estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

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news@stonebridgepress.news



Choosing a Holiday Tree

Now that Thanksgiving is in the rear mirror, many people are getting a head start on Christmas this year, and that means putting up the holiday tree. When it comes to choosing a trim worthy tree, for many the choice is steeped in tradition, for others, the question becomes whether to pick a fresh or artificial one. When determining which Christmas tree to choose, many factors come into play. Read on for some interesting information, as well as our annual guide to choosing a fresh tree.



TAKE
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percentage of the population that is allergic to tree sap. In this case, the only real solution is to only purchase artificial trees for your home, and avoid close proximity to real Christmas trees.

Environmental Impact: If you're leaning toward an artificial tree, but concerned about the environmental impact of artificial trees, note this: Several years ago, PE International, a consulting company that studies environmental sustainability in numerous industries, did an analysis of the environmental impact of artificial Christmas trees, versus real trees. The study found that, depending on how a real tree is disposed of, an artificial tree would only have to be used for 3.6 to 4 years before there was a net benefit with regard to contribution to global warming. This means that if a household uses an artificial tree for at least 4 years, its carbon footprint (with regard to Christmas trees) will be smaller than that of a household that purchases a real tree every year.

In addition, the study found that with both real and artificial trees, no matter how they were ultimately disposed of, Christmas trees accounted for less than 0.1% of the average person's annual carbon footprint. This means that the environmental impact is negligible, and can easily be offset by other lifestyle changes, such as driving less, recycling more regularly, purchasing items that use less packaging, etc.

If a fresh cut tree is impractical, an artificial tree can be a good investment - if you choose wisely. Did you know a well made artificial tree can last a decade or more? Choose trees with many branch tips and multiple needles, thus creating a "fullness" that rivals the real deal. Look for easy to set up models with hinged branches for quick and easy set up. High end trees often come equipped with an abundance of lights. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to hold a tree laden with heavy ornament and garlands. Lastly, consider a tree that can easily refold into a box or bag, for hassle free storage.

Read on for our annual guide to choosing a real tree:

Selecting a Christmas tree is a fun family tradition, but getting caught up in the festivities, one can overlook the

requirements of a successful pick. The first thing to remember is in a lot or on a farm, a tree can look much smaller than it will in your home. Rule number one is to always bring a tape measure to ensure a proper fit.

When choosing a freshly cut evergreen, look for nice, even coloring throughout the tree with no signs of browning. Also, beware of brittle branches, which are another sign of an old tree that may not last the season in a heated home. Look for flexibility in a bough.

To test freshness, pick a needle and bend it. A fresh fir needle will snap; a fresh pine needle will bend, but not break. The old "shake tip" really reveals a tree's freshness. Simply shake from the trunk, or wave a bough and observe how many needles fall off. If it is more than several, keep looking.

Live trees balled with the root and wrapped in burlap or containers (a.k.a. balled and bagged trees) are a great choice if you plan on planting the tree after the holidays. The most important consideration with a balled and bagged tree is to make sure the tree species can thrive in your climate zone.

Once you've chosen a holiday tree, it's necessary to prep it for inside enjoyment. If you're using a cut tree, when you get home make a fresh cut at the base. This will help the tree better take up water. It pays to keep in mind that a properly watered tree will keep about a month inside. Be sure to keep the water level above the base of the tree. To prevent fallen needles, add one of these to the base: three tablespoons glycerin; three tablespoons sugar; or a few crushed aspirin.

And after Christmas is over, the holiday tree will need to be properly disposed of. Check your city or town transfer stations for recycling options. Many municipalities recycle trees and grind them into mulch that is repurposed back into the community as such. Visit RecycleYourChristmasTree.com for more recycling options.

Tree preservatives are pricey. Mix up this homemade potion for pennies: Combine one quart of fresh warm water; a half cup of light corn syrup, and a teaspoon of liquid chlorine bleach in a two-gallon bucket. Fill the water reservoir with this solution. How does it work? This mixture helps

keep trees moist because fresh-cut trees, which absorb and digest corn syrup as an energy source, don't have to waste as much energy converting stored sugar. Therefore, they can focus on staying green and beautiful!

*Want your fresh tree to last longer? The lower the temperature and the higher the humidity, the longer your tree will last.

*Placement is also important. Avoid setting up a tree near a heat source or in front of a window that gets direct sun.

*Did you know? A freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!

*Want to avoid a trail of fallen needles to the back door? Before you set up your tree, place a tree disposal bag around the base of the trunk prior to placing it in the stand. At the end of the season, simply pull the bag up over the entire tree.

*Check with your local transfer station or recycling center to find out if they offer a tree pick up.

*Going artificial this year? You can still mimic the fresh scent of balsam, simply by sprinkling your carpets with a pine scented carpet freshener before vacuuming. Since smell is the most potent of our senses, visitors to a house that smells like the holidays will feel doubly welcomed!

Win a Three Course 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 (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Undecided on a real or artificial tree this year? The American Christmas Tree Association offers the following facts that could help you decide:

Allergies: If allergies are preventing you from going with a fresh tree, you should know the burst of warm weather in April and May triggers the reproduction cycle in many plant species, including tree species commonly used as Christmas trees. But by late November and early December, when such trees are harvested, pollen production has long since ceased. This means that most people with pollen allergies will not be bothered by real trees, except for those are sensitive enough to be bothered by trace amounts.

However, if you find yourself sneezing, or with an itchy nose or asthma symptoms when you bring in a fresh tree, According to the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, you are likely allergic to mold spores in the tree, not the tree itself. The AAAAI advises to let it dry for a week in your garage or enclosed porch and then shake it thoroughly before bringing it inside. Try using a leaf blower on the tree outside to help rid it of unwelcome particles. A high-performance air purifier in the same room as the Christmas tree can also help keep mold spores in check.

Or, if you're more ambitious, the best way to deal with any dust, molds and fungi lingering in a fresh tree is by cleaning the tree before you bring it into your home. Use your garden hose to spray down the tree, and then leave the tree somewhere warm to dry for about 24 hours. Once it's dry, then you can bring it into your home. Again, as an added precaution, you can try running an air purifier in the room where the tree is located.

Additionally, there is a very small

Growing moth orchids for months of beauty

Add exotic long-lasting orchid blossoms to your indoor garden. These living bouquets provide months of beauty with minimal care. Just provide the proper growing conditions and success is sure to follow.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
MELINDA
MYERS

ization if temperatures are cooler; sunlight is limited, and the plants are not putting on new growth.

Improve the environment even more by increasing the humidity around the plant. Group them with other orchids and indoor plants. As one plant loses moisture, or "transpires," the others will benefit from the increase in humidity. Plus, you'll create a beautiful display while improving the growing conditions.

Or increase the humidity around your plants with humidity or gravel trays. Place pebbles in the saucer and set the pot on top of the pebbles. Allow excess water to collect in the pebbles below the pot. As the water evaporates it increases the humidity around your plant. It also eliminates the need to pour off the excess water that collects in the saucer.

You won't need to repot your orchid for quite a while. Wait to repot it until it is done blooming, the potting mix has broken down or the plant becomes pot bound. This is usually about every 18 to 24 months.

Enjoy a second flush of



Melinda Myers

The moth orchid also known as phalaenopsis orchid provides months of exotic blossoms with minimal care.

flowers with cool nights and proper post-flowering care. Leave the flower stem intact and the plant may produce a second flush of smaller blooms at the tip of the stem. Or you can cut the flower stem back between the second and third node from the bottom. For the best rebloom and to allow the plant to replenish energy spent on flowering, prune the flower stem back to about one-half inch above the

leaves and enjoy a second flush of flowers in about a year.

And if reblooming your orchid is too much work, treat it like a long-lasting bouquet. And if you can't stand to toss or compost it, give it to an avid gardener. There's always someone willing to adopt and try to rebloom your plant.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, includ-

ing *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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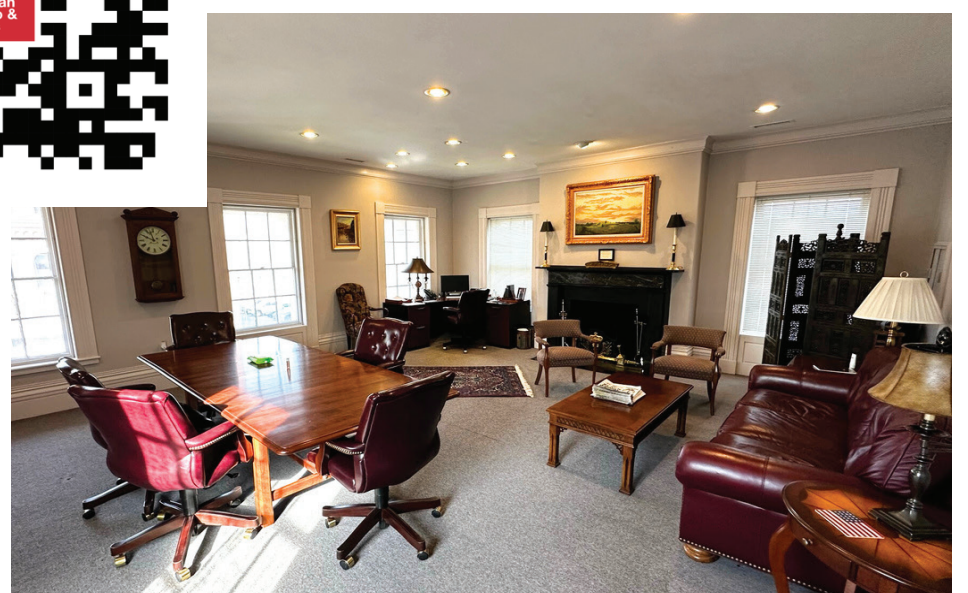


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MORE INFO:



JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007

jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765

jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

**Happy Thanksgiving
from our family to yours!**



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Thoughtful gifts for aging parents

Children typically want to treat their parents to something special during the holiday season. Parents do a lot for their children, and when those kids become adults, a desire to express their appreciation for Mom and Dad grows.

According to The Wrap Up: Snappy's 2022 Holiday Gift Report, the majority of Americans (64.2 percent) report they need help when it comes to holiday gifting. They may want to carefully consider a recipient's interests, as the report also discovered more than half of all Americans want a gift that reflects their personal interests and hobbies. When shopping for elderly

parents, it may not be as simple as identifying interests, particularly if Mom and Dad are experiencing age-related health issues. Consider these gift ideas that may be ideal for the aging adults in your life.
• **Cozy blanket:** Older adults may have trouble regulating their body temperatures, which can translate to feeling cold a lot of the time. A new blanket or throw for a bed or to cuddle up with in a favorite recliner might be the perfect gift.
• **Family history book:** Budding writers can interview their aging parents and jot down family stories. Those stories and anecdotes can be compiled into a book and combined with photos to make a family history log, which can be gifted back to the interviewee.
• **Gripping slippers:** Slips and falls can injure aging adults and put them out of commission for quite some time. Sturdy and secure slippers with anti-slip soles are good for getting around the house and

making quick trips to take out the trash or get the mail.
• **Robotic vacuum:** Keeping up with the household chores is easier with a robotic vacuum that automatically scours carpets and hard-surface floors. This eliminates having to wrestle with a cumbersome vacuum.
• **Key finder:** A key finder can help adults find their keys if they are misplaced. Some employ radio frequency, while others utilize Bluetooth technology and can be paired to a smartphone.
• **Magnifying light:** Older parents who like to do puzzles or close-up work like knitting or stitching can benefit from an LED lamp that also has a magnifying glass built right in.
• **E-reader:** Avid readers may enjoy an e-reader because they don't have to find spots to store even more books in their homes. E-readers can be customized so the print is the right size for the reader's

needs. Also, the devices are lightweight and easy to stow in a bag.
• **Automatic card shuffler:** Parents who are known card sharks around the community can use an automatic card shuffler to make card play even easier.
• **Resistance bands:** Resistance bands are like large rubber bands that exert force to strengthen muscles and improve flexibility. They can help aging adults stay in shape in a low-impact way.
• **Dining gift cards:** When parents do not want to spend additional time in the kitchen, they may opt to visit a favorite restaurant. A combination of a gift card to a favorite establishment as well as pre-paid taxi or ride share service ensures a good meal and a safe ride home.
Although they seem to have everything, aging parents still can benefit from some thoughtful gifts.

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. WO24P3700EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:
**Carolyn Milligan
Date of Death: August 27, 2024**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner

Scott Milligan of Oxford, MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Scott Milligan of Oxford, MA
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said 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.
November 29, 2024

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

The Dudley Historical Commission is in receipt of an application for a demolition permit
For 115 Baker Pond Road (Shed), Dudley, MA 01571
A public hearing will be held as per section 12.04.00 of the Dudley MA Demolition Delay Bylaw, at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
On (day) Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 7 :25 pm, in Room 315. A representative of the property owner must attend.
"Within forty five (45) days of the Commission's receipt of a copy of the application for a demolition permit, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on such application, and shall make a determination as to whether the structure is a significant structure under one or more criteria set forth in sections 12.05.00a, and 12.05.00b. The Commission shall give written notice of the time and place of the hearing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing, to the owner by certified mail, and by posting and by publication once in a local newspaper. The Commission may conduct a site visit prior to the hearing." Respectfully,
David Proulx, Secretary
Dudley Historical Commission
November 29, 2024

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David Proulx, Secretary
Dudley Historical Commission
November 29, 2024

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. WO24P3945EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
**Marlene Cashes
Date of Death: 11/11/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael J. Shaw of Dudley 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:
Michael J. Shaw of Dudley MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **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 12/17/2024**
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: November 18, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 29, 2024

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. WO24P3975EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
**Sean J DuShane
Also known as: Sean James
Thomas DuShane, Sean J. Dushane
Date of Death: 04/27/2023**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **William R. Miller of Bellingham 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:
William R. Miller of Bellingham MA pointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **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 12/17/2024**
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: November 19, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 29, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

Worcester Probate and Family Court

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608**

**Docket No. WO24P3328GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO**

**G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Aidan Patrick Mattson
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Jennifer L. Mattson of Webster, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Aidan Patrick Mattson** is in need of a Guardian and requesting **Jennifer L. Mattson of Webster, MA** (or some suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that the protective order or appointment of Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/17/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 19, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman
November 29, 2024

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. WO24C0605CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
**Sarah B Hogan
A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Sarah B Hogan of Oxford MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Seamus Ezekiel Hogan

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 12/17/24 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 15, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 29, 2024

Public Notice

**Public Meeting –
MEPA Review for a Dock Structure
PROJECT: 311 Thompson Road,
Webster, MA - MEPA Project
LOCATION: Gladys E. Kelly
Public Library, 2 Lake Street,**

Webster, Massachusetts

PROponent: Lakeview Marine Inc.

**TIME:
Monday December 9th, 6:00 PM**
The proponent is preparing to submit an Expanded Environmental Notification Form ("EENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs to be published in the Environmental Monitor.

This application is pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA," M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L). **Lakeview Marine Inc. is seeking permitting on an existing dock structure on Webster Lake. The proponent is holding a public meeting in Room 207 (Local History) of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library at 6:00 PM on December 9th.**

Refreshments will be served.
The Meeting will be hosted by Goddard Consulting, whose scientists will be present to help answer questions related to the project and record any comments given.

Requests for information about the project or associated upcoming public meetings can be made by contacting Sam Spelman via email at sam@goddardconsultingllc.com. This is an opportunity for all community members to place comments on the project and advocate for their feelings on the matter. Further public notice of the ongoing process will be published in the Webster Times when the project is ready to be filed.
November 29, 2024

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. WO24P3963EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
**Joseph E. LaPlante, Sr.
Date of Death: 08/10/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joseph E. LaPlante, Jr. of Lisbon Falls ME and Annette R. Runciman of Corona CA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Joseph E. LaPlante, Jr. of Lisbon Falls ME and Annette R. Runciman of Corona CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **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 12/17/2024.**

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WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 19, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 29, 2024

5 fun gift exchange ideas

Gift-giving is a significant component of the holiday season. Families can embrace traditional gift-giving, but those who want to add a touch of whimsy to gatherings with loved ones can consider these five creative and fun ways to exchange gifts.

1. Play the plastic wrap game. To

exchange small stocking stuffer gifts, compile gift cards, cash, small toys, candy, and even some larger gifts (all participants can chip in and one person shops for the gifts). The designated person in charge begins rolling up the gifts in the plastic, adding one every few rolls. Turning the ball 90 degrees while wrapping helps make a more round, finished gift ball. To play, the person with the ball puts on oven mitts and tries to unwrap as much as they can to access the gifts, while the person to the left is attempting to roll doubles on dice. When doubles are made, that person passes the dice to the left and starts his or her own attempts to get at the gifts in the plastic ball. The game ends when all the gifts are revealed, whether everyone has had a chance to unwrap or not.

2. Plan a white elephant gift exchange. A white elephant exchange is like a

secret grab bag. Everyone brings a wrapped gift, and then takes turns choosing a gift based on the number they've been given. When the gift is chosen, the person opens it. The next player can select a fresh gift or steal one of the presents that's already been opened.

3. Host a make-and-take craft party. With this type of exchange, participants will engage in some form of crafting for the duration of the event, whether it's pottery, painting, epoxy resin pouring, or even knit crafts. At the end of the night everyone can swap their creations with another or keep their own crafts as gifts.

4. Give the gift of a group outing. Instead of exchanging material gifts, focus on sharing experiences with friends and family. A trip to watch a sports game or a theater performance can be an excellent way to spend time

together, and something a person may not be inclined to do on his or her own. Certain venues will offer discounts on group tickets, so everyone can pool their resources.

5. Host a DIY cookie and cocoa exchange. Cookies, cocoa and the holidays are a perfect combination. A gift exchange where participants supply ingredients for these sweet treats, share their favorite recipes and then put together the finished products can make for an entertaining and festive afternoon. Each person can fill a cookie tin with baked cookies to take home and mason jars filled with homemade hot cocoa mix and marshmallows can be an additional gift to enjoy later on a chilly evening.

There are plenty of fun ways to exchange gifts during the holiday season.

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What's the Difference?

Identify the four differences between these pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Plant is taller 2. Bread is larger 3. Missing lemon 4. Missing spoon in dad's hand

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1732: A magnitude 6.6 earthquake hits southern Italy in the former Kingdom of Naples.

1961: Enos, a chimpanzee, is launched into space.

1982: Michael Jackson releases "Thriller," which becomes the best-selling music album of all time.

NEW WORD

RESIDE

be situated or live somewhere

Food

FACT:

True or false?

It can take young children 10 to 15 times of seeing a new food on their plates before they are willing to try it.

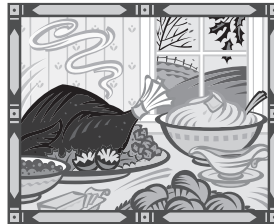
Answer: True

How they say that in...

- English:** Dine
- Spanish:** Cenar
- Italian:** Cenare
- French:** Dîner
- German:** Abendessen

Did You Know?

People may eat anywhere from 3,000 to 4,500 calories during Thanksgiving dinners, which is more than what should be eaten in a day.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Turkey

⊙ * ♀ ☼ ~ ⊖ ♁ ✧ * ☼ ✕ ✖ ✚ ✛ ✜ ✞ ✟ ✠ ✡ ☾ * ☿ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to veterans. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 26 = E)

A. 12 26 17 26 22 9 14

Clue: One who served in the military

B. 25 26 22 12 7 11 26

Clue: Participation in the military

C. 25 5 14 5 22

Clue: Show of respect

D. 12 9 3 5 22

Clue: Strength of mind or spirit

Answers: A. veteran B. service C. honor D. valor

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

OBITUARIES

Lorraine Dion, 93



Lorraine Dion, died peacefully on November 9, 2024 at her home in Thompson CT at the young age of 93. Lorraine was born on August 23, 1931 in Webster, MA. She is the daughter of the late Czeslaw and Alexandra (Krupinski) Stolarczyk. She was married to the late Raymond Dion until his death in 2010.

She is survived by her son: Michael Dion, wife Debby of Lakeville, MA; her daughter Jane Dion, wife Cindi Perugini of Portland, CT; and son-in-law, Joseph Holewa of Charlton MA. She is predeceased by her daughter Judy Holewa and great grandchild Sloane Marie Rickaby in 2024. Lorraine is predeceased by all her siblings: three sisters: Stasia Jaszur, Joan Plasse, Theresa Courtemanche, and four brothers: Chester, John, Victor and Vincent Stolarczyk. She leaves nieces and nephews.

Lorraine leaves 7 grandchildren Caitlin Rickaby (Michael), Brian Kiley (Katie Dragon), Danielle Bossi (Patrick), Chris Dion, Nicole Higgins (Joey), Laura Holewa and Colleen Holewa. Lorraine also leaves 3 great grandchildren Dante, Maverick and Matthew. Lorraine had many "grand pups" and "great grand pups" who will miss visiting her to receive a cookie.

She retired in 1995 from Hubbard Hospital as an Administrative Assistant in the Physical Therapy Department. Lorraine, known to her family as "Grandma or Gma", loved her family above everything else and was the "glue" connecting all of us to family goings-on. She and Ray enjoyed traveling together and occasionally "going south" to the casinos. Lorraine kept her brain as sharp as a tack by mastering crossword games, and in her late 80's, learning online word puzzles and scrolling/commenting on Facebook. She was very creative with arts and crafts, making many Christmas items, ceramics, and even a "Grandma O'Keefe" painting. She was a parishioner of St Joseph's Church in Charlton where she enjoyed a sense of community and connection to her faith.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. Extension in Charlton, MA Saturday November 23 at 10 AM. Prayers to follow at the columbarium at St. Joseph Garden Of Peace Cemetery, Webster, MA. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org. Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is assisting the family.

www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Francis J. Manzi, 86



WEBSTER – Francis J. "Frank" Manzi, 86, passed away Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at UMass Memorial University Campus, Worcester after a brief battle with cancer. He leaves his wife

of 64 years, Anne L. (Buoncrisiano) Manzi; 6 children, Mark J. Manzi and his wife Victoria "Tori" Manzi of Camden, ME, Janine M. Nadeau of Westborough, Luanne E. Manzi of Webster, Gerard A. Manzi and his wife Susan Manzi of Oxford, Jacquelyn L. Manzi and her fiancé Erik Desrosiers of Woodstock, CT, and Christopher F. Manzi and his wife Christine Manzi of Shrewsbury; 9 grandchildren, Kerri, Kyle and Seth Nadeau, Alyssa and Kathryn Manzi, Gina Manzi, Dominic Manzi-Knych, and Drew and Leah Manzi; 3 great-grandchildren, Nolan, Julianna and Olivia; a sister, Ann Flynn of Webster; sisters-in-law, Justine Manzi of Thompson, CT, Jane Manzi of Putnam, CT, a brother-in-law Charles Buoncrisiano and his wife Diana; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Joan Gerulis, his brothers Anthony and Richard Manzi, brothers-in-law John Flynn and Robert Gerulis. He was born on May 19, 1938 in Webster, a son of Joseph and Alice (Butler) Manzi and was a lifelong resident. He graduated from Bartlett High School

in 1956 and then went on to obtain his license in barbering. He was a United States Army veteran, serving during the Vietnam era. Frank was a barber at Manzi's Barber Shop as well as Brunos of Natick, he then operated independently until last April. He also taught the skill to others. For twenty years, he worked in maintenance for the Webster Housing Authority at Golden Heights and on Second Island Road, retiring as a supervisor. Frank was a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. He enjoyed cooking for family and friends, relaxing in the sun and spending time at Memorial Beach alone or with his crew. His family was his treasure. The funeral will be held on Saturday, November 30, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:30AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street. Burial will be held privately at the convenience of the family. Visitation will be held from 9:00 to 11:00AM Saturday morning in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. Donations in his name may be made to either the Pan-Mass Challenge, 77 Fourth Avenue, Needham, MA 02494 or to the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, 4 Veterans Way, Webster, MA 01570.

DCRSD

continued from page A1

to build a framework to support teacher development and increase family engagements. The second goal, strengthening systematic practices and processes improving student achievement and outcomes, has been supported by added instructional supports and interventions attendance, recovery initiatives, data-driven instruction and benchmarking, creating academic and behavioral consistency across the schools in the district, and creating structured support blocks and enrichment programs and professional collaborations and continuous improvement. Future plans will include ways to refine the district's practices for instructional support teams to help provide interventions to students and enhance numerous systems. The

third goal of strengthening family and community engagement has seen the district prioritize fostering meaningful connections between schools, families and the broader community by developing new partnerships and engagement opportunities, increasing student internships and transitional job placements, and building on community participation workshops and programs like High Five Fridays to bridge the gap between the school district and the communities at large. They district hopes to expand on its internship programs to include more outside opportunities and maintain a districtwide community calendar for parents and other community members to stay in the know on what's happening.

While all three goals have shown great success over the years, True said there's always room for continued improvement

which will be the focus of the new plan.

"Our goal remains to strengthen the continuum of learning by providing all students access to the many opportunities we provide, improving achievement outcomes for all learners and fostering deeper community engagement. These priorities will remain central to our collective efforts as we evolve and refine our approach to learning and teaching ensuring that each student is supported and empowered to succeed in the Dudley Charlton Schools and beyond," said True.

As the district begins to form its new plan, True wants the focus to be on both sustaining what they've build and looking ahead to creating new opportunities and be proactive for the next steps to solidify the district's progress. The new district plan is expected to be finalized in 2025.

up there. They're not even close to us."

Berg's data showed that Charlton is the next closest town to Dudley in the local area sitting 112th on the list.

Board of Selectmen Chair Steve Sullivan said the data shows that Dudley still has a way to go in economic growth and that adding more

burden on existing businesses would not be ideal.

"We do this every year, but the pie chart says it all. It's 93.5 percent residential. That's a very sobering percentage," said Sullivan.

Selectmen decided unanimously to stay with the single tax rate, which equates to \$10.17 or an average tax bill of \$4,245.

ing it somewhat dangerous, she said. Sometimes, games next door fill all the nearby spaces.

"We knew when this was just a vision in the sky that parking would be a problem," Gabor agreed, also noting that a proposal to have an electrified bandstand could cause neighborhood issues. Van Reed said they're just running the electric lines there now, and will bring a separate plan to the town when ready to do the work. At this point, they're also seeking permits for signs, since "people are often lost and don't know they're actually at the museum," she added.

The board also approved a couple other

permits, continued discussion of their proposed town vision statement, and talked a bit about outreach to then Hispanic community.

Elaine Davies said the latter was sparked during her election campaign, when she was talking to a man with many ideas who wasn't on any town committees and thought "how much are we missing?" Over the last 20 years, the local Latino population has grown 300 percent, and Webster had also seen an influx of people speaking Portuguese, Arabic and other tongues.

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

Mary Margaret Mailhot, 86



WEBSTER – Mary Margaret (Wehan) Mailhot, 86, of Webster, died peacefully in her sleep on Friday, November 15, 2024. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Raymond

John Mailhot who died on October 1, 2024; and her sisters, Elva Wehan and Rosann Bojarski of Erie, PA. She is survived by three daughters, Brenda Jeffries of Auburn, Kathryn DiGiandomenico and her husband Paul of Mansfield, and Patricia Barry and her husband Thomas of Oxford; a brother, Albert Wehan of Erie, PA, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was born in Erie, PA, daughter of the late Albert and Anna (Rutkowski) Wehan. She was a graduate of Academy Catholic High School in Erie. One of her proudest moments was traveling to California with her high school marching band to perform in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Mary was an U.S. Air Force veteran. She met her husband Ray while stationed in Charleston, SC, at the same time he was serving in the U.S. Navy. They were married in Charleston, and it remained one of their favorite destinations.

Mary was very social and remained active throughout her life, going to the gym daily and attending Tai-Chi classes. She had a spirited personality and was always the life of the party. Together with her husband they would often "steal the show" with their humorous antics and contagious laughter.

Mary was an exceptionally thoughtful and creative woman remembering every holiday and special event with lovely homemade gifts and heartfelt cards.

Her favorite places included Ocean Beach in New London, CT, Charleston, SC, and Lake Manchaug in Sutton where she spent summers for 43 years. Her world centered around her beloved family and her Catholic faith.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the caretakers at Lanessa Extended Care in Webster who adored Mary and cared for her with love and compassion.

Services will be held privately. Burial will be in West Sutton Cemetery in Sutton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities Worcester County, 10 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

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

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

of the lowest tax rates in the area. "Right now, if I take all the cities and towns that have single and split tax rates, we're in the 79th rank. If you look at Charlton and all the other towns, look at their ranks, they're way

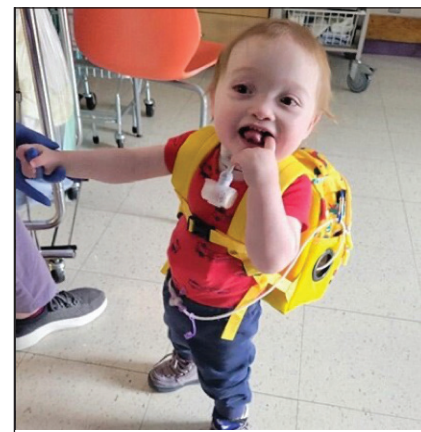
WEBSTER

continued from page A1

"no museum can sustain themselves on ticket sales. They need other revenue as well." As an example, she said SSE needs 3-4,000 people "just to pay National Grid."

That's prompting the current project to expand parking and use of outdoor space, where she said they'd like to be able to host more events "somehow related to the story we tell." Several recent ones have been well attended (a Smithsonian night drew 120 people), but parking there is very tight and people have to walk behind the cars to get to the building, mak-

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Registration # 9060

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<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/9060>

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

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

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How some popular holiday traditions got their start

Will you be baking gingerbread or hanging stockings by the fireplace this holiday season? Perhaps you'll be lighting the menorah or playing a game of dreidel? The holidays are steeped in tradition, some of which are older than celebrants may realize.

Individuals gather during the holidays and participate in various traditions that have withstood the test of time. Most people engage in these traditions or recognize symbols automatically, but it can be interesting to learn how these traditions came to be.

Christmas caroling
The British traditions of wassailing and mumming and the Slavic tradition of koliada were some of the precursors to more modern caroling. People would go door-to-door and recite poetry or sing with the hope of bringing about good fortune or influencing a future harvest, according to Rutgers University. Carolers spread hope and good tidings through song during a time of year when sunlight was limited.

Christmas trees
Pagans once displayed evergreen branches as a reminder that spring would come again, while Romans placed them



around temples to honor Saturn, the god of agriculture. Eventually the evergreen was used in conjunction with Christian Christmas celebrations. In the sixteenth century, German Christians put trees inside their homes as symbols of everlasting life.

Santa Claus
Children who celebrate Christmas eagerly await the arrival of a jolly sort who goes by the name of

Santa Claus. His origin story stretches back to the third century, when Saint Nicholas became the patron saint of children. Saint Nicholas was a monk in what is modern-day Turkey. It is said that he traveled helping the poor and the sick. History.com says he is believed to have saved three impoverished sisters from slavery by providing them with a dowry so they could be married, and he also provided gifts

to children.

Menorah
The menorah is a multi-branched candelabra used in Jewish religious rituals. The menorah is first mentioned in the book of Exodus when the design of the lamp was revealed to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. Many menorahs are seven-branched, but during Chanukah, an eight-branched menorah is used. The Chanukah

menorah is modeled after the Tabernacle menorah that corresponds to the eight-day festival. It was used to celebrate the rededication of the Second Temple. The available oil supply was supposed to light the menorah for just one day, but the candles actually burned for eight.

Mistletoe
Kissing under the mistletoe is a holiday season tradition that can lead to

some red faces when couples are caught beneath the plant. Norse mythology paved the way for kissing under the mistletoe. Legend has it the gods used mistletoe to resurrect Odin's son, Baldur, from the dead. Baldur's mother, Frigg, the goddess of love, made the plant a symbol of love and vowed to kiss anyone who passed under it. Mistletoe blooms under cold conditions, which is how it became associated with the holiday season.

Yule log
Yule logs were once part of winter solstice celebrations to bring good luck and fortune, but America is where a yule log really caught on as a holiday tradition. In 1966, the WPIX television station in New York City aired a continuous loop of a fireplace burning for three hours with holiday songs playing. It became an annual tradition, says History.com. Some people even serve a cake that looks like a yule log. The Bûche de Noël is a traditional Christmas cake that is especially popular in France.

Holiday traditions continue in full force. Traditions are an endearing component of celebrations and help to unite people from all backgrounds during this special time of year.

Tips to make holiday dinners more affordable

"Eat, drink and be merry" is a familiar refrain come the holiday season. Hosting a holiday

dinner is a great way to welcome family and friends and encourage them to embrace the

festive nature of the season. However, the high cost of foods and other essentials may have

certain holiday hosts rethinking their menus and their guest lists this year.

sis, 68 percent of U.S. consumers expected rising food prices to impact their holiday meals in 2023. Similar concerns may prevail in 2024.



Stretching holiday entertaining dollars comes down to being savvy. With that in mind, hosts can consider these meal modification strategies this holiday season.

- Replace a high-cost protein with a more affordable alternative. Sometimes a holiday meal calls for pulling out all of the stops, and that may mean spending more on a special main dish. Rather than a luxury like beef tenderloin or prime rib roast, consider a less expensive dish, such as a pork tenderloin, roasted chicken or even seafood.

- Add extra side dishes. Incorporate an inexpensive item like rice, beans or an extra vegetable side dish into the meal so that plates can be filled with the less expensive foods and fewer high-cost items.

- Shop the sales. Plan meals around a supermarket circular. While you may have had one holiday dinner idea in mind, once you see what the stores are putting on sale you can stock up on those items and build the dinner around them. If you find a good deal several weeks away from the holidays, buy the items and freeze them until they're needed.

- Buy generic or store brands. Chances are no one will notice if you use generic or store brand ingredients, which can be considerably cheaper than their brand-name counterparts. Many are even manufactured in the same facilities that produce the name brand stuff.

- Make an affordable drink. Alcohol costs can add up when you try to cater to everyone's tastes and preferences. Make one or two bulk drinks, like a holiday punch or signature cocktail, so you can keep alcohol costs in check.

- Stretch the snacks. Instead of a charcuterie board filled with expensive cheeses and meats, opt for dips and raw vegetables or a low-cost cheese ball made with cream cheese and herbs with crackers. Keep snacks to a minimum; otherwise, guests may fill up and then not have room for dinner.

Holiday hosts can embrace various strategies to save money on family meals this season.

A 2024 Pew Research Poll showed Americans worried about the state of the economy cite the price of food and the cost of housing as their foremost concerns. More than 90 percent of Americans say they are "very" or "somewhat" concerned about the cost of food and consumer goods.

Average annual food-at-home prices were 5 percent higher in 2023 than in 2022, according to the USDA Economic Research Service. Inflation has been a key topic of discussion for much of the last three years. While data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates inflation continues to cool off from all-time highs, consumers are still anxious about how food prices are affecting their bottom lines and their holiday entertaining plans. According to FarmDoc Daily, which offers agriculture-based data analy-

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy participates in Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts



From left: John Martin Wanjiru, LPN, Dr. Adelina Healy, and Loise Ngigi, SPN.

DUDLEY — The 32nd Annual Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts was held at the Shepherd Hill Regional High School. A member of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2025, faculty and alumni participated along with New England Crafters and Artisans with top-quality handcrafted items, raffles, and food trucks. The Bay Path Practical Nursing team was led by Professor Adelina Healy DNP, MSN, RN of Dudley. The Practical Nursing volunteers offered free Blood pressure screenings and first aid services. This year's practical nursing student volunteer was Loise Ngigi of South Grafton and alumni volunteers were John Martin Wanjiru, LPN and Hannah Lombardo, RN of Dudley.

"We are grateful that Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has

been invited and continues to allow our practical nursing students to be of service to the community," stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

Professor Suzanne Taylor, MSN, RN, originally invited Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and coordinated the practical nursing student's participation. The past two years, the invitation came from Chet Perea-Beaulieu.

"Great day at Shepherd Hill today! It is a wonderful learning opportunity," said Dr. Healy. "I am glad to be joining Shepherd Hill's Festival."

When the opportunity came, Dr. Healy did not hesitate to say, "count me in!"

Student volunteer Ngigi stated, "Thank you for the opportunity. It was

a wonderful experience, and Dr. Healy was amazing!" Wanjiru who stayed until 4 p.m. committed to volunteering weeks in advance and at the day of the fair was glad to arrive on time, and happy to report, "everything is fine, and so far, so good!"

The Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts is an annual event promoted by the Shepherd Hill Music Parents. Students from the music department sang and assisted with bringing food. The Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts has 5,000 people attending annually. The celebration highlights the community. Vendors look forward to next year's celebration. For more about the Shepherd Hill's Festival of Crafts, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/shepherdhill-festivalofcrafts/>.



United Church of Christ announces free community Christmas party

WEBSTER — The United Church of Christ Federated invites the community to a free Christmas Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The day will include activities such as cookie decorating, crafts, face painting, games with free prizes (everybody is a winner!), a scavenger hunt, Christmas pinatas, and more! Refreshments will be available. Santa Claus will attend and will give gifts to all the children present! The Pulaski Brass Band will provide entertainment with an amazing sampler of Christmas favorites!

Everyone is welcome!

The United Church of Christ is located at 4 Church St., across from Town Hall, 508-943-0061.

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Congratulations to the following students who were selected as September Students of the Month at St. Joseph School. Pre-K-3-year-old Program: Avery Lewandowski; Pre-K 4-year-old Program: Emilia Dziobak; Kindergarten: Magdalena Kosiorek; Grade 1: Danyka Mason; Grade 2: Madeline Kamangu; Grade 3: Maya Jackson; Grade 4: Samuel Brunnett; Grade 5: Armani Cedeno; Grade 6: Abigail Rubin; Grade 7: Tenleigh Dowd; Grade 8: Jada Jackson. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

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