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School District showcases Curriculum Review Plan

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee hosted a presentation examining the future of curriculum at the end of March as the schools enter a new five-year plan.

Assistant Superintendent Kelly True revealed the district's new Curriculum Review Plan for 2025 through 2030 during a meeting of the school committee on March 26 which was broken into four phases: planning,

articulating and developing, implementing and monitoring, and evaluation. The process will help determine enhancements to materials and teaching approaches that True said should help close deficits in different grade levels.

True described the five-year plan as a long-term investment in enhancing learning at all of Dudley and Charlton's schools.

"Once you have a new curriculum it takes about five years before you start looking at if there are tweaks that need to be made, if there's something new that needs to

come out. The curriculum frameworks are updated every five years so it kind of goes along a similar rotation," True told the School Committee.

The plan presents the curriculum changes in a phased approach with no two course curriculums being changed at the same time within each individual level of education. For example, the elementary school plan proposes the implementation of new curriculum for pre-school in the 2025-2026, mathematics in 2027-2028, science in 2028-2029, and English/language arts in 2029-2030.

Each school level has its own focus for each individual year with no two courses expected to be in the same stage of development at the same time. True explained that there are different priorities at different grade levels and that the plan is subject to change and evolve over time.

"It's not etched in stone. Things definitely can be moved around in it. This is what makes the most sense for right now with where we are and as things develop and we see, we might not be ready for new curriculum at a time where it

says that we're going into the phases of looking at a curriculum, it might just be that we need some supplements or need some tweaks and don't need a whole new curriculum. That would be amazing. It's hard to say what will happen for each of these as they go along, but at least there's a plan for how we're going to look at it," said True.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche added that the plan is a tool to help the district progress towards its future. As the plan takes full shape that will include input from both the school committee and the public at large.

"We're trying to develop these long-range plans that can be incorporated. We are working on a draft district improvement plan that we want to bring the school committee and then after the school committee gives

feedback on that we want to send it out to the masses and get more feedback on it, but these things have to be incorporated in that so we're really trying to get organized," said Lamarche.

Among other goals expressed during the presentation were intentions to bring fifth grade curriculum in line with the rest of the middle school. True is also working with Director of Pupil Personnel Services Heather Harriman on enhancements to the preschool curriculum and incorporating that process into professional development sessions and workshops. A copy of the current proposed Curriculum Review Plan is available as part of the packet for the March 26 School Committee meeting.

Schools brace for loss of federal funds

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**

REGION — State officials announced last week that schools across the Commonwealth will be impacted by the Trump Administration's decision to terminate education grant funding.

Gov. Maura Healey joined officials statewide in condemning the Trump Administration's decision to terminate \$106 million in grant funding meant to support K-12 education in Massachusetts.

"At a time when students are still struggling to recover from the pandemic, we need to be doing everything we can to address learning loss and the youth mental health crisis. Instead, President Trump suddenly ripped away more than \$100 million in funding that is supposed to go right to Massachusetts students and schools," Healey said. "This action is jeopardizing mental health care and math tutoring for our students, as well as projects that are already underway to enhance school security and ensure that the air in our school buildings is clean."

officials warn that the loss of federal funding could have lasting negative effects on students.

"Massachusetts has been making important progress helping students recover from the pandemic, but President Trump is trying to take us backwards," Healey said.

Although the state is scrambling to find stopgaps, officials said the loss of federal funds will prevent students from accessing several planned programs and mental health supports.

"The federal government and states should be working together to invest in capital projects that improve the learning environments for our students and support their education and well-being," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "Massachusetts does not have the resources to replace all of the funding that President Trump is terminating. These are more devastating terminations that impact our students and schools today and well into the future."

Federal funding was intended to support a host of statewide efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic on learning, with a focus on literacy, math, and science.

"We are not back yet from the pandemic. We know that many students in Massachusetts and across the country are still experiencing pandemic-related learning loss and mental health challenges," said Secretary

of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, who visited several local schools this past fall, including East Brookfield Elementary School. "The federal government had repeatedly reaffirmed these extensions in acknowledgement of continued supply chain issues, labor shortages, and to ensure continuity in learning acceleration efforts. Projects funded by these grants are underway. The Trump Administration's outrageous and cruel decision, in which we received notice of a new arbitrary deadline, will have real harm to our students and their learning and well-being."

Officials said the funding was slated to address critical gaps by supporting mental health services; math tutoring; and the purchases of instructional materials with a focus on science.

Additionally, funds would have supported building upgrades across 20 school districts to improve air quality through HVAC installations. Moreover, some projects were planned to enhance security in schools, including the purchasing of cameras, door alarms, and emergency response technologies.

Further funds were committed to supporting professional development programs for educators. These include the state's Learning Acceleration Network, as well as five regional licensure centers that help emer-

gency teacher license holders obtain provisional or initial licensure to stay employed in Massachusetts public schools.

"Trump's decision to cut off money already promised to school districts will have drastic negative effects on Massachusetts communities," said Senate President Karen Spilka. "This administration clearly does not care about damaging our education system or hurting our children, leaving local officials scrambling to pick up the pieces when they should be fully focused on supporting our schools. It's all part of the federal administration's unconscionable hacksaw approach to governing."

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Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Library will be closed on Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21.

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

Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturdays 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.

REC FARMERS MARKET – Tuesdays 4:00-5:30PM
Pop-up Farmers Market located in our Community Room. The REC is running the market and the accept SNAP, cash, and credit.

FRIENDS’ CONCERT SERIES: Petty – Celebrating the Music of Tom Petty – Thursday, April 10th at 6:30PM
This high energy set will showcase music from Petty’s solo albums and many more hits from the band’s career. Our group features Douglas High School assistant music director Sam Masoud on keyboard/harmonica/vocals, BVT senior Jaden Roddick on bass, BVM executive director Mark Mandeville on rhythm guitar/vocals, Sutton High School junior Charlie Randell on drums, and Grafton Middle School music

director James Briand on lead guitar/vocals.
LIBRARY FOR ALL: Chair Yoga – Monday, April 14th 10:00-11:00AM
Join Jess for a one hour Chair Yoga class as part of our Library for All Program. Leave class feeling refreshed and calm. No experience necessary. This class is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

L I T E R A C Y VOLUNTEERS: ESL Classes – Monday, April 14th at 6:00PM
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required.

THE NEST: Local Business Success Stories – Rose Room Café – Monday, April 14th at 6:00PM
Starting Small, Dreaming Big: Jess Sabine from The Rose Room discusses how the chain reaction of connecting with people and building community created forward momentum in her business. Topics include: the difference between hospitality and service, finding the right team members to help on your journey, alignment with your goals, feeling the fear and doing it anyway. This is the story of gaining experiences, starting before you’re ready, and striving to be 1% better every day.

A R T I S T ’ S RECEPTION: Steve Gerling – Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00PM
Join us in celebrating Steve Gerling’s art display. It will be on display from April 1st-May 15th.

Programming for All Ages
Puzz Fest – Thursday, April 17th 5:00-7:00PM
Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us in the Community

Room to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We’ll have popcorn to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required.
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 kids are 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.

PLAY-DOH PLAYTIME – Mondays at 10:00AM
Drop-in to our Children’s Program Room every Monday morning to play, make, and build with our collection of colorful Play-Doh, sculpting tools, and various sets. This is a fun, sensory playtime to foster creativity and exploration. Perfect for ages 2-6. Siblings are welcome.

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!

T O D D L E R PLAYTIME-- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

STEM BEGINNINGS: Young Scientists – Wednesdays at 10AM
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn STEM (Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series. Registration required through the YFCP website.

ME AND MY MINI – Thursdays at 10:00AM
A creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props and a story.

TEEN AND TWEEN VIDEO GAME TIME – Thursdays 3:00-4:30PM
Kids and teens are invited to play games on our Nintendo Switch.

MESSY ART STORYTIME-- Fridays at 10:00AM
Come explore different art mediums through stories and fun creations! This program is perfect for ages 2-5 and will have your little one creating messy art weekly. Please wear art-appropriate clothing.

BEGINNER ORIGAMI-- Fridays at 3:45PM

Are you interested in making origami, but you don’t know where to start? You can start here. And if you do know how to make some origami, feel free to come make some as well. For kids of all ages.

SQUEEGEE ART – Thursday, April 10th at 5:00PM
You are invited to make cool abstract art using a squeegee! This program offers children ages 8-14 the opportunity to let their imagination fly and create their own masterpiece to be put on display. Please wear art-appropriate clothing.

KIM THE LEGO LADY – Tuesday, April 15th 4:00-5:00PM
Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the Lego Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills, and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5-11. Registration is required

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.
THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON APRIL 18 AND 21 FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND PATRIOT’S DAY RESPECTIVELY.
Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events, and our monthly lunch menu. You may also join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!
Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least two business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week’s menu: Tuesday, 4/15, Salisbury steak, garlic mashed potatoes, Tuscan vegetables, fresh fruit. Wednesday, 4/16, American chop suey, roasted California veggies, baked apples, Lorna Doone cookies. Thursday, 4/17, Maple glazed ham, sour cream and chive mashed potatoes, carrots, chocolate cake. Friday, 4/18 CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY
Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.
Come 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 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.
We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for April 16th is The Lost Girls, April 23rd is Annie, and April 30th is 6 Underground.
One Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00pm for a night of entertainment. On May 8th, step back in time and groove to the classics with Dan Kirouac! Get ready to dance the night away with unforgettable beats of the 60’s and 70’s.
COA Meetings are the first Monday of the month, and are open to the public. The next meeting will be Monday, May 5th.
Friend’s Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 7th.
Join us for a Spring Fling Party hosted by the Friends of the Webster Senior Center on Monday,

April 14th! Steve Lyon will be performing live music for all to enjoy. Party is from 1 PM to 2:30 PM
Forget Me Not Café- On April 25th, the Friends of the Webster Senior Center will be hosting their Forget Me Not memory café! Join us for live music by Now and Then, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM
Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. Classes are on Mondays, and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.
Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.
Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.
Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!
Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.
Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!
The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845. if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.
Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.
We are partnering up with the Charlton and Southbridge Senior Centers and the Overlook to offer a Day in Maine with a Clambake on Sunday, July 20, 2025. This trip includes a stop for freshly baked breads at When Pigs Fly, and a visit to Nubble Lighthouse. Your bake includes New England clam chowder, freshly dug Maine clams, mussels, Maine lobster, corn on the cob, red bliss potatoes, and blueberry crumb cake with your choice of coffee, iced tea, or lemonade. In place of lobster, there is BBQ chicken, or a vegetarian option. After your clambake, if time allows, you will stop at Stonewall Kitchen for jams and jellies, and Yummie’s candy store. The price for this trip is \$109.00 per person and includes transportation, clambake, driver, and escort gratuities. There is a \$25 registration fee, and the last day to sign up is June 20, 2025. If you have questions please contact Webster Senior Center 508-949-3845.

Save the date for Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library Book Sale

WEBSTER — The Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly 2025 Annual Book Sale will be held Thursday, May 15 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.; Friday, May 16 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.; and Saturday, May 17 from 9 until 11 a.m.
You will find a wonderful selection of adult and children’s books. Paperbacks are 50 cents, hard copy \$1, and large coffee table books \$3.
Clearance Sale on Saturday, MAY 17 only — a bag of books for \$5!
Also for sale: games, jigsaw puzzles, CDs and DVDs.
Come to the Gladys E. Kelly Library Annual Book Sale and pick up book bargains for your summer reading!



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WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from March 16-29.

Kenneth Santo Delvalie, age 35, of New London, Conn. was arrested on March 16 in connection with multiple warrants.

Jacob Andrew Swiatlowski, age 37, of Webster was arrested on March 17 in connection with a warrant.

Daniel Joseph Burke, age 57, of Bridgeport, Conn. was arrested on March 17 in connection with a warrant.

Kauleen M. Bardier, age 46, of Millbury was arrested during the same incident for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise, Shoplifting by Asportation, and in connection with a warrant.

Reldy Colon Rodriguez, age 24, of Webster was arrested on March 17 in connection with a warrant.

Aliyah Estevez, age 21, of Webster was arrested on March 19 in connection with a warrant.

Ralph Perry Turner, age 65, of Dudley was arrested on March 20 in connection with a warrant.

Alisha D. Watson, age 33, of Webster was arrested on March 20 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 36-year-old male from Webster received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 20 for Assault & Battery on a person over the age of 60 and/or disabled.

Freddy A. Suero, age 38, of Webster was arrested on March 21 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Johnny Feliciano Rivera, age 56, of Webster was arrested on March 22 for Failure to Register as a Level 2 or 3 Sex Offender.

Christopher Michael Cedrone, age 49, of Webster was arrested on March 22 on Probable Cause From Another Agency.

Paul Robert Summa, age 39, of Webster was arrested on March 23 for Trespassing.

Jurnee Maylee Bonnick, age 22, of Carteret, N.J. was arrested on March 23 in connection with a warrant.

Abdel Cheikh, age 24, of Shrewsbury was arrested on March 24 in connection with a warrant.

Lloyd Price, age 58, of Webster was arrested on March 24 for leaving a Firearm Unattended, Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, leaving Ammunition Unattended, Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense), and Possession of a Firearm Without FID Card.

Asa W. Hunter, age 44, and Timothy S. McCarthy, age 59, of Webster were arrested on March 24 in connection with warrants.

Carlos Gonzalez, age 46, of Webster was arrested on March 24 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Jessica Christian Kenyon, age 44, of Dudley was arrested on March 25 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

A male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 26 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Jason P. Lincoln, age 34, of Ashland was arrested on March 26 in connection with multiple warrants.

Troy Daluke Morvan, age 29, of Worcester was arrested on March 26 in connection with a warrant.

Lloyd Price, age 58, of Webster was arrested on March 29 in connection with a warrant.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$677,500, 888 Southbridge St, Pallotta Ft, and Pallotta, Christopher D, to 888 Southbridge St LLC.

\$600,000, 10 Deerfield Cir, McGovern, Jane I, to Schwartz, Eric D, and Franko, Laura C.

\$482,500, 116 Boyce St, Levesque, Jeanette M, to Hobbs, Jayson S, and Luhmann, Denise M.

\$375,000, 8 Manor Rd, Lynn J Mcconville Irt, and Mcconville, Mark J, to Vu, Nhat T.

\$303,000, 650 Oxford St S, Grici, Bruce J, and Nationstar Mortgage LLC, to Patel, Apurvakumar.

DUDLEY

None

OXFORD

\$440,000, 118 Main St, Nala Rt, and Davis, Edward C, to Goulette, Dominic A, and Goulette, Arnaud T.

\$330,000, 41 Pine Ridge Dr, Cooper Robert M Est, and Ruth, Danielle M, to D& e Investments LLC.

\$309,042, Fort Hill Rd #1, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

\$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #17R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

\$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #18R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

\$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #19R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

\$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #20R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

\$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #21R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

WEBSTER

\$525,000, 18 Whitcomb St, Wta Properties LLC, to Haddad, Joseph G.

\$488,000, 2 Dominique Dr, Carrier, Sylwia, and Ricard, Kenneth A, to Legasey, Tracy, and Johnson, Stephen.

\$435,000, 13 Nelson St, Rob Judson Contracting In, to Rurengo, Isaac, and Kihara, Damaris.

\$415,000, 350 Thompson Rd, Gerard J & J Bernier Irt, and Bernier, John G, to Glynn, Liam, and Fresh, Emily.

\$311,000, 38 Harris St, Wasielewski Leonard R Est, and Wasielewski, Karen, to Unic Holdings LLC.

\$280,000, 22 Morris St, Adams Sr John J Est, and Adams, Shannon L, to Slaght Homes LLC.

Alabama woman arrested for driving erratically

DUDLEY — On Friday, April 4 at approximately 6:46 a.m., detail officers were reporting for duty at the Dudley Police station when they observed a Ford Mustang operating recklessly in the parking lot. It appeared that the Mustang would accelerate and drive towards unoccupied police cruisers and then come to an abrupt stop. The operator of the Mustang continued to do this multiple times.

Officer Dylan Reney attempted to contact the

operator, but as he pulled up, the operator began to accelerate away from him. Reney activated his cruiser blue lights to conduct a stop. The operator drove in circles around the parking lot, while Reney was behind it. Sgt. Chandler Boyd attempted to stop the operator, but at this point, the operator sped towards the one-way entrance of the parking lot.

Officers pursued the operator into the Town of Webster. The operator avoided the first stop

sticks in Webster. Webster police were able to deploy a second set of stop sticks, but the vehicle continued into the town of Douglas. Douglas police set up another set of stop sticks on Route 16 and the vehicle eventually pulled into a parking lot. The operator, 65-year-old Rebecca Roden of Hanceville, Ala., was taken into custody without incident. She was brought back

to the Dudley Police Headquarters where she was booked for Failure to Stop for Police, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence (drugs), a Marked Lanes Violation, and driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper.

Roden was transported to Dudley District Court for arraignment.

Auburn Historical Society examines building of the Wachusett Reservoir and Routes 70, 110, 140

AUBURN — On April 17, the Auburn Historical Society & Museum will host Paul Morone as he continues to tell the story of Wachusett Reservoir. It will be held at the Auburn Sportsman’s Club at 50 Elm St. at 6:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

There were State highways, county roads, town roads, private roads... all the way down to cow paths. It all depended on who paid to build and maintain them, an important distinction. Local roads were usually contained within a given town whereas the county roads connected adjacent town centers and the (numbered) state highways ran for miles through whole counties connecting large population centers. The Wachusett Reservoir would submerge about 17 miles of local roads and disrupt traffic and commerce. Provisions had to be made to keep the towns connected, without interruption, and the cost of replacing the roads had to be included within the project.

This gigantic puzzle was unraveled and the highways we know today, Routes 70, 110 and 140 north and south, came into being. Locals might scratch their heads over how to get around without them.

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

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Identity politics is exhausting, and misses the point

Somewhere along the way, we were convinced that being politically aware means picking a side and sticking to it no matter what. Red team, blue team. Us vs. them. You’re either all in or you’re out. Here’s the thing no one wants to admit unless you’re an elected official, no one actually cares what “side” you’re on.

Your neighbor doesn’t care if you vote left or right — they care if you help them dig out after a snow-storm. Your community doesn’t benefit from your party loyalty, it benefits when you show up, vote on the issues that matter, and take action that improves real lives.

This performative, party-first mindset we’ve fallen into is exhausting. Frankly, it’s childish. Political parties were never supposed to be tribal identities, they were supposed to be tools. Temporary alliances to move policies forward. Instead, we’ve turned them into something resembling sports teams, where people root for their side no matter how bad the playbook gets.

What if we stripped away the party labels altogether? What if we voted on the issues themselves instead of accepting whatever bundle of policies a party wraps in its packaging? Most people don’t fit neatly into one ideological box and pretending we do has only divided us more.

We should be holding elected officials accountable, not treating them like mascots. We should be debating ideas, not defending party lines like we’re in some playground argument. And we should stop letting political branding override personal thinking.

Want to be a true patriot? Read up, show up and stop picking sides as though we’re all choosing a dodge-ball team. Vote like it’s about the issues. Because it is. And like your own future, and that of the generations that will follow you, depends on it. Because it does.

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

Lasting Divine joy



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

“The joy of the Lord is my strength” (Nehemiah 8:10)

What is this “joy of the Lord” and how can we carry such joy throughout our lives? Joy is not simply a feeling of happiness and pleasure that we discover on our own, but it is a sacred gift we receive from living a healthy relationship with the Source of all Joy, Jesus Christ Himself. Divine Joy is not simply a fleeting sentimental feeling that comes and goes depending on our exterior circumstances but it is a deep inner security in God – knowing that He is always with us and we are never alone even in the midst of whatever darkness the world may bring.

Joy is knowing that God is ultimately in control even when life seems like such a mystery and things happen around us we don’t understand. It is knowing that God is victorious despite any suffering we may face. As we say in a Sunday morning prayer, “Through the cross joy has come into the world.”

Divine Joy is the assurance we have realizing that God is with us and if we stay with Him regardless circumstances that surround us, that inner joy of happiness in our soul and delight in our heart will never go away.

On this upcoming Palm Sunday, we relive Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem and sense the joy that the crowds express. “Hosanna to God in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” Hosanna is an expression of praise, adoration and joy that the crowds consciously use to welcome Jesus into the holy city.

The crowds heard about this Prophet Jesus from Nazareth who was a miracle-worker, and his most recent unbelievable miracle was raising a man back to life who had been dead in a tomb for four days.

Some of the crowd surely heard his teachings and realized this was a man who preached with divine authority in a way quite different from all other religious leaders of his day. The crowds dreamed about a Messiah, an anointed leader who would guide Israel back to freedom and political greatness, ushering in an era of peace, justice, prosperity and goodness. The religious leaders of the day were scandalized by such talk and demanded that Jesus silence his followers from using such dangerous, politically-charged phrases. Yet, Christ simply responded, “Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babes comes perfect praise... I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones themselves would immediately cry out.”

The crowds not only expressed, but deeply felt, a sense of joy at the coming of Christ. They believed He would change their reality and fill them with eternal happiness.

Yet, what happened? How did the joy and hope of Palm Sunday quickly turn into the darkness and confusion of the Passion of Christ which we remember on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. The crowd’s euphoria quickly turned to anger. Did the joy and hope of the crowds dissipate so quickly because their joy was superficial or maybe because they didn’t understand what true divine joy is?

In the Orthodox Church on Palm Sunday, we read Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians in conjunction with the Gospel story about Palm Sunday. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice,” the Apostle Paul advises the Christians in Philippi. This small letter in the New Testament is often called Paul’s Letter of Joy because he uses the term joy or rejoice 18 times in four chapters! What makes this letter all the more shocking, though, is that the Apostle wrote this letter when he himself languished in prison, uncertain about his future. And he was writing to Christians who faced dangerous persecution in the first century. Despite these uncertain realities, however, Saint Paul expresses deep rooted joy in God and reveals how he found peaceful contentment despite whatever difficulties he faced in life. The divine joy he discovered was not a fleeting feeling depending on outer circumstances but a foundational gift of God directing his entire life.

How did Paul feel the joy of the Lord even though his future was uncertain and he faced possible martyrdom? How could he encourage the Christians in Philippi to “rejoice in the Lord” even though they faced persecution? Well, he discovered that the secret of a life in Christ means we remember that “the Lord is near. Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” Gratitude and prayer, together with an assurance that God is near replaces all anxiety and worry regardless of whatever circumstances we face.

He goes on to confess, “I have learned in whatever state I am to be content. I know what it is to have little and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content. For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Possessing divine joy does not mean our joy will not be tested. The inner joy that comes with the knowledge and experience of God surely does not mean that we will not face challenges and difficulties, dark and confusing days ahead where we may not feel the presence of God.. The crowds express thrilling joy and hope on Palm Sunday, yet this joy will be tested in the following days when we enter into the passion of our Lord. For too many people, they get lost in the darkness of betrayal, rejection, denial, abandonment and what appears to be the victory of darkness and evil. We even hear Jesus cry out, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” as an anguished prayer. Yet in the mist of such utter darkness and the mystery of suffering and death itself, joy prevails. “Through the Cross, joy comes into the world.”

For those who faithfully stay with the Lord, divine joy can never be extinguished by any darkness. It is always brilliantly preserved. The Risen Christ Jesus affirms that nothing can ever take away the Joy of the Lord that is within us; this joy will always prevail over whatever darkness we face in the world precisely because He promises that “I will be with you always, even to the end of the age.”

One of the greatest accusations against Christians was made by the French philosopher and atheist Friedrich Nietzsche, when he stated that Christians had no joy; that Christianity is a joyless religion. He seemed to accuse Christians of believing in God but not enjoying life. The theologian, Alexander Schmemmann, responded “Christianity without Joy is incomprehensible... It is only as joy that the Church was victorious in the world.”

Thus, as we celebrate Palm Sunday and Christ’s triumphant entry of joy into Jerusalem, and as we prepare to journey in Holy Week through the darkness and evil of the Passion of Christ, let us learn an important lesson for life. Divine joy will never depend on whatever circumstances we face in life. Divine joy is something we carry deep within, that no exterior trial can ever eliminate. Divine joy comes from the living and dynamic relationship we have with the Risen Lord. Never let any darkness, challenge or sorrow make us forget the joy of the Risen Christ. “The joy of the Lord is my strength!”

Be a waterwise gardener



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Too much or not enough water, and never when your garden needs it. This is a common complaint of gardeners no matter where they live. Make a few changes in your plant selection and garden care to help manage water use while growing healthy plants.

All plants need sufficient moisture after planting and for several months to a year or two to develop a robust root system.

Those labeled as drought tolerant are better able to tolerate periods of drought once established. Always water the area surrounding new plantings thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Gradually reduce the frequency, and once the plants are established, you’ll need to water less often.

Moisture-loving plants are good choices for areas receiving sufficient and consistent moisture throughout the growing season to meet their needs. In locations where this is not the case, consider grouping moisture-loving plants together so you use less water and can concentrate watering efforts to just one or two locations in your landscape.

Fluctuating periods of excessive and insufficient rainfall add to the challenge. Many native plants, once established, tolerate periods of wet and dry soil and can be found on lists of rain garden plants suited to your area.

Keep water in the garden, out of the storm sewers, and reduce the risk of flooding while improving your garden. Adding several inches of compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil increases the soil’s ability to absorb and retain water. It also improves drainage in heavy soils.

Top dress existing gardens by spreading an inch of compost over the soil surface. Soil organisms will help move it into the soil to improve plant growth. Lend nature a hand by using an auger bit on a drill to aerate compacted soil. This pushes some compost into the top four to six inches of soil.

Mulching the soil with leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter also helps. This task has many benefits, including conserving moisture, reducing the risk of erosion and compaction, suppressing weeds, and as the mulch decomposes, improving the soil. A one-to-three-inch layer over the soil surface is all you need. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch that is needed.

Collect rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns when it is plentiful and store it until needed. Use this to water ornamental containers and plantings. Always check with your municipality first, since some restrict this practice while others offer rebates or rain barrels at a discounted price.

You won’t need to worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel if you place an organic mosquito control product like Mosquito Dunks®(SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control, are natural and organic, and won’t harm pets, fish, wildlife, or children.

Periods of heavy rainfall create another challenge. Covering the soil with plants and mulch helps protect your soil from compaction and erosion that often happens during these events. Planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will slow the flow of rainwater, increase the amount of water that stays in your landscape for plants to use, and help filter dust and pollutants out of rainwater before it enters groundwater.

Rain gardens are another strategy for managing water in your yard. These are designed to capture excessive rainfall, drain within 24 to 36 hours, tolerate dry and wet periods, and filter pollutants from the rainwater before it enters the groundwater.

Start by incorporating one or more of these strategies to help manage rainwater in your landscape. Continue to monitor success, adapt as needed, and include more options to help you successfully garden even during periods of excessive or limited rainfall.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything”* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Leaf mulch conserves moisture, reduces the risk of erosion and compaction, suppresses weeds, and improves the soil as it decomposes.

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.

Auburn Elks hosting annual Kids’ Safety Day

AUBURN — Bring your children and grandchildren to a free morning of fun as the Auburn Lodge of Elks hosts its annual Kids’ Safety Day Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Join us for a morning of fun and safety education! Children will learn important safety skills while enjoying hands-on activities and exciting demonstrations, and receive a free bike helmet while supplies last!

Activities include:

- Bicycle safety – bring your bicycle and learn the rules of the road!
- Youth fingerprinting – keep your child’s information secure.
- Water safety – Presented by the YMCA.
- Meet Mikah! – Millbury PD’s community resource dog.
- Emergency Services Meet & Greet – Visit with Auburn Police, Auburn Fire & Rescue, and the Worcester County Sheriff’s Department Mobile Command.
- Teddy Bear Clinic – Bring your favorite stuffed animal for a check-up!
- On-site car seat checks – Ensure your child’s car seat is installed correctly!
- And so much more!

A time-machine and a litany of disasters

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM
MANAGER

LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

In light of current market volatility and uncertainty around tariffs, many investors are naturally worried about their portfolio and questioning the outlook for stocks. We are, after all, emotional creatures, and this is especially true when it comes to investing.

Imagine, for a moment, we build a time machine and decide to go back in time to study investor behavior throughout a litany of disasters.

First, we travel back to May 9, 1940. Sadly, we see that Germany just defeated France and WWII is ramping up. Global tension and fear is rampant. The stock market drops over 18 percent in less than a month. It won't be long before the Attack on Pearl Harbor takes place, effectively pulling the United States into WWII.

The stock market drops another 7 percent over a five-day period. It justifiably feels like the world is ending.

We decide it's time to move on, so we hop back in our time machine and enter June 23, 1950. It's the outbreak of Korean War. Within a month, the first U.S. ground troops arrive in South Korea. The stock market is down over 11 percent. With war fresh in their minds, American's are naturally scared. Investing money is the last thing anyone wants to do.

Enough with the wars. Let's check out Oct. 16, 1987. We now witness the historic "Black Monday Crash," when the stock market plunges over 22 percent in just one day. We watch panicked investors pull their money from the market and run for the proverbial safety of cash. Given the circumstances, we understand their reaction.

Intrigued by the crash of '87, we decide to revisit

Crisis and recovery: How the S&P 500 Index performed during and after historic events						
Event	Event reaction dates	Percent of gain/loss during event	S&P 500 percentage of gain/loss after last reaction date			
			1 month later	1 year later	5 years later	10 years later
Fall of France	5/9/40–6/21/40	–18.2%	3.1%	5.2%	15.9%	13.2%
Attack on Pearl Harbor	12/5/41–12/10/41	–6.9	4.5	16.0	18.1	17.1
Outbreak of Korean War	6/23/50–7/13/50	–11.1	9.5	42.0	27.6	18.4
U.S. invades Cambodia	4/29/70–5/26/70	–15.0	6.4	49.0	9.3	9.3
Nixon resigns	8/9/74–8/29/74	–13.4	–6.8	30.6	14.6	14.6
1987 stock market crash	10/16/87–10/19/87	–20.5	7.1	27.9	17.0	18.9
September 11 terrorist attacks	9/10/01–9/21/01	–11.6	11.3	–11.1	8.3	3.9
Collapse of Lehman Brothers	9/12/08–11/20/08	–39.6	18.3	48.8	21.5	15.8
U.S. debt downgrade by S&P	8/4/11–10/3/11	–8.1	14.9	35.0	17.0	17.1
U.K. Brexit referendum	6/23/16–6/27/16	–5.3	8.5	23.5	18.7	—
Covid–19 pandemic	2/19/20–3/23/20	–33.8	25.2	77.8	—	—
Mean gain/loss		–16.7	9.3	31.3	16.8	14.3
Median gain/loss		–13.4	8.5	30.6	17.0	15.8

an even worse financial crash... the Financial Crisis of 2008. We watch as the subprime dominos begin to fall. Lehman Brothers collapses, AIG is nearing bankruptcy, Wall

Street firms and even some banks are begging to be rescued. The housing market is crashing. The stock market? Down a massive 38 percent for the year. We ask a few folks how they're feeling. One gentleman responds, "I'll never go back into the stock market... ever." We try to tell him, "Wait! Don't panic! The market will actually recover and go on to make new highs!" He tells us we're wrong and walks away.

We have just one more stop to complete our study, and so we travel to Feb. 19 of 2020. It's the start of Covid-19, and the entire global economy is being shut down. The fear, uncertainty, and panic are palatable. The stock market drops a whopping -33% in roughly one month. People are fighting over toilet paper and question if the economy and markets will ever be the same again. We've seen enough.

Now that we're done with our research let's analyze a few numbers. Let's look at how the stock market performed DURING AND AFTER these events.

The average 1YR return? +31 percent. The average 5YR return? +16 percent. Our conclusion: history has proven the United States and corporate America are incredibly resilient and persevere. Markets do indeed bounce back and go on to make new highs. Staying invested can help investors benefit from market rebounds. People who gave up investing (or tried to "time" the market) missed out on significant long-term wealth creation. Our study is complete.

The next time you're watching talking heads on CNBC try to predict the near-term future, remember no one has a crystal ball. And that is precisely why being a "day trader" is so difficult. But if you're an investor, it becomes easier to deal with short term volatility because you're focused on the long-term results. Remember: histo-

ry may not always repeat itself, but it often rhymes.

Yes, today's markets hate the uncertainty over tariff implications, and so we should expect continued price volatility. But don't panic. Volatility is normal. It's like a "toll" investors must pay on the road to attractive long-term returns. On average, the stock market corrects once per year (a drop of 10-19 percent) and has still achieved a 13 percent annualized return including dividends since 1980.

If you indeed have lingering concerns about your portfolio, its best to check in with a qualified Financial Advisor to discuss how your portfolio is positioned.

About The Capstone Planning Group

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The event reaction periods begin with the stock market close prior to the events. Historical references do not assume that any prior market behavior will be duplicated. Past performance does not indicate future results. There are risks associated with mutual fund investing including the possibility that share prices will decline. Since investment return and principal value will fluctuate, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. You cannot invest directly in an index. Indexes are unmanaged and used as a broad measure of market performance. Data sources for this article include Putnam Investments and LPL Financial.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quitting the rhetoric

To the Editor:

It would seem as though a certain opinion writer would like everyone to quit the rhetoric, yet sends his own rhetoric week after week.

Perhaps if the state did not spend so much on some of the immigrant programs they do, most of us would not see the constant rise in state and local taxes that we do, and there might be more money available in the form of grants for local towns and businesses.

The same old Nazi Germany rhetoric seems to come from this writer again, as he seems to have a lot of care for the Jewish people who suffered so badly, yet I don't remember him ever writing about the anti-Israel protests that take place across our country, where many of these people openly shout for the death of all Jews, how they are Hamas, and also calling for the death of America. The death of America would include him too. Where is his outrage at that, and while many of our Democratic leaders don't seem to take much issue with any of that, shouldn't we all know what they really think, much like you call on certain Republican leaders here in our state?

As far as our military he is so concerned with, he seems to forget how our last administration sent hundreds of thousands of meals to Al Qaeda fighters in Syria. I repeat, Al Qaeda! Or the hundreds of millions sent to Afghanistan to help with the cultivation of the poppy fields, resulting in unprecedented heroin production thereby benefiting the Taliban. I repeat, the Taliban. These would seem to be two groups that would like nothing more than to destroy our military. Where is his outrage, and how do our democrat leaders feel about that?

Can this writer come up with any valid, widespread circumstances of people being whisked off the street, or is

he now trying to defend the gang members, murderers, rapists, and child traffickers, all in the name of anti-Trump?

The 'save democracy' rhetoric from him would seem rather hypocritical, as there were more Trump voters across the country, and even in the small town of Dudley in which we live, yet he now wishes to destroy those results after only several months. So much for democracy if it doesn't match up to his liking.

As far as spending cuts, I will, just like last time, ask anyone reading this, do not take my word for it — watch the video. June 12, 2011. Obama from the White House with special guest Joe Biden in the Campaign to Cut Waste. Not some wild MAGA idea; something they themselves say will hurt a little, but necessary. That was when Joe Biden actually had the capability to think for himself, not like the last four years, when we the people were lied to on a daily basis and the Democrats in Washington tried to cover up the fact that he probably didn't even know he was supposed to be the president. Talk about a national security issue. That includes Kamala herself; it's a good thing she didn't win. What web of lies would she now be spinning?

The cuts, although painful, need to be done, if not for us now, then our future generations, which this writer claims to care so much about when it comes to climate change. Or is that just more blank rhetoric?

Thank you for your service albeit not Vietnam, but I too have a DD214 that says Honorable Discharge, so your rhetoric is not all true, as there are many veterans like myself who voted for Trump.

JOHN GIAQUINTO
DUDLEY

I have the background and experience to strengthen the WHA

To the Editor:

I am Frank Stefanik, running for the Webster Housing Authority on May 5, and would like to introduce myself.

I have been a resident of Golden Heights for almost seven years, and am very active in the Golden Heights community. I have attended every board meeting since living here in person or Zoom since moving in. I was the past President of the Local Tenants Organization. I have been involved with the new employee interview process. When Secretary of Housing Ed Augustus visited last year, I was part of the small group that toured the property.

I am the rep/contact person for Mass Union for Public Housing. I am on Mass Union's Police Committee. I was part of a group of tenants that went to the State House last May to meet with our senators on a Lobby Day with Mass Union to get votes for the public housing bond that was up for vote, of which \$2.2 billion was successfully passed. This is important, as we have aging infrastructure here, being 50-plus years old. I am on many Zoom meetings with Mass Union each month to stay with current events, as we all know things are turbulent now.

I am very familiar with how the WHA is run, and have very good knowledge on how a nonprofit entity works, as I was once treasurer of a large nonprofit organization for a few years. I have a great rapport with the great staff, management & board of the WHA. I am a highly visible tenant at Golden Heights, always interacting with my fellow tenants & staff and always helping them out, sometimes on a daily basis.

I am a retired sales engineer in the fluid power industry in both sales &

management, so I have vast business experience. I am a recent cancer survivor, and having a second chance is one of the reasons I am running for the board. With my background, people skills & drive, I can be an asset to the Webster Housing Authority. My personal involvement with the public housing sector at the state level brings me great satisfaction, and to share that knowledge with fellow tenants, staff and the board sometimes as well, and even have an appointment with our senator in May at Mass Union's Housing Day.

With that said and done, I would appreciate your consideration for voting for me in the upcoming May 5 town election.

Thank you.

FRANK STEFANIK
WEBSTER



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PET of the WEEK





BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON

Small Shelter Big Heart

Ms. Piggy

Meet Ms. Piggy! She has been soaking up all the love in her foster home, and showing her silly, loving side. Piggy loves doing zoomies and playing with squeaky toys, and with her favorite people she's the ultimate snuggle bug. Always ready to lounge on the couch for TV binging and belly rubs. Piggy is crate trained, sleeps soundly through the night, and house trained. She's done well when left alone during the workday and will happily greet you with a wagging tail when you come home.

Piggy can be a little nervous of new experiences at first, but has been working on her confidence. She's food motivated and such a smart girl. She already knows, "sit," "down," "stay," "wait," "place," "paw," "front," and "touch." With her love for treats, she's always eager to learn, and is looking for a family who wants to continue working with her.

Piggy enjoys walks in quieter areas or trails in the woods to explore. Her favorite is playing and smelling all the scents in her foster homes fenced yard. Busier areas can be a little overwhelming for her, so dry life or apartment living, is probably not the best fit for this girl.

With the new year here, she is ready to find her family, one that will shower her with love, patience, and plenty of snacks! Apply today!

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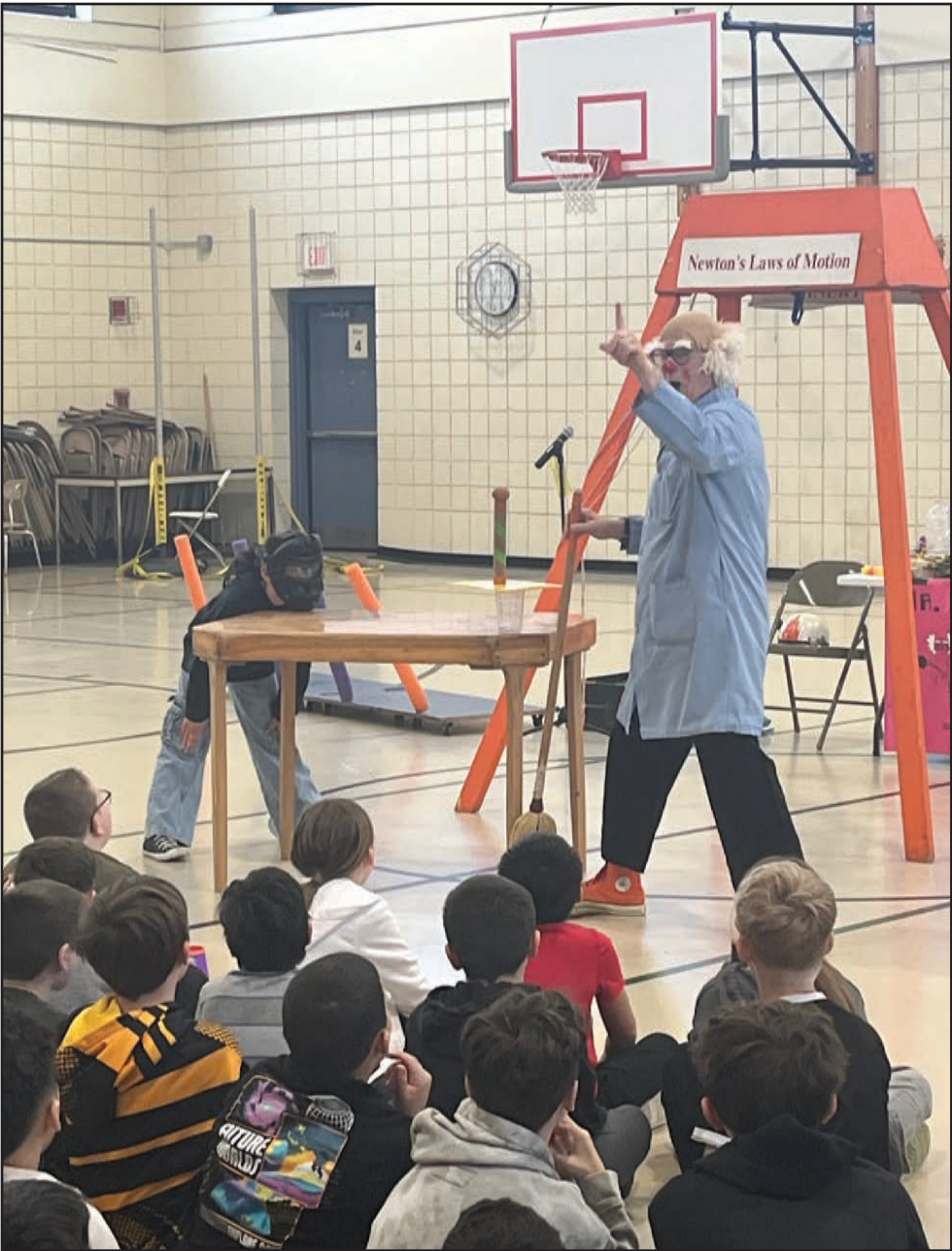
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Slapstick scientist wows Barton Elementary with “Notion of Motion”

OXFORD — Barton Elementary students in grades 3 through 5 were in for a treat this week as they were captivated by the high-energy, educational antics of Slapstick Scientist Ted Lawrence, also known as Dr. Quinton Quark. His thrilling presentation on physics had students on the edge of their seats, combining science with comedy in a way that made learning both engaging and unforgettable.

Dr. Quark’s “Notion of Motion” assembly took students on an interactive journey through the fundamentals of physics. With a mix of humor and hands-on activities, students explored key scientific concepts by creating hypotheses and testing their ideas in real time. From spinning wheels to balancing acts, the presentation demonstrated the forces and laws of motion in action, keeping students mesmerized with every experiment.

Barton Elementary extends a heartfelt thank you to the Barton PTO for making this enriching experience possible. Their support in bringing Dr. Quark to the school provided students with a unique opportunity to experience science in an exciting and memorable way.

With laughter, learning, and plenty of hands-on exploration, the Notion of Motion assembly was a resounding success, leaving students inspired and eager to dive deeper into the world of physics.

Gladys E. Kelly Library hosting reception for artist Steve Gerling

WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, located at 2 Lake St., Webster, will host an artist reception for Steve Gerling Tuesday, April 15 from 6-8 p.m.

Join us in celebrating Steve Gerling’s display, featuring landscapes and nature scenes. Light refreshments will be served. Enjoy a visual showcase that is perfect for art lovers and aspiring creators!

The exhibit on display April 1-May 14.

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OBITUARIES

Jayne Emma Romanek, 86



Jayne Emma (Siegmund) Romanek, 86, of Danielson CT and formerly of Wiltonville CT died on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston MA.

She was born in Webster MA on August 5, 1938, the daughter of the late Arthur and Gertrude (Kruger) Siegmund. She married Edward John Romanek on November 24, 1956. They celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary before Ed's passing in July 1998. Jayne previously worked as a paraprofessional for the Thompson Public Schools.

It was her passion for crocheting in her retirement years that many of her family and friends will remember most about Jayne. Always the teacher, she passed along her crocheting knowledge by sharing her "projects" with the young and old alike. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, reading, watching the Red Sox, volunteering her time

and donating her completed projects to local charitable organizations. She was active in several prayer shawl ministries and won multiple awards for her project submissions at local craft fairs.

She is survived by her daughter Janet (Romanek) Young and partner Richard Mathieu of Southbridge MA, son Edward John (Jay) Romanek Jr. and wife Melinda of Milton GA, older brother Arthur Siegmund Jr. of Webster MA, four grandchildren; James Young Jr. and wife Amanda of Webster MA, Jennifer (Young) Caron and husband Gary of Southbridge MA, Derek Romanek and wife Alexa of John's Creek GA, and Casey (Romanek) Barber and husband Ben of White GA, six great grandchildren; Cayden Young, Jackson Young, Avery Barber, Skylar Barber, Landon Barber, Nella Romanek and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces. Jayne was predeceased by her older sister Betty A. (Siegmund) Ruhnke.

Private graveside services will be held at the Mt. Zion cemetery in Webster MA.

Patricia M. "Patty" Motyka, 75



CHARLTON – Patricia M. "Patty" Motyka, 75, died Monday, March 31, 2025 in UMass/Memorial Healthcare, Worcester.

She leaves her husband of over 50 years, Deacon Peter J. Motyka; 2 sons, Matthew S. Motyka and his wife Ashlee of Hoover, AL, and Andrew R. Motyka and his wife Julie of Indianapolis, IN; a daughter, Laurie J. Richer and her husband Timothy of Northboro; 8 grandchildren, Mary, Lucy, Thomas, Abigail, Audrey and Stephen Motyka, and Joshua and Jacob Richer; a brother, David A. May and his wife Linda of Bloomsburg, PA; 2 sisters, Paula J. Kirchenbauer and her husband William of Belvedere, NJ and Carol F. Finley and her husband Robert of Northampton, PA; several nieces and nephews.

She was born on August 31, 1949 in Paterson, NJ, a daughter of Russell and Joan (VanDuren) May and raised there. She graduated from East Side High School in 1966. In 1985, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting for Nichols College in Dudley, graduating as class valedictorian. She moved to this area in 1976 and has lived in Charlton for four years.

Mrs. Motyka worked as an accountant at small firms and retired as the assistant director of financial aid at Nichols College in 2013.

She was a communicant of Saint Louis Church in Webster and belonged to the Saint Louis League of Catholic Women. At the parish, she co-taught the confirmation class, was active in the RCIA program, served as a lector and eucharistic minister, sang alto in the choir and was a member of the Partners in Charity Committee. She was the treasurer of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for many years.

Patty was a member of the Harrington Hospital Auxiliary and served as the chairperson of its scholarship committee. She also was a former member of the parish council of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dudley when she worshipped there. She liked crocheting, swimming, yoga and traveling. Her favorite time was spent with family, especially with her grandchildren and friends.

Her funeral was held on Saturday, April 5, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation was held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, April 4, and again on Saturday from 8:45 to 9:30 AM in the funeral home. Donations in her name may be made to either Saint Vincent de Paul Society, c/o Sacred Heart Church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, MA 01570 or to Catholic Charities, 10 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

www.websterfunerals.com

The secret of Socrates

Picture this: a man in a suit, contracts in hand, marching down a hallway like he's heading into battle.

He swings open the office door, eyes locked on his business partner. He's angry. He's certain. He's ready to set the record straight.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

with people, don't begin by discussing the things on which you differ. Begin by emphasizing—and keep on emphasizing—the things on which you agree... Get the other person saying 'yes, yes' at the outset. Keep your opponent, if possible, from saying 'no.'

Socrates mastered this. He didn't argue. He asked questions. Obvious ones. Undeniable ones. Questions that showed both sides were aligned. Only differing in the method. One yes, then another. And slowly, the tension faded. The resistance dropped. The conversation shifted. They weren't on opposite sides anymore. They were on the same page.

Let's come back to our world.

reliable, right?" "Yes." "You want to make sure you're getting the best value for your money?" "Yes." "And I'm guessing you don't want to waste time shopping around forever." "Exactly."

Three yeses, right out of the gate!

What just happened? The customer started nodding—not just physically, but mentally. They felt understood. They felt like the salesperson was on their side. And now, the next sentence—"Let me show you what I think is a great fit"—doesn't feel like a pitch. It feels like teamwork.

The beauty of this isn't that it tricks people. It's that it meets them where they are. We don't move forward when we feel forced. We move forward when we feel seen.

And this isn't just for sales or business.

"This is outrageous," he says, slamming the folder on the desk. "You agreed to these terms. You're backing out now?"

The partner, calm but resolute, folds his hands. "No, I didn't agree to that."

"Yes, you did," the man in the suit snapped.

"No, I didn't," his partner replied, calm as ever.

The conversation spirals. The angrier the businessman gets, the firmer his partner digs in. No progress. No compromise. A Stalemate; nowhere to go. And that was it—just one word, over and over: No.

When the man walks out, nothing changes except his blood pressure.

Now pause here. Let's talk about what just happened.

The problem wasn't the disagreement. The problem was the approach. He came in swinging—accusation first, challenge second. He backed the other person into a corner. And people don't make deals when they feel cornered. They defend themselves. They harden.

The second someone says "no," it's like concrete drying. Fast. Solid. Tough to crack.

Dale Carnegie called this The Secret of Socrates in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

He wrote: "In talking

Instead of walking into a room with fire and a point to prove, try starting with this: "You want what's best for the team, right?" "You care about this project like I do, right?" "You want this to work."

Get agreement on the big picture before diving into the details. Because once someone's in "yes mode," they're far more likely to stay there.

The truth is, "no" is more than a word—it's a wall. And once it's up good luck getting through. But "yes" is a bridge. It connects people. It opens doors.

Now, picture a good salesman talking to a potential customer—not the pushy kind, but the thoughtful, sharp kind.

He doesn't start with, "So, are you ready to buy?" He starts with questions so obvious they're effortless to answer: "You're looking for something

Coloring Easter Eggs Naturally

Easter is right around the corner, and for many, the annual ritual of coloring eggs is an anticipated yearly tradition. But there's no need to run out and buy a fancy egg coloring kit, as you likely have the ingredients to make up a rainbow of colorful eggs right in your kitchen cupboard!

The following ideas are fun and easy to do family egg coloring projects.

Note: Eggs that are to be eaten should always be refrigerated after coloring.

Quick and Easy Classic Food Coloring Dye

This homemade mixture rivals the basic egg coloring kits. Use empty egg cartons to dry the eggs.

Mix three quarters of a cup warm water with one tablespoon white vinegar. Add one quarter teaspoon of (no artificial dye) food coloring. Note: gel food coloring works best.

Make individual batches of color in wide mouth mugs or small bowls. Dip and soak hard boiled eggs in mixture to color.

**

Natural Egg Dyes

Note: Patience is the key to bright colors as it could take a while to achieve.

Red: Save the skins from onions and boil for one half to one hour. The more skins you use and longer you soak, the darker color will be. A small amount of skins will produce a light lavender color.

**

Pink: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of cranberry juice or pickled beet juice with ½ tsp of vinegar until desired hue is reached.

**

Lavender: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or



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cup of grape juice and ½ tsp of vinegar until color is to your liking.

**

Blue: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and ½ tsp of vinegar. Soak overnight in the refrigerator if you want a dark, rich color.

**

Yellow: To a cup of hot water, add one and a half teaspoons of tumeric and one half teaspoon vinegar.

**

Golden Tan: Save skins from yellow onions. Add to water when hard boiling eggs.

**

Brown: Add one tablespoon of instant coffee and one half tsp. vinegar to a cup of water. Drop in hard boiled egg and allow to sit until desired color is reached.

**

Pastel Hues: Rub blueberries and cranberries directly on the shells for soft blues and pinks.

**

Waxed eggs

Here is a super idea for creating waxed eggs that are truly impressive!

Ingredients: Wax crayons; paper towels; egg dyes in different colors; cooking oil.

Instructions: Draw a heavy crayon pattern on hard boiled egg. Dip egg in egg dye, preferably a dark color. Leave in dye until desired color is reached. Remove with slotted spoon and place in 200 degree F oven for a few minutes until wax is melted. Wipe with paper towel and dip again in lighter dye to fill in

pattern where wax was. Polish finished eggs with cooking oil and soft cloth.

**

Reader Hint: This hint from reader Donna Lewandowski was received after last week's reader hint column was submitted— but it is timely for making Easter dishes with eggs:

To remove eggshell fragments from your bowl, use a piece of eggshell. The sharp edge of an eggshell helps to remove the fragment.

**

Reminders to extend the life of Easter lilies long beyond this season:

Prolong Potted Plant: Easter lilies are gorgeous plants, and with a few tricks you can prolong their life as a potted plant way past the Easter holiday.

If you are purchasing the plant yourself, choose a healthy looking plant with a few flowers in full bloom but with most unopened. Keep potted soil moist and place in a cool 60 to 65 degree room where it can get some indirect sunlight. Avoid direct heat and direct sunlight. Be sure the pot is on a saucer, and if it is wrapped in foil be sure the foil doesn't trap any water in the bottom of the pot. Help your lily last even longer by snipping off the pollen laden anthers from the center of the blooms.

**

Longer Lilies: When your Easter lily has seen better days, don't toss it out! Your potted lilies can last for years to come if you plant them outside. To do: When leaves and stems turn yellow and or brown, trim them back and plant the bulb directly into the garden after the threat of frost

Turn To TAKE page A11

Friday's Child



Wesley
Age 10
Registration # 8475

Hi! My name is Wesley, and I would like to be an engineer when I grow up!

Wesley is a healthy, sweet, creative, helpful and caring boy. Bright and curious about his surroundings, he may appear shy and reserved at first but becomes more comfortable through play. Wesley is not comfortable talking about himself to others. Wesley is a natural builder. He loves building with Legos and can make amazing and ornate origami art. He also creates new games and has a very vivid imagination. He loves

to read. Math is his favorite subject. He would like to be an engineer when he grows up.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21180805788

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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.



TAKE
continued from page A10

has passed. For best results, plant the bulb in about three inches of good soil in a sunny or partial shade area. Top with another three inches of mulch, peat moss, compost, etc. (bulb is six inches underground). Water as needed.

Keep in mind transplanted lilies won't bloom until next summer. Keep well mulched during the winter and next spring remove extra mulch to help lilies sprout up.

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 email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Eastern student Delaney Kudron of Oxford “makes history” at statewide conference

WILLIMANTIC — History students at Eastern Connecticut State University and visiting students from other Connecticut State Universities (CSUs) presented their topical research at the CSU Making History Conference on March 28 in the Student Center. The event was sponsored by Eastern's Department of History, Center for Connecticut Studies, School of Arts and Sciences and Provost's Office.

Among the panelists was Delaney Kudron of Oxford, a senior majoring in History and Social Science.

Kudron presented her work on former first lady Abigail Adams, a project that she had previously explored in one of Balcerski's classes. This was the first historical conference she had ever participated in

“It was great to see so many people who share a common interest be given the opportunity to talk about the different aspects of history that interest them,” said Kudron. “Being able to present on a topic that I am passionate about to a wider audience was truly a great experience.”



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QCC offers free tax prep through VITA program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is participating in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the current tax season. Individuals who make \$67,000 or less per year can receive free tax preparation services from VITA volunteers, who have been certified by the IRS.

“It’s a great experience for the students and builds a sense of community,” said Associate Professor of Accounting Eduardo Rivas, who coordinates QCC’s involvement with VITA, explaining that volunteers get to work with people from a wide variety of ages, abilities and cultures.

Students from any discipline can join the VITA program, but many are in the Business Administration and Accounting programs.

QCC student Joshua Roman has worked in finance for years at his family’s business, but with the owner’s retirement approaching, he wanted to show his clients that he can offer the most current knowledge and experience through his credentials. In addition to bolstering his career, he has enjoyed the volunteer aspect of VITA.

“It’s really rewarding. We were able to help an elderly couple acquire a specific credit, which got them a bit more of a refund than they were expecting,” Roman recalled. “To them, it felt life changing.”

Many students participating in the VITA program also commented on the soft skills they have gained from hands-on experience with actual clients. More than just telling clients how much they will receive or owe, volunteers educate them on how the process works and ways to improve their tax situations for the future.

Wanda Morales had never volunteered before but has been excited to help people with their tax preparation. She said she improved her communication skills through the interactions she’s had in the program.

“Sometimes, it’s a difficult situation, so you need patience to explain to people why they owe because they don’t have enough withholdings,” Wanda commented.

According to Arielle Bento, who wants to pursue a career in accounting, she’s learning about confidentiality and real-world financial situations.

“Taking calls for the program has really helped me build my confidence,” Bento commented.

Bento was recently selected for the Local Finance Commonwealth Fellowship, a paid internship program that will focus on municipal finance practices.

Melvin Minaya noted that the hands-on experience in the program is not only helping his self-assurance, but also building trust in the Spanish speakers who he assists with translation.

“I’m getting all this experience at a young age. I know how to treat people, what the questions are going to be and how I’m going to answer. I have the confidence to do it and the mentality to focus,” Minaya said.

QCC’s VITA program operates out of the Main South CDC in Worcester, but also offers tax preparation services remotely for qualifying participants. The VITA program runs through April 11.

To make an appointment with the VITA program visit getyourrefund.org/mscdc, call 508-752-6181 or email vita@qcc.mass.edu. More information is available at QCC.edu/vita.

QCC’s Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship announced

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College kicked off StartUp Week Worcester earlier today with the announcement of the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship, a new initiative made possible through the support of the Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation.

The Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship will serve as an innovation hub for QCC students of any discipline, offering workshops, mentoring, consultation services and entrepreneurship-focused curriculum.

“This has been an amazing partnership. The Center will help our students get the social capital and the guidance that they need. The generous gift of the Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation will help empower QCC students to be catalysts for economic growth. Our students are rooted here, and they will invest in our community,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

The Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation has committed \$100,000 per year for a minimum of three years to support staffing and programming at the Center.

“No aspiring entrepreneur should ever feel like they’re doing it alone. In partnership with QCC we’re laying the groundwork for a vibrant entrepreneurial hub...in the broader Worcester community,” said Jacob Rucker, private equity analyst at Rucker Investments and co-founder of Auxilium. “This will be a space where bold ideas are welcome, risk is encouraged and support is real. Auxilium will be this program’s partner, mentor and constant source of encouragement.”

Also speaking at the announcement was Noah MacDonald, who is studying business administration at QCC and started a group for students called Coalition of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE) to help students such as himself who want to start their own ventures.

“I just started getting into entrepreneurship and I can see how important it is. I have very big goals for my life so I’m grasping opportunities. A place like this could give me the mentorship that I need and show me the paths I can take,” MacDonald commented.

QCC Board of Trustees President Dr. Linda Maykel reflected on starting a dental practice without knowing where to turn for advice on simple business practices such as signing a commercial lease.

“To have a center now where students can come and have people to mentor them through is absolutely one of the most exciting things I’ve seen since I’ve been here,” said Maykel. “The Center will also maximize QCC’s existing wraparound services like counseling and the HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center.”

The Center is set to open on QCC’s main campus in Fall 2025.

Food Truck Festival returns May 10

SPENCER — The Throwdown! 2025 Food Truck Festival will be held Saturday, May 10 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Spencer Fairgrounds, 49 Smithville Rd. Admission \$5 at the gate (children under 12 free).

Throwdown! 2025 is Worcester County’s longest running and largest annual Food Truck Festival and Craft Fair. A panel of judges and event attendees cast votes for their favorite food truck to be honored with the prestigious “Best of Worcester County Food Trucks” and the ever coveted “People’s Choice” awards. Along with great food from dozens of food trucks, customers may browse among the more than 50 artisanal craft vendors, enjoy carnival style games, listen to music or participate in an array of yard games such as corn hole, giant blocks, ladder toss and other fun activities just for the kids. Enjoy craft beer and wines at this year’s event from “The Stein & Vine,” Central Massachusetts’ favorite mobile bar service. It’s a fantastic way to spend a Spring afternoon with family and friends in a beautiful outdoor setting.

WooTrucks has been the most trusted name in reliable food truck booking for over a decade. Our commissary, commercial kitchen, and base of operations for food trucks, caterers, bakers, and food entrepreneurs is located at 67 Main St., Boylston. Our fully permitted and approved facility to prepare food was established to foster a transparent, self-policing community of food trucks and food entrepreneurs practicing only the highest standards of customer service while maintaining strict adherence to health, sanitation and food codes. WooTrucks operates food truck festivals throughout the region and supplies food trucks to corporate clients, private businesses, breweries, academic institutions, and local municipalities.

SOUTHBRIDGE — The annual 2025 Massachusetts Independent Film Festival (MassIndie2025) will be packed with indie features, shorts, documentaries, experimental, horror films and more, all made both locally and from around the country and the world including the Oscar Nominated Documentary “Porcelain War” by Brendan Bellomo and Slava Leontyev.

The festival takes place on April 24 through 26 at the Wellsworth Hotel & Conference Center, 14 Mechanic St., Southbridge, and a special screening of student films at Razzo Hall, Clark University, on Friday the 25th.

(Special note: Important Venue Update for MassIndie. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our previously announced venue, starlite in Southbridge, has closed. All three days of MassIndie—April 24 to 26—will now take place at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge.)

The festival is presented by the Shawna Foundation which also runs the Shawna Shea Film Festival (SSFF) which will return to Southbridge in July. The Foundation also runs the Scandriglia Film Festival in Italy every other year in October. Our next date there is October 2026.

This year’s MassIndie Film Fest includes the feature length movies “Mountain Lion” by Brooklyn Demme, film director Jonathan Demme’s son, “Fakes” by John Hayeck shot entirely in Worcester; and “The Dirty Gerund Poetry Show Documentary” by Manny Alvarado about the iconic Worcester poetry reading series that has taken place at Ralph’s Diner for the last 15 years.

“We also offer screenings online exclusively to the Shawna Foundation Patreon subscribers

which include the feature length films “Atrabilious” by William Atticus Parker, son of Billy Crudup and Mary-Louise Parker, starring Jeffrey Wright and Leon Addison Brown and the Canadian Feature “Home Free” by Avi Ronn Federgreen starring Michelle Nolden and Art Hindle. Allowing our Patreon members this opportunity helps people who live in rural areas or who don’t have the ability to travel to take part in experiencing truly independent art.” said festival director Skip Shea.

The festival also has blocks full of short experimental, horror, international and documentaries made by filmmakers who chose to lean more towards art then commerce with their work showing their true independent spirit.

“In keeping with the mission of the Shawna Foundation roughly 60 percent of the movies we will screen were made by people in the underrepresented communities. But that also reflects roughly the average amount of films submitted by the same community. The Shawna Foundation has become known that we are the home for all voices. We truly believe that showing the stories of a diverse population only shows how much we have in common. We all experience sadness, joy, loss and survival. And we can all relate to that,” said Shea.

Shea is an acclaimed Uxbridge-based filmmaker, writer, director and producer who founded the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation Inc. in memory of his daughter Shawna E. Shea, an Uxbridge High School student and a creative and artistic young woman who died at 16 in a 1999 automobile crash.

The nonprofit organization runs a number of arts and film programs, all with the Shawna Foundation’s

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 4 Ridgewood Drive, Auburn, MA 01501

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert J Tatro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **TH MSR Holdings LLC f/k/a Matrix Financial Services Corporation**, said mortgage dated August 20, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63098, Page 179, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Matrix Financial Services Corporation by assignment dated April 6, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68996, Page 386; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 8, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time

upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Auburn, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive, at the most northerly corner of the premises to be conveyed, which point is at the most westerly corner of lot 41 on a plan hereinafter referred to; Thence S. 30° 59' 30" E. one hundred fifty-four and twelve hundredths (154.12) feet to a point; Thence N. 80° 14' 30" W one hundred eighty and ninety-two hundredths (180.92) feet to a point in the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive; Thence N. 16° 44' 20" E. by the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive, forty-five and eighty-two-hundredths (45.82) feet to a point; Thence by a curve to the right of the radius of which is twenty (20) feet, distance of fourteen and seventy-five hundredths (14.75) feet to a point; Thence N. 59° 0' 30" E. by the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive, eighty-

nine and seventy hundredths (89.70) feet to the point of BEGINNING. containing 12,345 square feet of land, more or less, and being lot 42 on a plan entitled “Central Estates” Subdivision by Mr. Alex M. Pappas of Auburn, Mass. June 1953, prepared by R.B. Cullinan, registered professional engineer and filed for record in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 190, Plan 42. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors by Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 16063 page 191.

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

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated February 10, 1994 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 16063, Page 191.

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

said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)

Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for TH MSR Holdings LLC f/k/a Matrix Financial Services Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
April 4, 2025
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket No. 25 SM 000959
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Zdzislawa Kumor
and to all persons entitled to the benefit
of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act,
50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901
(et seq):
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
claiming to have an interest in a Mort-
gage covering real property in **Auburn,**
numbered 3 Zabelle Avenue, given
by Zbigniew Kumor and Zdzislawa
Kumor to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.,
dated **March 28, 2011,** and **record-**
ed in Worcester County (Worcester
District) Registry of Deeds in Book
47236, Page 47, as affected by a
Loan Modification Agreement dated
April 13, 2022, and recorded at said
Registry of Deeds in Book 67727,
Page 9, has/have filed with this court
a complaint for determination of Defen-
dant's/Defendants' Servicemembers
status.
If you now are, or recently have been,
in the active military service of the United
States of America, then you may be
entitled to the benefits of the Service-
members Civil Relief Act. If you object
to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned
property on that basis, then you or your
attorney must file a written appearance
and answer in this court at **Three Pem-**
berton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on
or before 05/12/2025 or you may
lose the opportunity to challenge the
foreclosure on the ground of noncom-
pliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief
Justice of this Court on 3/31/2025
Attest:
25-048306 | FC01
3/31/2025
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
April 11, 2025

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. WO25P0912EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Judith Gladding Reilly
Also Known As:
Judith G. Reilly
Date of Death: January 18, 2025

To all persons interested in the above
captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Warner S. Fletcher** of
Worcester MA
a Will has been admitted to informal
probate
Warner S. Fletcher of **Worcester MA**
has been informally appointed as Per-
sonal Representative of said estate to
serve **without** Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered un-
der informal procedure by the Personal
Representative under the Massachu-
setts 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 Rep-
resentative and can petition the Court
in any matter relating to the estate,
including distribution of assets and
expenses of administration. Interest-
ed parties are entitled to petition the
Court to institute formal proceedings
and to obtain orders terminating or re-
stricting the powers of Personal Rep-
resentatives appointed under informal
procedure. A copy of the Petition and
Will, if any, can be obtained from the
Petitioner.
April 11, 2025

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket 25 SM 000971
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Jessica A. O'Connell a/k/a Jessica
A. Moody
and to all persons entitled to the ben-
efit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief
Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Deutsche Bank National Trust
Company, as Trustee for Fremont
Home Loan Trust 2006-3, Asset-
Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3
claiming to have an interest in a
Mortgage covering real property in
Oxford, numbered 6 McKinstry
Drive, given by Jessica A. O'Connell
to **Mortgage Electronic Registration**
Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as
nominee for Fremont Investment &
Loan, its successors and assigns,
dated **August 24, 2006, and record-**
ed in Worcester County (Worcester
District) Registry of Deeds in Book
39668, Page 143, as affected by a

Loan Modification Agreement dated
September 20, 2013, and recorded
at said Registry of Deeds in Book
55089, Page 125, and further affected
by a Loan Modification Agreement
dated December 21, 2022, and
recorded at said Registry of Deeds
in Book 68938, Page 241, and now
held by the Plaintiff by assignment,
has/have filed with this court a com-
plaint for determination of Defendant's/
Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been,
in the active military service of the
United States of America, then you
may be entitled to the benefits of the
Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If
you object to a foreclosure of the
above-mentioned property on that
basis, then you or your attorney must
file a written appearance and answer
in this court at Three Pemberton
Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or
before 5/12/2025 or you may lose the
opportunity to challenge the foreclo-
sure on the ground of noncompliance
with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief
Justice of said Court on 3/31/ 2025
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

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. WO25C0076CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Sahmina Grace Oriaku Ekeh
A Petition to Change Name of Mlnor
has been filed by
Sahmina Grace Oriaku Ekeh
of equesting that the court enter a De-
cree changing their name to:
Sahmina Klin Mensah
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes
of objecting to the petition by filing an
appearance at: Worcester Probate and
Family Court before 04/08/2025 at 10
a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline by which you must file a writ-
ten appearance if you object to this
proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: March 11, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P4236EA
Estate of:
Dorothy M Hultin
Date of Death: 10/08/2022
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Set-**
tlement has been filed by **Martha A**
Hammond of Charlton MA
requesting that the court enter a formal
Decree of Complete Settlement in-
cluding a determination of testacy and
heirs at law, the allowance of a final ac-
count, 1st and other such relief as may
be requested in the Petition.
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 attor-
ney must file a written appearance and
objection at this court before: **10:00**
a.m. on the return day of **04/29/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-
line by which you must file a written ap-
pearance and objection if you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file a time-
ly written appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of objections
within thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without further no-
tice to you.
Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy,
First Justice of this Court
March 28, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of
Probate
April 11, 2025

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. WO25P1001EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Margaret A. Lapierre
Also Known As:

Maragaret Ann Lapierre
Date of Death: November 26, 2024
To all persons interested in the above
captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **William F. Lapierre** of
Douglas MA a Will has been admitted
to informal probate
William F. Lapierre of **Douglas MA-**
has been informally appointed as Per-
sonal Representative of said estate to
serve **without** Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered un-
der informal procedure by the Personal
Representative under the Massachu-
setts Uniform Probate Code without
supervision by the Court. Inventory
and accounts are not required to be
filed with the Court, but interested par-
ties are entitled to notice regarding the
administration from the Personal Rep-
resentative and can petition the Court
in any matter relating to the estate,
including distribution of assets and
expenses of administration. Interest-
ed parties are entitled to petition the
Court to institute formal proceedings
and to obtain orders terminating or re-
stricting the powers of Personal Rep-
resentatives appointed under informal
procedure. A copy of the Petition and
Will, if any, can be obtained from the
Petitioner.
April 11, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Level 3-Critical Drought-Central
Region
Re Posted: April 04, 2025

On November 07, 2024, the Executive
Office of Energy and Environmental
affairs (EEA) issued a Level 3-Critical
Drought Declaration for the Central
Region of Massachusetts and
it has not been lifted to date. As
recommended by EEA, the Town is
following the guidance and response
actions in the Massachusetts Drought
Plan and instituting a MANDATORY
non-essential water use restriction
as required by our MassDEP Water
Management Act Registration. Also,
in addition to the State drought
restriction, Bigelow Well our largest
single producing source remains
offline under construction for PFAS
treatment. Without this source, it has
been challenging to keep up with daily
water system demand.
These mandatory water restrictions
are for daily “non-essential” water use
from public water sources and shall
be in effect until the drought is lifted
by the Executive Office of Energy
and Environmental Affairs or by the
Webster Water Department.
Non-essential outdoor water uses
that are subject to mandatory
restrictions include:

- irrigation of lawns via sprinklers
or automatic irrigation systems;
 - filling swimming pools;
 - washing of vehicles, except in
a commercial car wash or as necessary
for operator safety; and
 - washing exterior building
surfaces, parking lots, driveways
or sidewalks, except as necessary
to apply surface treatments such as
paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement
or cement.
- When you CAN use water outdoors:**
The following “essential uses” as defined
by the Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
may be allowed, before 9:00am
and after 5:00pm, when mandatory
restrictions are in place:
- a. for health or safety reasons
 - b. irrigation to establish a new
lawn and new plantings during the
months of May and September;
 - c. irrigation of public parks and
recreation fields by means of automatic
sprinklers;
 - d. by regulation;
 - e. for the production of food and
fiber
 - f. irrigation of gardens, flowers
and ornamental plants by means of
a hand-held hose or drip irrigation
system; and irrigation of lawns by
means of a hand-held hose;
 - g. for the maintenance of
livestock; or
 - h. to meet the core functions of
a business.
- Nonessential uses are those other
than essential uses.
Enforcement will include:
- Written warning of first offense;

- \$50 fine for second offense;
 - \$100 fine for each subsequent
offense;
 - **Each day of violation constitutes**
a separate offense.
- April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

TOWN OF WEBSTER WATER
SEWER COMMISSION PUBLIC
HEARING NOTICE-
The Webster Water Sewer Commission
will hold a Public Hearing on
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:30PM
at the Town Hall in the Selectman's
Meeting Room, 350 Main Street,
Webster, MA, to establish FY 2026
Water and Sewer Rates. The hearing

will include a Water and Sewer rate
study presentation from Tighe & Bond.
All interested parties are invited to
attend.
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

DUDLEY CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
Public Hearing Notice
A **Public Hearing** will be held at the
Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West
Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:00PM
on April 23, 2025. To consider a **Notice**
of Intent of Roger Puzo for the prop-
erty located at: 6 Michael Lane, Dudley,
MA for the construction of an addition,
pool house and replacing the existing
deck and pool.
This is a Public Hearing under the
requirements of G.L. CH> 131 40,
as amended. Plans are available at
the Dudley Conservation office on
Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:30 AM
– 4:30 PM. For more information, call
508-949-8011.
April 11, 2025

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. WO25P1128EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Frank W Zayonc
Also known as:
Frank William Zayonc
Date of Death: 02/04/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will**
with Appointment of Personal Rep-
resentative has been filed by
Paul E Forgit of **Oxford MA**
requesting that the Court enter a for-
mal Decree and Order and for such
other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Paul E Forgit of **Oxford MA**
be appointed as Personal Representa-
tive(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 appear-
ance and objection at this Court be-
fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of**
04/29/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-
line by which you must file a written ap-
pearance and objection if you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file a time-
ly written appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of objections
within thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without further no-
tice 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 ad-
ministration directly from the Personal
Representative and may petition the
Court in any matter relating to the es-
tate, including the distribution of assets
and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 31, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

For Legal
Advertising
Information
Call
508-909-4127
email:
legals@
stonebridge
press.news

RETIREES

continued from page A1

ing school projects prioritizes needs. She said it hasn't been done since 2016 and was "a little unorganized, but we got through it."

Speaking of MSBA projects, Lisa Kontoes updated the board on the Bartlett work. She described the last parts of Phase 1 as "organized chaos" as the contractor finishes internal and site work aiming to meet the "substantial completion date" later this month before shifting to Phase 2. She noted there will probably be "blind spots" of testing and inspection to address.

Kontoes also summarized the recent federal funds audit the district completed as "overall really positive" with one finding – a need to "certify time and effort" for all staff funded by federal grants. Later, she added the district is participating in a DESE focus group on the impact of the Student Opportunity Act and federal ESSER funding on local districts over recent years.

She also got to the budget itself, saying recent discussion with the town and internally resulted in another reduction to \$27,737,389. This time, it's eliminating four positions, some software and reducing some special ed tuition. The four jobs are a school-year administrative assistant at Park Ave, a special ed teacher at the Middle School (being shifted to the BRYT grant), and a music teacher and re-engagement specialist at Bartlett.

"All of our neighboring communities are in pretty much the same shape," Pierangeli said, noting the budget is "contingent on using additional funding from other sources in town" that will require a conversation at Town Meeting.

"We're trying to be as creative as possible through this difficult time," she added.

Sheila Blythe said she likes the fact they've been able to maintain extra-curricular activities and sports, and praised "all the teachers who take the time" to run them.

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

Community invited to
DWC Scholarship
Awards meeting

WEBSTER — All are invited to the Dudley Woman's Club Scholarship Awards Club Meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 10 at the PACC in Webster.

Please join us as we meet and celebrate the four remarkable high school seniors from Dudley, Charlton and Webster who were selected to receive the club's annual 1,000 college scholarship award. Our voluntary Giving Project for this meeting is Summer Playground Items for the Webster-Dudley Boys & Girls Club.

For more information, please visit www.dudleywomansclub.org.

www.StonebridgePress.com

OVERRRIDE

continued from page A1

major throughfares. Among other things, that means numerous car accidents and traffic incidents and sometimes suspects being pursued through town. MPI found Oxford was on the low end of those towns in number of officers but high in call volume. But Daniels said he can't do much traffic enforcement now; the department has

CAMP

continued from page A1

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Discover program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

In Control™: Campers take control of their innovation journey as they

tried to do it by grant funding, but often has had to pull that person to other events.

Likewise, he said extra officers will reduce call response time. As it is now, if they're all at an incident on one end of town, it can take about 15 minutes to get to the other side, depending on traffic and time of day, and Oxford relies on mutual aid pretty often (as other towns do). He said the average call response time is seven to

head out on the ultimate road trip. From assembling a custom control panel with a transmitter and receiver, to creating a prototype of their own artificial intelligence-inspired bobblehead assistant, they invent their way around every bump and twist in the road.

Illusion Workshop™: Children discover the mesmerizing world of illusions, where things are not always as they appear. Through hands-on activities and experiments, they go behind the scenes of the tech tricks used in theme parks, ani-

10 minutes.

Additionally, the state is foisting various training requirements on the towns without adequate funding. Atop the regular 40 hours a year, certain officers need specialty refresher courses that add an extra 18 hours a year. Departments have to backfill all of those shifts, usually with overtime, he told the committee.

Looking at the big picture, Daniels said he feels "a lot of the departments,

including my own, have to be heavily scrutinized with an audit on how the money's being spent." That would improve municipal transparency, which he noted there isn't "a whole lot of" right now.

Today's local budget issues are being largely blamed on spiking health insurance (up \$1.5 million) and special education costs (both not unique to Oxford), and he said he thinks the state needs to "invest heavily

in our schools and public safety. Without those, you're not going to need money for infrastructure or much of anything else" because those are "what draws people to the community."

The Finance Committee did not make a decision on the police budget or override at that meeting.

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

said the parent of a 2024 Camp Invention camper: "The camp's focus on creativity, problem solving and innovation truly sparked his curiosity and imagination."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 140,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

FOOD DRIVE

continued from page A1

compared to other holidays as a time of significant need for local communities.

"Everybody gives at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but very few people give at this time of year," said Anderson. "That's why it's so important for our boys

to do this. They each get 15 bags to pass out to friends, family and neighbors. We solicited at St. Anthony's and the Dudley Congregational Church because we have boys at both churches, and also at Park N' Shop."

Allowing the scouts to get involved teaches them the value of supporting their community and how even small efforts can change lives for the

better and support those who may be struggling. Further emphasizing the significance of the day, Anderson revealed the need for 2025 is even more significant than in prior years.

"There's a 33 percent increase this year over last year of people, local families and individuals, that need food that weren't getting it last year. It's important that

these boys know about their community service and how it impacts their daily life and how they can make a difference. This really helps them to see that," said Anderson.

The food drive is just one of many community events Troop 273 hosts each year. Those looking to support their cause or to get involved in local scouting can learn more by visiting the

"Troop 273, Dudley, MA" Facebook page.

The Webster Dudley Food Share is a nonprofit providing food security services to residents of Dudley and Webster. Those looking to volunteer or donate, or those in need of food assistance can email wdfoodshare@verizon.net or call 508-943-9171.

Safe boating certificate courses scheduled
at Milford and Webster locations

REGION — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing three upcoming boating safety classes that meet current state mandated educational requirements.

The Boat America course is offered in a one-day format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat.

Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft/ Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory, including Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law January

8, will now require all Mass. motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets the future Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course.

Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. Space is limited, so register soon:

Milford High School – Saturdays – May 3 and June 7 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Milford High School courses offered at 31 West Fountain St., Milford. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/ss_t2.wcs

Adult-Winter-2024/2025 and Spring 2025 – Educational - Boat America Certificate Class or call Laura Farrell (508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com;

The registration deadline is six days prior to course,

For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

Webster Fire Department – Saturday, May 17 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire Department Classroom, 55 Thompson Rd., Webster.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses (BA and BS&S) that will meet certification requirements go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

QCC to screen
addiction documentary
filmed in Worcester

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is hosting a screening of the documentary film "Recovery City" on Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Hebert Auditorium of the main campus on 670 West Boylston St., Worcester. This event is free and open to the public. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the director and cast members.

"Recovery City" was directed by Lisa Olivieri and follows four women from Worcester who are either in recovery from drug addiction, or helping others with addiction recovery. The film received the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2024 GlobeDocs Film Festival and the 2024 Provincetown International Film Festival.

"Everyone's lives are touched by addiction and being able to pull back the curtain in our own community and see what these people's journeys have been, will be an eye-opening experience," said QCC's Director of Health and Wellness Heather Lukas, organizer of the screening.

Lukas wanted to screen the film on campus to spread awareness about local issues such as the hazardous effects of opioid abuse. Lukas has completed work with the Worcester Department of Public Health's opioid taskforce and the state's Community Naloxone Program (CNP), which has allowed QCC to offer education and distribution of naloxone with the goal of preventing death from an opioid overdose.

"The fact that this was filmed in Worcester over five years, doesn't show active drug use, but shows the featured women doing well really sets this film apart from other documentaries on this subject," Lukas said, adding, "This is a powerful film that is a must watch."

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ON DEPOSIT



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Webster Lake Waterfront
88 Union Point

ON DEPOSIT



Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **\$660,000**

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Master Masons hold myCHIP community outreach event

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

MILLBURY — On Saturday April, 5, Masons from the 24th Masonic District gathered at the Millbury Senior Center to a large crowd of wait-

ing children to get there identification kits completed. This Massachusetts Youth Child Identification

Program called (myChip) was sponsored by The Olive Branch Masonic Lodge from Douglas.

Committee Chairmen Brother Dean Moss of the Olive Branch Lodge asked me if I knew that more than a million children are reported missing in the United States every year. While most are found, many are not. I was surprised and shocked to hear this. This Masonic myChip Program is the most comprehensive service of its kind anywhere. It is free of charge to the public, and all the identifying items generated during this myChip community event are given to the child's family.

At these myChip events, the Freemasons set up the equipment and enlist the aid of other Masons from through the 24th Masonic District and volunteers, as necessary, to generate and complete these child identification kits. Each child progresses through several stations taking about 10-15 minutes to get all the required information for the entire process of that station. Some of the required information are voice recognition, fingerprints, video clip and photo identification, to name a few to be used as required in this identification process. MYCHIP provides Law Enforcement with important tools to assist in the speedy and safe recovery of a missing child. Through the benevolence of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and its membership, we are pleased to present this service free of charge. Massachusetts Freemasons are committed to offering this program to the families of Massachusetts on an ongoing basis. The information recorded is presented to the child's parent or guardian on a USB drive wallet card to take home for safekeeping.

All information is confidential, and the Masonic myChip retains nothing but the permission form when the kits are complete. All other data is permanently erased after the child's USB drive wallet card is prepared. Privacy is our number one focus. If you would like more information or would like to request one of these Masonic mychip events in your area, go to www.mychip.org to read more information and to schedule an event near you.



Courtesy

Unlock the secrets of ancient craftsmanship with the masterful guidance of an expert blacksmith as part of Bay Path Regional Vocational School's evening program. With more than 30 years of experience, the blacksmithing classes offer a rare chance to immerse yourself in the age-old art of forging. The highly sought-after course, "Forging a Full Tang Knife," has drawn so much interest that additional sessions have been added, only to fill up rapidly. Rooted in his extensive work at the Dancing Hammer Forge in Spencer, where he has dedicated more than 25 years to crafting everything from railings and gates to intricate jewelry and artful sculptures, this blacksmith's expertise is unparalleled. For those seeking a tailored experience, private lessons are available, offering an opportunity to learn directly from a seasoned professional. To explore more about his impressive work and distinctive approach, visit dancinghammer.com.



Courtesy

Center in front of the height scale is a very happy young man 8-year-old Joesph Posterro of North Grosvenordale after completing his stations and holding his I.D. paperwork and USB drive wallet card. Behind him are volunteer Masons from the 24th Masonic District.

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Courtesy

LOCAL YOUTH PLACES FIRST IN FREE THROW COMPETITION

On Saturday, April 5, Massachusetts State Knights of Columbus Council held its annual State Free Throw Championship in Holliston. Representing Webster/Dudley Council #228 and District #10 in the 13 year old boy division was Jordan Ashton of Charlton. Jordan hit 19 of 25 shots and was presented with the State First Place Trophy by State Deputy, Robert Schwarz. Council # 228 congratulates Jordan for a job well done! Pictured, left to right: State Deputy Robert Schwarz, Jordan Ashton, Program Director Mike Kerrigan and Competitor Coordinator Paul Perry.

DA's Victim Witness Advocate recognized with award

REGION — The Worcester County District Attorney's Office congratulates Kylie O'Rourke, who serves as the office's Victim Witness Advocate.

Last week, the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association presented O'Rourke with this year's Gerald D. Downing Advocate of the Year Award.

"Kylie is a passionate and empathetic advocate for some of our most vulnerable victims, making sure their voices are heard and they have the support they need," read a statement released by the DA's Office.



Courtesy

Kylie O'Rourke, who serves as the Victim Witness Advocate for the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, recently won a major award.

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