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Friday, November 25, 2022

# School district to welcome transportation bids

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District will be weighing its options for new transportation contracts this school year with both the special education and daily student bus contracts set to expire.

District Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu discussed the matter with the School Committee on Nov. 9, explaining that the district will be issuing a request for qualifications for what is called their “Daily Big Yellow Bus Contract” to transport students throughout the district. The district’s contract with First Student is set to expire, opening the door for other companies to produce offers for the district. Mathieu expects it to be a competitive bidding process.

“We certainly expect that First Student will continue to be a participant in that bid,” said Mathieu. “We’ve also had outreach from other companies like Datto Transportation from Connecticut and Vanpool has recently merged with NRT Transportation and they’ve expressed an interest in possibly bidding on the contract as well.”

Mathieu acknowledged that this is a challenging time to go out to bid for transportation services with a variety of factors, including driver shortages, driving up costs. However, Mathieu is hoping the competition will create opportunities for agreeable pricing to benefit both the district and their potential partners.

At the same time, the districts special education transportation contracts are also expiring. Mathieu said he spoke with Director of Pupil Personnel Services Robert Bergeron about the potential of combining the special education contract with the Big Yellow Bus agreement and going out to bid for all contracts at the same time. They decided against this and chose to avoid a bidding process for those services.

“After kicking that around for a while, having our

Turn To **BIDS** page **A11**

# Webster woman discovers family she never knew



Courtesy

Webster’s Suzy Lavallee (middle) was recently matched to several siblings through DNA testing.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER — Thanks to DNA testing and plenty of determination, Suzy Lavallee has recently connected with multiple siblings who she’d never known were related to her—some of whom live right around the corner.

Lavallee’s thrilling journey of discovering family members near and far began last Christmas, when her daughter, Tammy Vajcovec, gifted her a DNA kit. The tests established links that eventually determined she has 15 siblings related through their late father, George Peterson.

Five of Lavallee’s

newly discovered siblings have passed away, but she is quickly making up for lost time and connecting with the others. She met with six siblings during an October get-together at the Papa Gino’s restaurant in Auburn.

“We spent so much time talking that we hardly took any time to eat,” said Lavallee, who received pictures from her siblings ahead of the gathering. “It has been very fun to learn about their lives.”

Many of Lavallee’s newfound siblings visited from locations across the country, including California and North Carolina, but a few sib-

lings required only a short drive to Auburn. These include her brother, George Peterson, Jr., who has lived just down the street from Lavallee in Webster for several years.

“I have gone by his house twice a day and never knew he was my brother,” Lavallee added.

In yet another twist of irony, a second newly discovered sibling, Penny Peterson, had spent time with Lavallee during their childhood, many decades before the DNA test would confirm their sisterhood.

“She used to hang around with me as a kid. We never knew we were

sisters,” Lavallee said.

A third recently introduced sibling, Bonnie Smith Prescott, has been thrilled to connect with Lavallee.

“She was so excited to know she has a sister. Her first card to me was a birthday card,” Lavallee said.

Lavallee and her newly introduced siblings are planning to meet at least once a year for family reunions that are several decades overdue. Their father passed away back in 1994, and even though he isn’t able to share in the reunions, the siblings are grateful to finally be connected.

Turn To **FAMILY** page **A11**

# Webster selectmen honor police officers

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Several local police officers were persons of honor at the last selectmen’s meeting.

The first two were being introduced to the town as new members of the force: Jacob Zablonsky and Melissa Bok. Both came to Webster with some experience, both as officers and dispatchers; Zablonsky from Douglas and Bok from Sturbridge, Chief Michael Shaw said.

With them, “I believe we’re fully staffed,” after “a lot of transition in the last five or six years” that has resulted in a much younger department on average, he added.

Immediately afterward, Shaw and the board commended some of the department’s veterans for their work on solving a May 2019 abduction and assault from May Street Park. Shaw noted that was just five months into his chieftainship,

and was “pretty much any police executive’s worst nightmare.” A 12 year old girl had been taken at random, driven into Connecticut, assaulted, then dropped off on the street with “very limited information” to identify her assailant. Detectives Hamm, Reed, Whiting and Trainor, Lt Wentworth and Deputy Chief Wheeler did “some of the finest police work I’ve ever seen,” including complex search warrants

for cell phones and towers, tracking the car to a Connecticut residence, staking the perpetrator out at his Worcester job site, working with the victim’s family, and collaborating with other departments plus the FBI, Shaw said.

“They did all the leg-work” necessary to give the federal attorney a case that resulted in the suspect pleading guilty. He was sentenced to a 25 year mandatory minimum sentence without possibility of parole.

“It’s a once in a lifetime case and they hit it out of the park,” the chief said, noting it could make a

good Netflix film. “I can never say how proud of them I am.”

“It really shows the amount of teamwork, and to get accolades from the FBI is just, I think, out of this world,” remarked Chair Randy Becker. “... It was above and beyond fantastic the amount of work that was done.”

The FBI featured in the night’s third commendation as well, where the board honored Shaw himself for being the first Webster chief to graduate from the FBI Academy at Quantico. Becker described that as “something the entire police force should be

extremely proud of” and noted it should be “the envy of any police chief.”

Shaw noted it took a long time, and he never actually expected it to happen. He applied in 2015 and finally got the invitation letter this past March to start in July; when that came “I thought it was a joke.” Going to the academy, on the other hand, was “borderline life changing,” in part because he met people “from all over the world.” He noted he “learned a lot,” but also saw “we do things right here” and would love to

Turn To **HONOR** page **A11**

# Tank cleaning completed as Dudley looks ahead for water system

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen heard several updates on Dudley’s water system during their Nov. 7 meeting with Water & Sewer Superintendent George Patrinos providing some brief insight into the cleaning of the town’s water tanks, the future of the new water treatment plant, and a recent water main break that took several hours to resolve in late October.

Throughout much of the spring and summer Patrinos has been providing updates on the cleaning of the town’s water tanks, which has created some temporary stress

on the town’s water system. However, Patrinos confirmed that the tanks are clean and back up and running bringing Dudley’s system back to full capacity complete with cleaner water.

“The water tank projects have been completed. Both tanks now have been rehabbed, cleaned, disinfected, and good clean water is now (stored). Our PFAS treatment right now in our vessels is working and maintaining proper state standards and keeping it way below, so I think the people of Dudley have very good, clean water in all aspects of it,” said Patrinos.

Speaking of PFAS, Dudley has also been

working towards a new treatment plant to help mitigate further PFAS concerns which Patrinos says is on schedule. In fact, the Superintendent believes the project is ahead of schedule and that there are plans to update the system next year to bring the different stations all under one treatment plant. Currently, the stations run through numerous different plants, but Patrinos believes the plans to connect all the stations to one single plant will be more efficient.

Overall, it was a short but optimistic update that Patrinos capped off saying Dudley is ahead

Turn To **WATER** page **A11**



Courtesy

## BAY PATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Saturday, Dec. 3, the Bay Path Education Foundation will be hosting a Santa Claus Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Families are invited to bring their phones or cameras to take pictures with Santa. Tickets to the event, which are \$5, will be available at the door. A raffle will also be held. Children under five are free. Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks should be made payable to Bay Path Education Foundation. The Bay Path Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to provide ongoing financial support to the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School. Bay Path Student Council members Sophia Balestracci of Oxford and Kayla Nguyen of Webster are pictured during Bay Path’s annual Parents’ Night near a promotional poster for the event.

# Shepherd Hill hosts 30th Festival of Crafts



Jason Bleau

Shepherd Hill Choir singers perform holiday classics to entertain guests to the annual Festival of Crafts.



Wicked Good Treats by Elaine offered a wide variety of confections to fit the holiday season.



The John Paire Student Support Fund set up a booth to help spread awareness for their mission to provide all Dudley-Charlton students with access to an enriched, well-rounded educational experience regardless of their socioeconomic status.



Volunteers for the Festival of Crafts greet guests as they walk in the door. Literally hundreds of guests showed up throughout the day for the annual event.



Shepherd Hill Music parents and supporters helped run the food sales tables to support the school's music programs.

DUDLEY – Shepherd Hill Regional High School played host to the 30th Annual Festival of Crafts, and yearly tradition to help support the high school's music programs and students. Organized and operated by both parents and students, the event included more than 150 vendors and added food trucks to the 2022 lineup. Hundreds of guests visited the event in 2022 hoping to find a new addition to their home décor or an early holiday gift during one of the most beloved unofficial kick-off events of the holiday season in Southern Worcester County.

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Every crafter at the festival provided a good to be raffled off throughout the day as guests placed their tickets hoping to take home a delightful home-made item.



Bri's Sweet Treats was one of many food-based vendors during the 2022 Festival of Crafts.

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## ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



# The traveling Tyler Sword is coming home

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE  
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Nov. 19, members of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge traveled to The Rose of Sharon Lodge located at the Overlook Masonic Home in Charlton. These members traveled to Rose of Sharon to retrieve the traveling regalia called the Traveling Tyler's Sword. This sword has been traveling throughout the 24th Masonic Districts Lodges. This sword is in a traveling case with a stand, in which there is a Masonic knocker and sight peep hole. This Traveling Tyler Sword was created and dedicated back in 2019 in memory of Brother Armand Richards who was Quinebaug Masonic Lodge's Tyler for 15 years.

Bro. Armand Richard proudly stood guard at the west gate of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and exemplified to his fellow brethren on how Master Masons should act and support his fellowman. He there stood a just and upright Mason, and always lived by the Plumb, Level and Square. A Tyler is a Master



Courtesy

Left to right: Bro. Clay Tull, R.W. Christopher St. Cyr, Newly Installed Worshipful Master Jeremy Foss of Rose of Sharon Lodge in Charlton, center is The Traveling Tyler's Sword, Bro. Terrance Mount and Bro. Bob St. Cyr, Secretary. The Traveling Tyler Sword is heading home until the next Masonic Lodge decides to come to one of our monthly official meeting to retrieve it.

Mason who guards and protects his fellow brethren while a meeting is in session with his mighty sword in hand or by his side guarding the west gate of our lodge meeting room entrance.

This Traveling Tyler's Sword is like the Traveling Gavel that many Masonic Lodges already have in place. Other lodges in our district or state may come to collect this Traveling Sword or Gavel by attending one of our official monthly meetings. To collect these items and return it to their lodge there must be a minimum of three people attending which must include the sitting Worshipful Master, the installed Tyler and any other lodge member who is in good standing. In return the lodge that it was taken from must go to one of their meetings to retrieve it. This is how fellow Master Masons meet new brethren.

If you would like additional information about Freemasonry, go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) and read about this great fraternity and to find a lodge nearest you.

## Selectmen explore Lafond's goals, legislative issues

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Selectmen approved Town Administrator Richard Lafond's lengthy list of goals for the next year, with Lafond noting "some of these will be in perpetuity."

"This is the job until you retire, and it may take you that long to complete all these," Chair Randy Becker said, only half joking. He later added it might take "a year after you retire."

The ideas were based on requests from all five selectmen, compiled and organized by Lafond, Lisa Kontois and Tom Klebart. Lafond said he was glad to see they had similar ideas and "nobody went rogue here," he noted they "tried to classify different items into broad categories."

First of those was infrastructure, which was dominated by two major projects: PFAS treatment and the high school, which Lafond said were "tied for the number one issue

into the future." Bartlett, he noted, will be "a very long and time-consuming process."

Regarding PFAS, during their legislative update, State Rep. Joe McKenna noted the state is providing \$100,000 toward Webster's treatment plant design. Sen. Ryan Fattman said the legislature is looking at consolidating dozens of similar bills regarding various PFAS issues, including water and fire fighter exposure, but hasn't yet drafted the new bill.

That prompted a Becker question regarding private wells, noting one area of town had 10 percent of wells with PFAS-6 contamination. McKenna said he thinks the DEP will test them for free, but there's a catch.

"If you test a small system and find you need to incur a massive expense to repair as either a homeowner or a small neighborhood association, and then you get an order from Mass DEP that your water is

unsanitary or whatever, that could ultimately cause more problems than it might solve," he said.

Fattman said he expects some of these issues to get funding from the state's budget surplus (\$5.6 billion last year and \$300 million so far this year) and its \$2.8 billion in second-round ARPA money.

"I think the [ARPA] system worked last time, so they'll pursue it exactly the same way," he added, referring to how the last round of funds was dispersed to communities.

Lafond's second category was business development, where he pledged to continue working on a business improvement district (something Kontois proposed a few years ago, but got sidelined by Covid), improving the tornado-hit part of Main Street, reviewing the master plan, and melding business and residential needs. Lafond said the latter is in "the infant stages" of work with the economic development com-

mission and Nichols College. Related goals will be to work on nuisance properties around town and figuring out an ongoing local road upgrade system to augment Chapter 90 funds.

Regarding one specific road — the Brandon/Hill bridge, Fattman said he thinks the state will completely demolish and replace it, but it's largely under Dudley's control and will probably be closed another year or two.

"They're ready to jump, but it's the state, no surprise, who's dragging their feet," he said.

Beyond that, Lafond outlined ideas to work on the "customer experience" of dealing with Town Hall. The particularly focused on two things — online permitting and Web site upgrades.

"The second one is more of a challenge" because the town lacks a communications director and the site now has "lots of broken links and old information," he noted. He asked the public to help point needs out, since "trying to keep a handle on everything on our website is really almost impossible."

Klebart agreed, saying it is "clunky. Sometimes you have to ask multiple people to find something." Lafond noted that's partly because the way town staff might file and use things might not be how residents would do so.

Another type of communication was one of Kontois's key issues — reaching out and involving the Spanish and other parts of the community. She noted it needs to be "a broader net" than just "one specific language community."

Most of Lafond's other goals will largely affect Town operations themselves. Among them are continuing to find a new conservation agent (he said he's had two rounds of search without success so far), "establish[ing] a comprehensive human resources system," filling the cable committee, and continuing the transition to a full-time fire department. Additionally, he was given several goals related to protecting Webster Lake.

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

## Rogerson named Aide-De-Camp by National VFW

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley took some time to celebrate veterans over Veterans Day weekend, but before all the ceremonies the town learned some news about one man who has stepped up to help veterans throughout the town for the last several years.

During the Board of Selectmen's Nov. 7 meeting, the board hosted an update from Veterans' Services Officer Stephen Rogerson, who, along with sharing details about the numerous veterans' programs and the town's annual parade, revealed that he has been named the aide-de-camp by the national Veterans of Foreign Wars for a second year in a row.

"It's a great honor. I'm very happy to be aide-de-camp for the Commonwealth," Rogerson told selectmen. "It's a nice position. I'm very proud to have attained that. I think it's good for Dudley and it's good for Webster — Nobody in our community ever had it. I was actually the first one."

The aide-de-camp is traditionally an officer that works as a secretary or advisor to a brigadier general or other higher officer. In the military it's a position of great importance involving confidential information by senior officers. The VFW appointed aide-de-camps for each state which serve as assistants to the National Commander in Kansas City. Stephenson will represent not only Worcester County, but the entire state of Massachusetts in this capacity.

Rogerson appeared humbled by the honor with selectmen thanking him for his service and commitment to local veterans during the meeting. Rogerson was first appointed as Veterans' Service Officer or Veterans Agent in 2016 after the retirement of Richard Holewa, and was reappointed in April of this year. He served in the U.S. Army and has been active in numerous veteran organizations and events during his tenure with the town.

## DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported only one arrest during the week of Nov. 11-18.

Frederick William Reeks III, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 12 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Speeding at a Rate of Speed Greater Than was Reasonable and Proper, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Use of a Motor Vehicle Without Authority.

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# WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events and our monthly lunch menu.

The Webster Senior Center will be closed Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tues. 11/29 Meatloaf w/ gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, jardiniere vegies. Wed. 11/30 Hot Dog, baked beans, coleslaw. Thurs. 12/1 Macaroni & Cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans. Friday, 12/2 Fish w/ parmesan sauce, wild rice, roasted broccoli.

Join us for a soup social on Monday, December 5th at 11:30 am at the Webster Senior Center. Sponsored by Christopher Heights. Please sign up at

the Senior Center front desk. Free Blood Pressure screening will be held on Friday, December 9th at 10:30 am at the Senior Center. Sponsored by Summit Health. Are you interested in playing chess? We now have a chess club meeting on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm. All skill levels are welcomed! Come kick up your heels at a FREE line dancing class led by Instructor Forty Arroyo! Class will be held on Friday, December 16th from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. All ages are welcome!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Tax Aide, a partnership between the IRS and the AARP Foundation, need volunteer counselors to help low- and moderate-income persons in your community prepare their Federal and Massachusetts income taxes. Volunteers work 4-6 hours per week during tax preparation season. Training for volunteer preparers starts in November, with most of the training online. Internet access and basic computer skills are necessary. For an application visit [www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/taxaide)

The Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center is closed on Mondays. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Walk-ins Are Welcome on Wednesdays 10:00 am – 3:00

pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule your appointment! Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! 9:30-10:30 am. Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Better yet, sign up for lunch, come early and spend the day!

Do you like to play cribbage? Our weekly cribbage group now meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm – feel free to join us!

Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center – come join us for 6-card or 13-card pitch! Six card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

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

Open Enrollment ends December 7th. A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Senior Center to assist you. By appointment only. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

Trip 1: An American Bandstand New Year's Eve Day, Saturday, December 31st. Features the Tom LaMark Orchestra.

Trip price of \$110.00 includes luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity, entertainment, party favors and champagne toast. Trip 2: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Emmet Cahill, star of PBS Celtic Thunder. Trip price of \$119.00 includes transportation, luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity and show ticket. Our trips are quickly selling out so don't wait to reserve your seat! Trip prices do not include bus driver gratuity. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 for more information.

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

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

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

# WEBSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — Webster Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

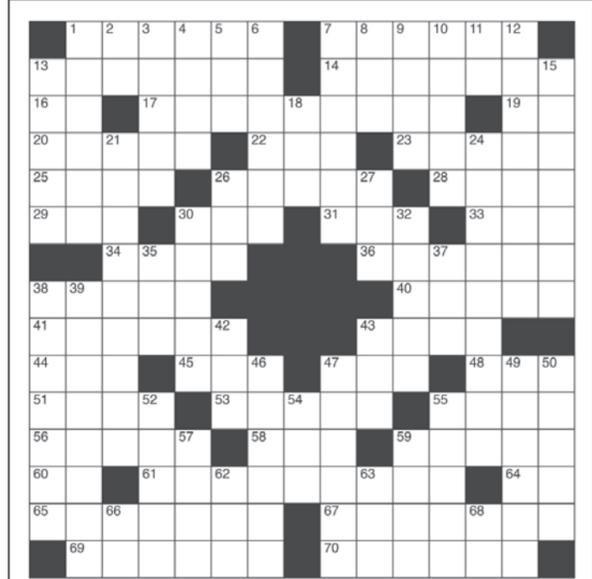
Grade 5 High Honors: Landon Albright, Rhyder Belanger, Hayden Clements, Harmonee Collazo, Ramon Garcia, Logan Kasprzak, Xander Nieves, Avan Papierski, Aiden Podles, Annabelle Reed, Jael Rivera, Taylin Whiting

Honors: Jamal Abshir, Lailla Arifi, Tyler Bernier, Sadie Bjork, Tatiana Brooks, Ronan Clyne, Jacob Cole, Abraham Colindres, Jaidyn Corso, Sage Crompton, Marky Despin, Hunter Duefield, Brayden Farraher, Jace Gubaie, Rhiannon Hast, Benjamin Horan, Britney Jubin, Anthony Krzywosz, Jetsun Lama, Andreas Langlois, Elizabeth Losada Arevalo, Kyle Ludwig, Shane Martin, Aliyah Martinez, Dominic Matos, Nayla Melendez, Kylie Mitchell, Ashden Morley, Amanda Moseley, Dominic Navarro, Mackenzie Nowak, Jeremy Nunoo, Connor Opatka, Jodalys Ortiz Berrios, Sebastian Reyes, Kane Robbins-Martin, Maria Isabel Rodriguez, Yesenia Rodriguez, Tristan Rouillard, Angelica Sanchez, Jazzylin Santiago, Yamilierys Vega, Cecelia White

Stephanie Avila Barrios, Elian Azu, Naliya Bonilla Jones, Camryn Boyd, Adam Brioso, Kaedynce Brown, Brendon Bui, Gavin Caron, Jahomy Ceden Nunez, Elijah Centeio, Jayden Czesnowski, Aayla Dennison, Natalia Espino, Narayah Fennell, Caleb Fowler, Jameson Gerber, Mason Grzyb, Eva Jean, Sean Labbe, Kaylee Lagasse, Jordan Lavallee, Leandie Leandre, Mya Leatham, Valerie Lopez, Brianna Macario, Kaitlyn Mckinstry, Jeiry Morillo Pena, William Moseley, Cora Motrucinski, Weston Mulready, Kenzie Nicoll, Giahna Ortiz, Jason Pierce, Makayla Place, Jude Quao, Omaleyka Ramos Rivera, Eli Rivera Jimenez, Kason Safford, Zev Soule, Katrina St. John, Anthony Thomas, Noah Vaughan, Juliana Velez, Isabela Viana, Ryann West, Abigail White, Xavier Wilson

8th Grade High Honors: Brett Beltzer, Trinity Crompton, Camden DeCarolis, Brianna Dwomoah, Aiden Falke, Hailey Ferrara, Brooke Fuller, Benjamin Labbe, Perry Lima, Jillian Moran, Michael Stawiecki, Brady Weeks, Tyler Whiting, Jazzelle Wolverson

Honors: Zainab Abshir, Jayden Zelig Nene-Akute Azu, James Belanger, Alexandria Blanchard, Callie Castro, Isaiah Centeio, Aidan Clyne, Daysha Collins, Avery Colon, Ava Erkok, Elias Erraihani, Samantha Fleck, Cheyanne Grundel, Cameron Hast, Libby Kokoszka, Abena Kwarteng, Sangey Lama, Isaiah Lipman, Anthony Lopez, Emily Malia, Anjeliz Mercado, Megan Milligan, Morgan Minor, Samantha Morley, Teagan Napolitano, Mayli Pedersen, Nickolas Piwowarczyk, Irelyn Pottle, Devin Robinson, Trevor Rose, Isabella Sepulveda, Brady Smith, Koby Sykes, Cassidy White, Jackson Young, Payton Ziemski

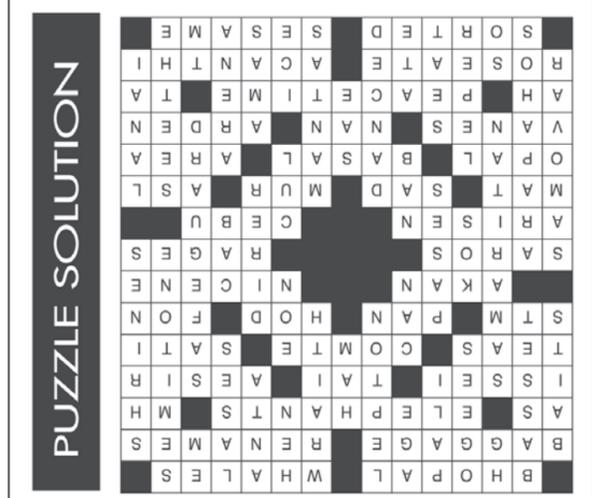


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. India's "City of Lakes"
7. Large marine mammals
13. Used to carry belongings when traveling
14. Rechristens
16. Equally
17. Heavy plant-eating mammals
19. Millihenry
20. Japanese immigrant to N. America
22. Deep, red-brown sea bream
23. Norse gods
25. Peppermint and pekoe are two
26. Auguste \_\_, founder of positivism
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
30. Wide metal vessel used in cooking
31. V-shaped open trough
33. People of southern Benin
34. People of southern Ghana
36. It's a significant creed
38. Period between eclipses
40. Furies
41. Emerged
43. Philippine Island
44. Where wrestlers battle
45. Unhappy
47. Central European river
48. Language
51. Semitransparent gemstone
53. Forming in a bottom layer
55. Distinct region
56. Broad blades
58. Leavened bread
59. Influential cosmetics exec
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Era free of war
64. One who helps professors
65. Idealistic
67. Ornamental plants

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Beloved hound
2. Equal to 100 grams
3. S-shaped moldings
4. Hawaiian cliff
5. Everyone has one
6. Subatomic particle
7. Ghost
8. Adult female bird
9. Greek temple pillars
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. Measures the width of printed matter
12. Musical interval
13. Tantalizes
15. Places of worship
18. An unskilled actor who overacts
21. One who volunteers to help
24. Precaution
26. Beverage holder
27. Very long period of time
30. Bullfighting maneuvers
32. More critical
35. Sends packing in a boxing match
37. Taxi
38. Decorative Russian tea urn
39. North American Great Plains natives
42. Seize
43. A passage with access only at one end
46. Cut a rug
47. Devil rays
49. Bubble up
50. Veranda
52. Outcast
54. Car mechanics group
55. Realm
57. A place to get off your feet
59. Popular music awards show
62. Consumed
63. A way to make cooler
66. Thus
68. Indicates it's been registered



### Grade 6

High Honors: Andrea Barnett, Hunter Claypool, Abigail Foley, Olivia Forrester, Elise Kokoszka, Chase Maldonado, Jordyn Marin Caceres, Patricia Paglalunan, Callen Reardon, Jordan Reeves, Amira Seddiki, Daniel Shirley, Brayden Wilcox Honors: Sebastian Abusamra, Hunter Adams, Jayliana Alicea, Chloe Appelt, Logan Archambault,

### 7th Grade

High Honors: Chase Anthony, Brian Bui, Julia Bukowski, Derek Campos, Noah Cole, Holly Dailey, Dejanay Darby, Elaina DeFazio, Emanuel Feliciano Rodriguez, Lily Gatsogiannis, Kyrach Gingo, Brianna Laforest, Isabella Leatham Wright, Amelia Magorian, Jordan Miller, Marieliz Morel, Raider Newton, Giavanna Orsi, Julian Papierski, Jesse Perron, Ava Reed, Randall Richard, Aiden Rubito, Liliana Rubito, Angela Sarfo, Bella Shepard, Don Ta, Lauren Young Honors: Maria Clara De Castro Anjos Cabidelli, Jaesean Atkins, Alexander Baker, Gia Baldyga, Landyn Balser, Zuaylianice Benito Torres, Addam Bergeron, Kyle Boma, Alexis Chamale Campos, Mason Costa, Madisyn Derie, Natalia DosSantos, Lorraine Gardner, Emma Grochowski, August Henning, Gianni Ilarraza, Aaron Johnson, Brooke Kasprzak, Ryan Lima, Jacob Macomber, Madison McKinstry, Jariel Morales-Diaz, Omar Pabon Rivera, Kaylee Podles, Isabelle Porto Pereira, Luis Sanchez Falcon, Nathan Stuczynski, Julia Urato, Johan Vanlamoen Lopez, Tyler Warren, Jaden West, Skylynn Willard

TO PLACE AN AD: ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE MIKAELA VICTOR (508) 909-4126 mikaela@stonebridgepress.news ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE JUNE SIMAKAUSKAS (508) 909-4062 jsima@stonebridgepress.news SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: KERRI PETERSON (508) 909-4103 kerri@stonebridgepress.news TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: E-MAIL obits@stonebridgepress.news CALL: 508-909-4149 OR send to Webster Times P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550 TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news OR send to Webster Times P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550 THE WEBSTER TIMES (USPS#024-928) and THE AUBURN NEWS (546-680) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS, INC., 25 ELM ST., SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WEBSTER TIMES, P.O. Box 90, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550

# St. Roch to host Christmas Bazaar

OXFORD — A Christmas Bazaar will be held at the St. Roch Church Hall, 334 Main St., Oxofrd, Dec. 3 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring themed baskets, a raffle, hand crafted items, timeless Christmas treasures, a bake sale, and delicious lunch.

ALMANAC OPEN TO CLOSE DUDLEY DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000 Board of Selectmen (949-8001) Monday-Thursday ..... 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays.....8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Evening appointments if needed. Note: Office hours are for selectmen's secretary and town administrator. S electmen do not hold office hours. Town Clerk (949-8004) Monday-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday nights .....5 to 7 p.m. Fridays.....9 a.m. to 1 p.m. DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411) Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040) Monday-Sunday ..... 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. OXFORD OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027 Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours: Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday ..... 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday ..... 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156) For emergencies, call 911 OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012) Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. WEBSTER WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850 Office Hours: Monday ..... 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212) For emergencies, call 911 WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875) Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday ..... 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

For Advertising Information Call 508-764-4325 email: ads@stonebridgepress.news

## PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley  
508-949-8021

Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle!

To register go to [www.crawfordlibrary.org](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org) or call 508-949-8021

**PRE-K POWER STORYTIME**  
Tuesdays @ 11:00AM

Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time! We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

**TODDLER TIME**

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

**LEARN TO PLAY DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**

Thursdays @ 6:00PM

«Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? We have an experienced Dungeon Master ready to run a new game of Dungeons and Dragons, the world's number one role playing game. We are missing just one thing ... YOU! This is for those that are looking to learn more about playing and do some short adventures!

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

**KNIT & CROCHET GROUP**  
Thursday 5:30PM – 7:30PM  
and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

**LEGO CLUB**

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

**POKEMON CARD TRADING**

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

**MARK CHESTER ART EXHIBIT**

November 1-November 30  
Photographer Mark Chester will hold an exhibit of his works during the month of November.

Open to the public during regular library hours.

Sponsored by the Dudley Cultural Council.

**ADULT BOOK GROUP**

Thursday, November 17  
6:00PM-7:45PM

The adult book group meets monthly for an informal discussion of the month's titles.

The November title is The Art Forger by B A Shapiro.

Titles are available at the circulation desk a month prior to the meeting.

**WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES**

Friday, November 18  
11:30AM-noon

Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.

You must register each week at [crawfordlibrary.org](http://crawfordlibrary.org)

This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Dudley Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

**YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

Monday, November 21  
10:00AM-11:00AM

It's never too early to spark our little children's interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is during the early years that children start to wonder, ask, think, explore and discover things around them. With each class, the children will learn STEM concepts through hands-on activities, engaging stories, music and movement, challenges, and even simple experiments ideal for little hands. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones! STEM is Fun! This program is for children ages 3-5.

Limit of 12 children, registration is required each week! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership which is funded by the Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts by the Department of Early Education and Care.

**YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

Monday, November 28  
10:00AM-11:00AM

It's never too early to spark our little children's interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is during the early years that children start to wonder, ask, think, explore and discover things around them. With each class, the children will learn STEM concepts through hands-on activities, engaging stories, music and movement, challenges, and even simple experiments ideal for little hands. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones! STEM is Fun! This program is for children ages 3-5.

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**WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES**

Friday, December 2  
11:30AM-noon

Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.

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**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Monday, December 5  
5:00PM-6:00PM

All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join.

Why join? You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form).

Pizza and drinks will be served!

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

**PEARLE JAM: HOLIDAY SONGS WITH DAVID POLANSKY**

Thursday, December 8  
6:00PM-7:00PM

The annual Pearle Jam concert series wraps up with returning favorite David Polansky, who will lead a family holiday singalong with favorites old and new.

Free; open to all ages. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

**WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES**

Friday, December 2  
11:30AM-noon

Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are

welcome and must be supervised.

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**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

– December 19th at 6:30PM

The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group will be meeting in person this month! The group meets at 6:30 pm and the meeting will take place in the Library's Community Room. New members are always welcome! Next month's book discussion will be on Monday, November 21st. The group will be discussing Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to [ehale@cwmar.org](mailto:ehale@cwmar.org) for inquiries.

**RICHARD DONOHUE-TOWN OF IRON TOYS** January 19th at 6:30PM

Join Richard Franklin Donohue, Historian for the Town of Cromwell, as he demonstrates his collection of mechanical banks and explains their history and the amusing tales that inspired their design. Witness Boss Tweed take kickbacks, one coin at a time. See William Tell shoot an apple from the top of his son's head with a penny! Watch a gentlemanly game of 1880s Baseball from the third base line and help to feed a menagerie of animals, from frogs to bulldogs.

**JEAN WALKER- WINTER SCENE PAINT NIGHT**

Jean Walker will be providing the art supplies

welcome and must be supervised.

You must register each week at [crawfordlibrary.org](http://crawfordlibrary.org)

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**SLIME MAKING**

Friday, December 9  
3:30PM-4:30PM

Make your own Slime!!! All materials provided!

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

**MAKE A HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE WITH BEMIS FARMS**

Friday, December 10  
1:30PM-2:30PM

Bemis Farms will offer their popular centerpiece making workshop.

All supplies will be provided.

Space is limited, so registration is required for this free program!

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

**YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

Monday, December 12  
10:00AM-11:00AM

It's never too early to spark our little children's interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is during the early years that children start to wonder, ask, think, explore and discover things around them. With each class, the children will learn STEM concepts through hands-on activities, engaging stories, music and movement, challenges, and even simple experiments ideal for little hands. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones! STEM is Fun! This program is for children ages 3-5.

Limit of 12 children, registration is required each week! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership which is funded by the Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts by the Department of Early Education and Care.

**DEB'S SING AND SWING**

Thursday, December 15  
10:30AM-11:15AM

This is an interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Friends of

the Library

**BAD MOVIE OF THE MONTH: SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS**

Thursday, December 15  
6:00PM-7:30PM

There are thousands of wonderful movies in the world. Movies that will make you cry, lift your spirits, and inspire you.

These are not those movies.

Join us for a showing of “Santa Claus Conquers the Martians” (1964). There are all kinds of holiday classics. And then there's Santa Claus being kidnapped by the Martians and battling his way free to save Christmas.

Free. Popcorn and bottled water provided.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

**WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES**

Friday, December 16  
11:30AM-noon

Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.

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**GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING FOR KIDS**

Saturday, December 17  
11:00AM-noon

Come and make and decorate your own gingerbread house using graham crackers and royal icing. Ideal for families and children up to 12.

Space is limited so registration is required

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

**CHRISTMAS STORY TIME**

Wednesday, December 21  
3:45PM-4:30PM

Join Miss Lida for a special afternoon Christmas story time! We'll read stories, sing songs, and do a craft.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

**AFTERNOON CHILDREN'S MOVIE**

Wednesday, December 28  
1:00PM-3:00PM

Join us for a free screening of a fun movie for kids – title to be determined. Free popcorn provided.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

**STEM BEGINNINGS PRE-K CLASS** – Wednesdays in December; starting December 7th – 10AM

With each class, the children will learn STEM concepts through hands-on activities, engaging stories, music and movement, challenges, and even simple experiments ideal for little hands. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones!

**STEM THURSDAYS – POLYGON STRUCTURE BUILDING** – December 8th 3:30-4:30PM

Show us how tall you can build a 3-D polygon structure using marshmallows and toothpicks!

**STEM THURSDAY-POLYGON STRUCTURE BUILDING** – December 8th 3:30 PM

Show us how tall you can build a 3-D polygon structure using marshmallows and toothpicks!

**WICKED FUN GAMES MOBILE ESCAPE ROOM FOR TEEN/TWEENS (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)** – December 1st 4-6pm

Join Wicked Fun Games in

## GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster  
508-949-3880

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

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!**

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website, or by reaching out to our Library Director, Sondra Murphy, at [smurphy@cwmar.org](mailto:smurphy@cwmar.org).

Adult Programming  
**FRIENDS FEATURED AUTHOR BOOK SALE** – Ongoing

Featuring women of suspense and mystery: Mary Higgins Clark, Mary Janice Davidson, Anne Perry, and Elizabeth Peters, a grocery bag full of books just \$3.00 right now!

**YOGA WITH JULIE** – Saturdays in October and November, except 10/15 and 11/5 at 10:00AM

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

free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

**HOLIDAY WRAPPING PROGRAM** – November 29th 5:00-8:00PM

Come and learn how to wrap your presents in style! Learn how to use ribbons, bows, and other adornments to spruce up your holiday presents! For all ages!

**FALL CONCERT SERIES: DAN GABLE AND THE MOON MAIDS** – December 8th 6:30-8:00PM

The music of the 1940s defined the entire era, and the sounds of the Big Bands and close harmony vocal groups dominated the air waves, dance halls, and record grooves. Now, that legendary sound is alive again with: THE MOON MAIDS, authentic 4-piece vocal group.

**DUSTIN PARI – GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST** – December 15th 6:30-8:00PM

In this frightful, festive, and fun presentation, Dustin Pari takes the cobwebs off of a classic tradition, the Victorian Christmas Ghost Story. Not only does he explain the history of this often-forgotten practice, but he shares a few timeless tales and even some real-life stories of holiday visits from the Ghosts of Christmas Past

**WICKED FUN GAMES MOBILE ESCAPE ROOM FOR TEEN/TWEENS (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)** – December 1st 4-6pm

Join Wicked Fun Games in

a space themed escape room! There is limited space to 10 people register by emailing [rcox@cwmar.org](mailto:rcox@cwmar.org) or calling the library!

**E C O T R A I U M UNDERSTANDING WEATHER** – December 2nd 3:30-5PM

Through fun and replicable demos and models, discover how temperature and pressure combine to create everything from wind and rain to hurricanes and tornadoes.

**STEM BEGINNINGS PRE-K CLASS** – Wednesdays in December; starting December 7th – 10AM

With each class, the children will learn STEM concepts through hands-on activities, engaging stories, music and movement, challenges, and even simple experiments ideal for little hands. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones!

**STEM THURSDAYS – POLYGON STRUCTURE BUILDING** – December 8th 3:30-4:30PM

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**WICKED FUN GAMES MOBILE ESCAPE ROOM FOR TEEN/TWEENS (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)** – December 1st 4-6pm

Join Wicked Fun Games in

# OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Courtesy

**GRADE 6**  
 GROUP A – Joseph Peters  
 GROUP B – Sophia Francis  
 GROUP C – Destiny Purcell  
 GROUP D – Emmary Gustafson  
 GROUP E – Kaliyana Padilla  
 GROUP F – Emma Farrar  
 GROUP G – Yeidiel Hernandez Barreto

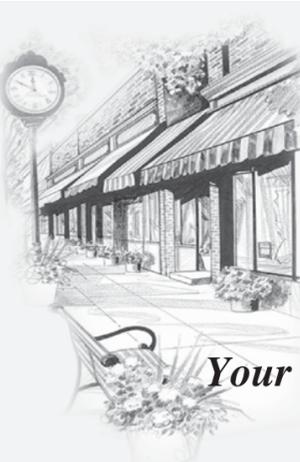
**GRADE 7**  
 ROOM 203 – Mckaelyn Shine  
 ROOM 260 – Olivia Hammond  
 ROOM 201B – Zachary Dufresne  
 ROOM 202 – Ayva Coffey  
 ROOM 275 – Kaeli Cordova Del Cid  
 ROOM 204 – Brooke Nitti

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School congratulates the following students on being named Students of the Month.

**GRADE 5**  
 GROUP A – Mateo Quintero  
 GROUP B – Saniya Bull  
 GROUP C – Sophia Renaud  
 GROUP D – Devante Lanausse  
 GROUP E – Sophia Meneguzzo  
 GROUP F – Liam Harrity

**GRADE 8**  
 ROOM 284 – Angeliz Felix  
 ROOM 285 – Daymyin Lopez  
 ROOM 280 – Damon Libby  
 ROOM 259 – Mason Rossetti  
 ROOM 286 – Makalieggh Boyle – Muniz  
 ROOM 276 – Kyle Twombly





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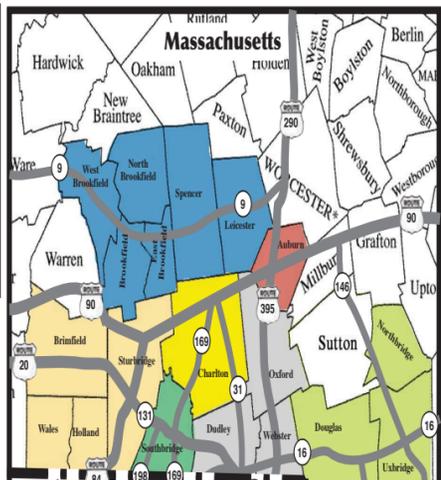
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# VIEWPOINT

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

## Becoming a neighbor to others

—What must I do to inherit eternal life? A profound question with a simple answer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. If we love, we experience eternity here and now; we enter into the realm of God's kingdom by living under His divine love and sharing this love with others.



**BEYOND THE PEWS**  
 BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS, SACS, CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

It seems so simple and yet in our daily life it is so hard to practice. To love implies crucifying our ego and pride, overcoming our "default" fallen nature which tempts us to turn inward instead of turning outward toward others, responding to them with the same love that we receive from God. Always remember that love of God and love of neighbor are two sides of the same coin. We can't love God if we don't love our neighbor; and we won't truly understand what it means to love our neighbor if we haven't been filled with God's divine, unconditional, unlimited mercy, grace and love.

To explain what it means to love our neighbor, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. We all know that Samaritans and Jews were despised enemies because of past historical grievances and theological differences. For Jesus' Jewish audience, it was a paradox to hear a story about a "Good Samaritan." That was impossible. In their minds, one couldn't be good and be a Samaritan. Samaritans were the enemy. The despised, hated enemy. Yet in the story of a man who was robbed, beaten, and left half dead on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the Jewish priest and the Jewish temple worker showed no compassion or love for the suffering compatriot. Only the despised Samaritan stopped, interrupted his travels and plans, showed compassion and mercy, and then even offered his own money to take care of this man. He showed what true love is. The priest may have talked about love, but the Samaritan showed love by acting like a true neighbor to the suffering stranger.

Jesus shared this story in response to the lawyer's question of "who is my neighbor." Your neighbor, Christ revealed, is not simply the person who looks like you, who believes the same as you do, who comes from among your own people. Your neighbor is anyone you meet who has a need and to whom you can show compassion and mercy.

Actually, as Archbishop Anastasios of Albania highlights, "the deep meaning of the parable of the Good Samaritan reveals not only that someone is my neighbor; but how someone becomes my neighbor. It is a process. It is love without arguments. Sometimes it is even a response to hatred. Always remember that at the Last Judgment we are judged for loving Christ, or failing to love Him, in the least person. The message is clear: Our salvation depends upon respect for the other, respect for otherness."

Becoming a neighbor to others! I remember an experience of becoming a neighbor with our youth group in Albania.

In the alley that led up to the Cathedral, there was always a dozen or two mostly Gypsy beggars, begging for help. One Sunday our youth group decided to invite all these beggars to a meal after our Divine Liturgy. Our youth center was right behind the church and maybe 20 beggars came. As these Gypsies ate a hearty meal, our young people sat and ate with them. Conversations began, and very quickly one could see how our youth no longer looking upon the despised Gypsies (because there was a strong, negative stereotype toward Gypsies) but as people and children of God. We learned their names and listened to their stories. One of our students began feeding a crippled man. Another cuddled a beggar's newborn baby. Christ's love broke down barriers that day.

During this meal, we came to know Izmir, a paralyzed Gypsy woman, and her husband, Gezim. They told us of their three-year-old daughter, whose birthday was the following week. Several of the students asked the family if we could visit their home and celebrate Viola's birthday together. Izmir and Gezim were shocked and honored. They had often felt the harsh prejudice many

Albanians display towards Gypsies, and they couldn't believe we actually wanted to visit their home. The following week, five of us visited their tiny one-room home in a slum of Tirana. Viola looked precious on her birthday and thoroughly enjoyed her cake, presents, and our visit.

Over the following months, many students greeted Izmir and Gezim weekly as they begged in front of the church, and occasionally visited their home. I went to their home to offer a house blessing. By late April, during one of our visits, they expressed a desire to become Christian, asking whether such a thing was acceptable. We enthusiastically encouraged them and explained the need for catechism before baptism. They seemed a little discour-

aged because of the difficulty Izmir would have in coming to the church twice a week in her wheelchair. It was quite an effort for her to come even once on Sundays. At that moment, Spiro, a fourth-year medical student, responded, "No problem. I can come to your house twice a week and do the catechism." Although the school year was coming to an end and Spiro had finals, he joyously offered to go to their home and share his faith in Jesus Christ with them.

Over the following two months, Spiro discussed with me the lessons he would teach, and then came back afterward with interesting stories. The first week, some relatives of Izmir and Gezim came to listen. The second week, ten people squeezed into their tiny one-room shack to hear the lesson. Another week Spiro told me, "They loved the story about the prodigal son and had so many questions!" By the end, Spiro was not only their teacher, but became their godfather. I was thrilled not only with the catechism of Izmir and Gezim, but also with Spiro's enthusiasm. We pray this spirit of love and evangelism will grow among all our youth.

The baptism took place in July, attended by twenty students along with a number of other gypsies. A prayerful presence filled the room. Izmir and Gezim, together with their daughter Viola, were baptized.

A week later, though, Izmir and Gezim, who took the new names of Josif and Kristina, faced the reality of the world. The archbishop had warned me, when I shared this story with him, that although he rejoiced to hear of their baptism, he reminded me that not everyone in the church would be happy seeing Gypsies become a part of our church family. His words proved to be prophetic. At the end of their first Divine Liturgy, I came outside the altar only to see Kristina crying. At first, I thought she was shedding tears of joy, but quickly realized she was upset. When I asked her what had happened, she told me that a woman had come up to her and told her, "You don't belong here. Why are you here? Go back outside and beg. That's where you belong!"

I was furious. I asked Kristina to show me who had told her this, and to my shock, I recognized the woman as someone who sat in the front row of the church every Sunday. She attended services regularly, yet, like the Pharisees during Christ's time, she never captured the spirit of the Gospel. I proceeded to scold the woman, telling her that Kristina was a baptized Orthodox Christian and fully belonged in this church, just as much as I or she or anyone else.

I left the woman with a stunned look on her face. I apologized once again to Kristina, and reminded her that others might say silly things, but I wanted her to always remember that she was a beloved child of God and a special member of our church family!

What must we do to inherit eternal life? We are called to love God and love our neighbor. And the way we love our neighbor, whoever that may be in front of us, is by becoming a neighbor to them, as did the Good Samaritan, and as did Spiro to the gypsy couple Izmir and Gezim.

## Restraining and harassment orders explained



**CHIEF'S CORNER**  
 STEVE WOJNAR

Abuse prevention orders, or what are often referred to as "restraining" orders, were the subject of a recent question. The person also heard of a "harassment" order: I was asked to provide some information on these and explain how they may differ.

Mass General Laws Chapter 209A contains the laws for what are commonly referred to as restraining orders. Chapter 258E provides the regulations for what are termed to be harassment orders. Both orders are issued by a judge, either during court hours or through the police department after hours or on weekends. Both offer similar protections to a plaintiff, such as ordering no further abuse or restricting contact between the involved parties. 209A orders can provide additional protections including financial support and other conditions. Primary difference between the two is the relationships involved with the parties. MGL Chapter 209A Section 1 gives relief to "family or household members." In these cases, relationships must fit into one of the following categories: a) are or were married to one another; (b) are or were residing together in the same household; (c) are or were related by blood or marriage; (d) having a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together; or (e) are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship. If these do not apply, a person will not be eligible for a Chapter 209A abuse prevention order.

Harassment orders, issued under MGL Chapter 258E, do not have any such relationship requirements. Anyone can apply for an order against another person under certain conditions. The primary basis for issuance is a person is a victim of 3 or more acts of harassment, which are willful and malicious and intended to cause fear, intimidation, abuse, etc. Other conditions may also apply in cases of 1 or more incidents if it involves certain felony offenses, such as indecent assault and battery, rape, etc. More information on the difference can be found on the Mass.gov Web site at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/am-i-eligible-for-a-restraining-order/download>

Many measures can be taken to limit harm from a potential attacker. These orders are only a small part of the actions potential victims should take to ensure their safety and the safety of others around them. If you fear abuse or violence from another, contact the police or a victim service organization to find out what options are available to you for a safer environment.

Our department will once again be collecting Christmas gift donations for local families in need. New and unwrapped toys and clothing can be brought to the Dudley Police Department at 71 West Main St. Monetary donations as well as gift cards are also accepted. There are definite needs in our area for these items and our department thanks everyone in advance for their continued generosity.

For those still seeking vaccination or COVID related information, it can be found at [www.dudleyma.gov](http://www.dudleyma.gov) or by calling The Board of Health 508-949-8036. During these challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

## EDITORIAL

# The roots of Thanksgiving

From 1621 to 2019, Thanksgiving has always been about celebrating an abundant fall harvest. The holiday's roots date back to the original Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag tribe, who shared the first Thanksgiving meal together.

The celebratory feast was held by individual colonies up until 1789 off and on with a proclamation from President George Washington. President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe Thanksgiving, and it wasn't until Abraham Lincoln's Presidency in 1863 that it became a federal holiday.

Many of the food items on our Thanksgiving menu are not what was served during the first few traditional Thanksgivings. For one, turkey was not served.

There aren't many documents from that time regarding that first Thanksgiving; however, one note did describe wildfowl (duck or geese) cod, bass, deer, bread, corn and porridge being served. The birds were described as being stuffed with onions and nuts. Seafood such as mussels and lobster was also served. For vegetables, squash, beans, corn, cabbage, carrots and peas were on the table.

Not on the table was mashed potatoes and gravy (gasp!), and there was no cranberry sauce or pies.

Perhaps no one has managed to capture the feeling gratitude better than Henry David Thoreau, author of "Walden," in 1856.

"I am grateful for what I am and have," he wrote. "My thanksgiving is perpetual. It is surprising how contented one can be with nothing definite - only a sense of existence. Well, anything for variety. I am ready to try this for the next ten thousand years, and exhaust it. How sweet to think of my extremities well charred, and my intellectual part too, so that there is no danger of worm or rot for a long while. My breath is sweet to me. O how I laugh when I think of my vague indefinite riches. No run on my bank can drain it, for my wealth is not possession but enjoyment."

## 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.

# COLA is sweet for Social Security recipients

If you receive Social Security, you've probably already heard that your checks in 2023 will be bigger - considerably bigger, in fact. How can you make the best use of this extra money?



**FINANCIAL FOCUS**  
 DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Here's what's happening: For 2023, there's an 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security benefits - the largest increase in 40 years. Also, the monthly Medicare Part B premiums are

declining next year, to \$164.90/month from \$170.10/month, which will also modestly boost Social Security checks for those enrolled in Part B, as these premiums are automatically deducted.

Of course, the sizable COLA is due to the high inflation of 2022, as the Social Security Administration uses a formula based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and

Clerical Workers (CPI-W). So, it's certainly possible that you will need some, or perhaps all, of your larger checks to pay for the increased cost of goods and services. But if your cash flow is already relatively strong, you might want to consider these suggestions for using your bigger checks:

Reduce withdrawals from your investment portfolio. When you're retired, you will likely need to withdraw a certain amount from your portfolio each year to meet your expenses. A boost in your Social Security may enable you to withdraw less, at least for a year. This can be particularly advantageous

when the markets are down, as you'd like to avoid, as much as possible, selling investments and withdrawing the money when investment prices are low. And the fewer investments you need to sell, the longer your portfolio may last during your retirement years.

Help build your cash reserves. When you're retired, it's a good idea to maintain about a year's worth of the amount you'll spend from your portfolio in cash, while also keeping three months' of your spending needs in an emergency fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Your higher Social

# Deer season explodes into action

The Massachusetts hunting deer season exploded with action this past week, with numerous big bucks being harvested locally. The colder weather that rolled in for the last few days has made sitting in a tree with a bow a bit more unpleasant but for those that can handle the cold their patience has paid off. Numerous archers reported seeing a lot of does that they did not shoot while deer hunting, with one archer showing this writer a picture of a buck with a single antler growing down the side of his face, that he did not harvest. He likes to harvest big bucks with heavy antler growth. Don't we all!

The cold weather had many anglers hurrying to winterize their boats and put them in winter storage. The 2022 fishing season for saltwater species is pretty much over for most anglers with their



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own boats, but charter boats are still taking out the most hardy fishermen to catch a few more tautog before winter really sets in. It has been a great year for anglers fishing for seabass & tautog.

This is also a good time of year to clean and lubricate your saltwater fishing gear, so that it is ready for spring of 2023. Saltwater fishing equipment can get rust and corrosion in a very short time, if it is not properly cleaned before storing it. The cost of new fishing gear is not cheap.

If you are a deer hunter, you hopefully have taken the time to sight in your shotgun by now. With the Mass. deer hunting season ready to open on Nov. 28 this year, there is not much time left to get it done. So many deer hunters do not take the time to sight in their guns prior

to the new season, often causing a bad shot that fails to hit its mark, and the end result is the loss of a big buck. Do not let it happen to you!

During the shotgun deer season, a hunter can use a primitive arms gun or his bow to harvest a deer. Many hunters prefer to use a black powder gun during the regular deer season, because of their extreme accuracy. The latest guns are now rifled and can deliver an accurate shot of up to 100 yards under the right conditions. The 50 caliber blackpowder guns are the most popular among hunters. The easy loading of the 50 caliber guns is quick and easy, if you use the 50 grain plugs that can be quickly dropped down the barrel followed by the projectile of choice. Most hunters prefer two 50 grain plugs per shot resulting in better accuracy. It was this writer's load of choice.

If you shoot a big buck and you plan to have it mounted, be sure to have the deer properly skinned and placed in a freezer

as soon as possible. It will preserve the skin until you find a taxidermist of your choice. There are a lot of great taxidermists in the area, but be sure to check them out before you hand over your money, and get a timeline on when you can expect to get the finished product back. Never pay in full until you get your deer head back.

Ice fishing is not far away I hope! If we can get some early ice it would be great, but anglers need to take precautions when attempting to navigate first ice. Carrying a chisel and constantly monitoring ice thickness can save your life. No ponds have the same thickness of ice on them and can vary quickly, as you navigate the frozen ponds. Have a talk to your children and tell them to stay off all frozen ponds with adult supervision.

Wishing everyone a great Thanksgiving, and remembering all of our servicemen and women!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Holiday Hassles Resolved

Decking the halls, trimming the tree, and prepping for the holidays is a seasonal tradition - but the tasks are not always the joyous chores of Christmas carols. If the hustle and bustle of the holiday has you frazzled as you rush to get everything done right and on time - take heart. The following problem solvers offer quick and inexpensive fixes to save precious time and money this holiday season.

\*\*

**Problem:** Christmas light strings are a tangled mess!

**Solution:** First make sure you have lots of room to spread out the snaking lights; the floor is an ideal space. Locate the plug and work your way from there to the other end. Gently spread the strings and work the plug in and out of the tangles. Using a chopstick, bamboo skewer, or pencil, work any knots out of the strings. Untangled lines should be laid straight along the floor.

To prevent this hassle next year. Wind each string around a stiff cardboard; tape the end and place into a plastic grocery bag (only one string per cardboard) and stack to store.

\*\*

**Problem:** Commercial spray on "snow" for windows is messy and expensive.

**Solution:** This DIY version of artificial snow is inexpensive and easier to clean up! Best of all this faux frost can create a crystal ice painting on even the most insulated windows!

**Ingredients:** A few tablespoons of Epsom salts; one can flat beer; cotton balls.

**Instructions:** Use a cotton



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
.....  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

ball to dab the mixture onto clean windows. Treat only the corners for a realistic look.. As the mixture dries, it crystallizes.

\*\*

**Problem:** You love that delightful pine scent of your Christmas Tree and wish you could extend the fragrance throughout the season.

**Solution:** You can! This homemade Pine Potpourri offers a fresh, evergreen scent any time of year! To do: Mix together: ½ cup bayberry leaves; ½ cup snipped balsam needles; ½ cup miniature pine cones; ½ cup rose hips; 2 tsp orrisroot; 2 drops pine-scented fixative or oil. Mix the bayberry, balsam, pine cones and rose hips in a large bowl. Add the orrisroot and fixative and stir gently. Store in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Note: To rejuvenate and extend your pine potpourri, try this economical trick: Put some ground corn cob material (sold as cellulose or litter material at the pet store) in a jar. Add several drops of essential oil, place lid on jar and shake. Shake the jar every day for about a week or so. Add it to your potpourri, to give it body and hold the scent.

\*\*

**Problem:** You want to give a holiday present to your mail carrier, but heard there are strict gift regulations:

**Solution:** For reference: Mail carriers working for the United States Postal Service are allowed to accept the following items during the holiday season:

Snacks and beverages or perishable gifts that are not part of a meal.

Small gifts that have little intrinsic value (travel mugs, hand warmers, etc...) and are clearly no more than \$20 in value.

Perishable items clearly worth more (large fruit baskets or cookie tins) must be shared with the entire branch.

Mail carriers working for the United States Postal Service may not accept the following:

Cash gifts, checks, gift cards, or any other form of currency.

\*\*

**Problem:** Old fashioned flaming pinecones for fireplaces are not readily available and when found are costly.

**Solution:** Make your own! The traditional firestarters of days of yore are easily crafted. Best of all, pinecones not only add a great seasonal scent to a cozy fireplace, they can also add some delightful color with the addition of a few pantry ingredients. Here's how to make your holiday hearthside flames fabulous: Dip pinecones in wax (recycle candle stubs) and roll in table salt for bright yellow flames; If you use a no-salt substitute, you'll be treated to vio-

let flames. For green flames, dip the pinecones in borax (found in the laundry aisle). Baking soda will reward you with bright yellowish orange flames, and Epsom salts will result in white flames. For hot pink flames, dip or roll pinecones in plaster of Paris. For more economical and natural looking pinecones without the wax properties, simply marinate the fire flashers. Dissolve eight ounces of one activator (salt, borax, etc.) in a half gallon of water. Soak pine cones for about six hours. Dry them in a warm, dry place for a few days. For gift giving, fill up a cellophane bag, add a bow, and attach a tag with the color codes. Pinecone Pointer: To prompt tight pinecones to open fully, heat them in a 220 degree oven on a foil lined cookie sheet. Caution: Make and use firestarters and flammers with care and at your own risk. Do not mix activators.

\*\*

**Problem:** Christmas dinner requires perfect gravy, but it's a challenge to get it right.

**Solution:** Why not go to the source of "foolproof" gravy, Betty Crocker? After all, the cooking icon's recipe has been at America's holiday table for decades!

**Ingredients:** 1/4 cup turkey drippings (fat and juices from roasted turkey); 1/4 cup all-purpose flour; 2 cups liquid (juices from roasted turkey, broth, water); 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

**Directions:** Pour drippings from roasting pan into bowl,

leaving brown particles in pan. Return 1/4 cup drippings to roasting pan. (Measure accurately because too little fat makes gravy lumpy.) Stir in flour. (Measure accurately so gravy is not greasy.)

Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is smooth and bubbly. Stir in liquid. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Stir in a few drops of browning sauce. Stir in salt and pepper.

\*\*

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

## Brighten the holidays with colorful plants

### FOCUS

continued from page A8

Security checks could help you build these cash reserves. (Also, it's helpful to keep another three to five years' worth of spending from your portfolio in short-term, fixed-income investments, which now, due to higher interest rates, offer better income opportunities.)

Contribute to a 529 plan. You could use some of your extra Social Security money to contribute to a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan for your grandchildren or other family members.

Contribute to charitable organizations. You might want to use some of your Social Security money to expand your charitable giving. Your generosity will help worthy groups and possibly bring you some tax benefits, too.

While it's nice to have these possible options in 2023, you can't count on future COLA increases being as large. The jump in inflation in 2022 was due to several unusual factors, including pandemic-related government spending, supply shortages and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It's quite possible, perhaps even likely, that inflation will subside in 2023, which, in turn, would mean a smaller COLA bump in 2024.

Nonetheless, while you might not want to include large annual COLA increases as part of your long-term financial strategy, you may well choose to take advantage, in some of the ways described above, of the bigger Social Security checks you'll receive in 2023. When opportunity knocks, you may want to open the door.

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

Garden centers, florists and grocery stores are filling their shelves with a variety of holiday plants; a sure sign the holidays are approaching. This is the time of year to give, receive or fill your home with colorful poinsettias, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, and other holiday plants. Extend their beauty and longevity with proper care.

Start by selecting healthy plants that have been receiving proper care. The plants should be free of insects, disease and have no yellow leaves, brown leaf edges and spots. Flowering plants should have just a few open flowers, some buds showing color, and the rest healthy plump buds. You will enjoy watching the flower buds open, blooms expand, and a longer flowering period.

Always protect your gift plants from the harsh outdoors. Professional florists and garden center staff should provide a care tag and wrap your plants in a plastic or paper sleeve for the ride home.

Carefully remove the wrap as soon as you get home. This is especially important when caring for poinsettias. The upturned leaves emit ethylene, a ripening hormone that can shorten the longevity of your poinsettia's colorful display.

Rewrap your holiday plant anytime you move it outdoors and never leave it sitting in a cold car while running errands. A chilled plant looks fine until it warms. By the next day, the plant turns grayish-green, wilts and may die. Not such a nice gift or addition to your holiday décor after all.

Once home, place it in a cool, brightly lit location. The cool temperatures and indirect light help the blooms last lon-



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
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MELINDA  
MYERS

ger. Remove or fold down the foil wrap, if present, to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. These can dry or chill the plant resulting in leaf and blossom drop.

Check the tag for watering instructions. Most holiday plants prefer moist but not wet soil. Use your finger as a moisture meter. Water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist or according to the directions on the care tag.

Pour out any water that collects in the foil, basket, decorative pot or saucer. Or place pebbles in the bottom of these or the saucer to elevate the plant above sitting water. This reduces the risk of root rot and makes care much easier.

Lengthen the time between watering and increase success by amending the potting mix with a moisture-retaining product like wool pellets (wildvalley-farms.com). This organic and sustainable product reduces watering by up to 25 percent. Just spread it over the soil surface and push it into the soil around the plant.

Keep your floral display looking its best by removing spent flowers from azaleas, Christmas cactus, cyclamen and kalanchoes. This keeps the plant looking fresh and often encourages more blooms.

Once the holidays have passed, keep enjoying these plants through the gray days of winter. Move the plants to a sunny window, fertilize with a dilute solution of complete or flowering plant fertilizer, and water as needed.

Add some artificial berries, cut flow-



Melinda Myers

Cyclamen plants have uniquely shaped flowers, come in a variety of colors, and stand above attractive variegated leaves.

ers in water picks, or silk blooms to replace the faded flowers. Use colorful stakes or natural twigs for added beauty and to support floppy leaves and stems.

Boost your spirits and those of family and friends this holiday season with a few colorful plants. Giving them as gifts and using them to decorate your home is guaranteed to brighten your holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

**www.Stonebridge  
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# OBITUARIES

## Irene J. Lucier, 96



WEBSTER – Irene J. (Zackiewicz) Lucier, 96, died peacefully Sunday, November 13, 2022 in UMass/Memorial University Campus following a brief illness. Her husband of 44 years, Paul R. “Ray” Lucier, died

in 2001.

She leaves a son, Robert J. Lucier and his wife Maura of Shrewsbury; 2 daughters, Sally M. Stafford and her husband John of Leicester; and Betty A. Borkowski and her husband Todd of Cornelius, NC; 7 grandchildren, Joseph M. Stafford and his wife Chelsea, Rachel A. Stafford and her companion Stephen Smedberg, Nicole I. Lucier, Jennifer M. Lucier, Zachary J. Borkowski, Abigail G. Borkowski and Kate I Borkowski; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son Paul G. Lucier in 1996, by 4 brothers Joseph, Edward, Stanley and Alexander Zackiewicz, and by her sister Stasia Forand.

She was born at home on December 8, 1925 in the same house in Webster she has lived her whole life, the youngest of the 6 children of Julian and Josephine

(Taraskiewicz) Zackiewicz. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1944.

Mrs. Lucier first worked for Webster Shoe Company and then as a cafeteria worker in the Webster School System at Park Ave School for 15 years retiring in 1990.

She was a faith-filled communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica and a member of its Holy Rosary Sodality, Sacred Heart Society and Polish Women’s Club.

A special thank you to Carol Harvard, our cousin, for being her companion to appointments. Also, thank you to the staff at UMASS-University Campus Hospital for their special care of our mother.

Her funeral was held Saturday, November 19, 2022, from Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster; with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Calling hours took place on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 AM in the funeral home, prior to the Mass.. Donations in her memory may be made to Saint Joseph Elementary School., 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com

## Patricia Whittredge



Patricia Ann (Grieco) Whittredge of Dudley, MA formally of Swampscott, MA passed away peacefully on November 16th at Harrington Memorial Hospital with family by her side. Pat was the daughter of the late Anthony and Helen Grieco.

Pat is survived by her son Bruce Whittredge, Jr his wife Jill Whittredge and her two grandchildren, Timothy, and Taylor Whittredge of Webster. Along with her loving daughter Kellie Whittredge of Webster.

Pat also leaves behind 3 sisters. Margaret Hines of Salem, MA. Elaine Llewellyn and her husband John of Port Richey Florida and Mary Koon of New Port Richey, Florida.

Several close cousins, nieces and nephews. Pat will be missed by her lifelong friend for over 70 years, Marcia Knowles of Beverly MA. Pat was pre-

deceased in death by her sister Denise Batchelder, who died in 1993.

Pat was a graduate of Swampscott High School and Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute for Nursing in Danvers MA.

Pat worked as a dedicated and caring nurse for 40 years, 30 of them being at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge MA where she retired in 2003. She loved knitting, reading scary books and watching her grandchildren grow up

Pat was loved and known by many. She always had a positive attitude no matter what curve balls life threw at her. Her wit and humor were always present, they served her well while bringing a smile to all around her. She will certainly be missed.

Per Pat’s wishes, there will be no calling hours. Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is directing arrangements. www.bartelfuneralhome.com for her online condolence book .

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news). Deadline is Monday noon for Friday publication.

## REAL ESTATE

### AUBURN

\$795,000, 325 Southbridge St, 325 Southbridge Street RT, and Zellej, Molly O, to 325 Southbridge LLC.

\$465,000, 108 Wallace Ave, Kevin R Brown Woodward RT, and Brown-Woodward, Kevin R, to Orti, Edmy A, and Martinez, Raul.

\$449,000, 14 Carriage Dr, Mcmanus, Shauna, and Mcmanus, Andrew, to Peters, Debra, and Peters, James.

\$448,000, 8 Grandview St, Alves-Stark, Donna M, and Stark, William G, to Shea, Leann R, and Shea 3rd, Chester V.

\$440,000, 296 Leicester St, Eklund, Donald C, to Lyon, Kevin, and Lyon, Nicole.

\$358,000, 3 Coolidge St, Lennon, Gillian, to White, Chelsea, and Kyaw, Caitlin.

\$355,000, 24 Oakwood Ave, Johnson, Sandra L, to Parella, Adam M, and Cyr, Mackenzie R.

\$350,000, 91 Wallace Ave, Maclaughlin, Joanne, and Maclaughlin, Timothy J, to Pakush, Uladzimir U, and Sviryzdiuk, Valiantsina.

\$305,000, 48 Waterman Rd, Rosner, Regina, and Smith, Andrew, to Johnson, Thomas.

\$270,000, 31 Lesley Ave, Kulma, Kristie, and Kulma, Mariusz, to Gelineau, Ryan J.

\$200,000, 43 Harrison Ave, Montville Jr, Emile F, and Montville, Dorothy A, to Guerin, Travis R, and Thompson, Ashley R.

\$163,000, 12 Pinrock Rd, Connolly, Raymond, and Connolly, Stephanie, to Connolly, Michael, and Connolly, Rachel.

\$130,000, 118 Southold Rd, Weagle, Kevin J, to Guimaraes, Sergio.

### DUDLEY

\$800,000, 32 Chase Ave, Niedbala, Kristina H, to JR Properties LLC.

\$680,000, 33 W Main St, KBG Realty Properties LLC, to Calixto-Teixeira, Ronie V.

\$680,000, 4-6 Schofield Ave, KBG Realty Properties LLC, to Calixto-Teixeira, Ronie V.

\$483,000, 6 Brandon Rd, Joyce Jr, John E, and Joyce, Faith H, to Hamilton, Shena C.

\$394,000, 38 Oxford Ave, Wayne K Johnson RET, and Johnson, Wayne K, to Melad-Shenouda, Markos.

\$370,000, 11 Prospect Ave, Morales, Elaina, and Morales, Adaberto, to Simoneau, Jenise L, and Simoneau, John M.

\$266,000, 35 Alton Dr, Tremblay, Dylan D, and Morrison, Chelsea A, to Arphai, Vangbee, and Madee, Chintana.

\$166,600, 177 Dresser Hill Rd, Nationstar Mortgage LLC, to Rucinski,

Milosz R.

### OXFORD

\$425,000, 12 Rhonda Rheault Dr, Bank New York Mellon Tr, to Santiago, Margarita M, and Rivillas, Jose O.

\$415,000, 18 Water St, Belluscio, Danielle M, to Holdbrook, Isaac, and Appianing, Rashida.

\$330,000, 156 Old Webster Rd, CLK Simonds Street RT, and Koski, Claudia L, to Bennett, Paul L.

\$322,000, 50 Wheelock St, Lambert, Ruess, and Maloney, Lisa, to Honney, Tammy.

\$319,000, 29 Prospect St, Laroche, Michael J, and Laroche, Maria, to Vadenais, Autumn.

\$310,000, 31 Merriam District, Morin, Donald P, and Elliot, Michelle T, to Chung, Young G, and Chung, Eunja.

\$289,000, 70 Pleasant St #49, Champoux, Sharon, to Hester, Michael, and Hester, Rebecca.

\$210,000, 32 Thayer Pond Dr #9, Frisch, Dana, and Frisch, Tosanna, to 32 Thayer Pond Dr 32-9, and Wilson, William J.

\$179,900, 32 Thayer Pond Dr #10, Wilson, Lucy A, and Wilson, William, to Affhauser, Kaitlyn.

\$143,000, 124 Charlton St #F, Watts, Craig M, and Watts, Alison E, to Prashaw, Jason M.

### WEBSTER

\$422,400, 8 Ragina Ave, Plante Jr, Richard D, and Plante, Jessica L, to Bawuah, Anthony.

\$389,000, 14 Killdeer Rd, Pion Jr, Raymond E, and Pion, Ann M, to Perzanoski, Lianne.

\$365,000, 23 Victoria Dr, Fumi Relaty Inc, to Concepcion, Yeydaliz, and Gagnon, Zachary.

\$362,000, 39 Brodeur Ave, Johnson, David, to Concannon, Craig S, and Concannon, Catherine P.

\$350,000, 5 Lichfield Ln #A, Gilchrist Lorna J Est, and Gilchrist, John A, to Belli, Twila, and Belli, Michael.

\$340,000, 10 Arkwright Rd, Gonsorcik, James E, to Frkal, David, and Frkal, Robin.

\$335,000, 1 Eddy St #D, Miedema, Christopher, and Miedema, Sara, to Ofori, George.

\$325,000, 11 Deerfield Dr W #B, Garcelon RET, and Garcelon, Heather, to Wortman, James, and Dwyre-Wortman, Monica.

\$320,000, 605 School St, Saad, Jessica, and Saad, Nathan, to Benitez, Carmen I, and Rodriguez, Walter A.

\$110,574, 27 Dresser St, Fish, Raymond R, and US Bank NA, to US Bank NA Tr.

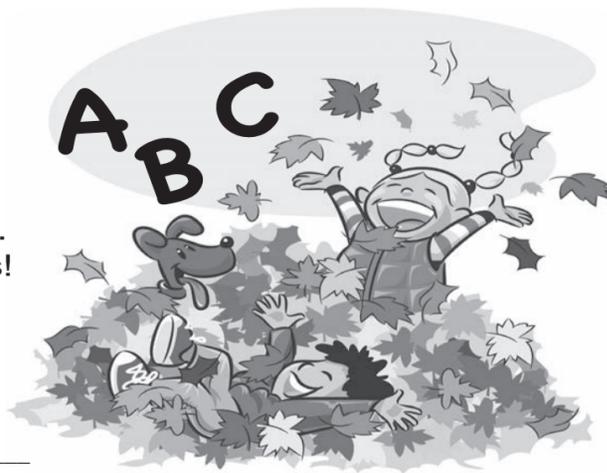
\$70,000, 5 E Main St, Webster First FCU, to Anything Automotive RET.

# ABC's of Fall Scramble Answers

Thank you to all of our ABC's of Fall Advertisers!  
The winner of a \$25 Gift Card  
to their choice of one of the ABC businesses is  
Anne Haas, Whitinsville, MA

Also thank you to all who took the time to do our Scramble.  
We hope you enjoyed it and please support our advertisers!

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Newspaper you saw this in, circle one: Spencer New Leader, Auburn News, Southbridge News, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Webster Times, Blackstone Valley Tribune

We love your feedback comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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| 2. UJEN NAD ALIAMEK IBEOEVJTC<br>June and Mikaela Objective     | 11. CIRMROE LEEERJSW<br>Cormier Jewelers             | 20. YARGS URETSTG<br>Garys Gutters                               |
| 3. NASL APNTI ERTNEC<br>NALS Paint Center                       | 12. DYWOSO AUOT YDBO<br>Woodys Auto Body             | 21. ENKARS OLSCIINOL RPRAEI<br>Kearns Collision Repair           |
| 4. LIORKBEODF RCSDHOAR<br>Brookfield Orchards                   | 13. ICHEOC PT<br>Choice PT                           | 22. IRNE OAHNMEY<br>Erin Mahoney                                 |
| 5. ERSHF TSRAT SDEAIERTLIN<br>Fresh Start Residential           | 14. EB TAFLLST<br>EB Flatts                          | 23. NSERECF IYFAML ELNDTA<br>Spencer Family Dental               |
| 6. SNAEHS AOLNS NAD ASP<br>Sheenas Salon and Spa                | 15. AOCSTWTRFRK<br>Craftworks                        | 24. AEUSDTEG TONIW DAN YERCVROE<br>Audettes Towing and Recovery  |
| 7. AMSQINUOIGND CMITMYUON<br>Quinsigamond Community             | 16. NCNCEOT RUSENAATRT<br>Connect Restaurant         | 25. ARUATCEC ESTP NROCTOL<br>Accurate Pest Control               |
| 8. NETRCAL ALDREFE TIECRD NONIU<br>Central Federal Credit Union | 17. MRCAO DONWWI VSIESCRE<br>Ramco Window Services   | 26. SIHNGNI RGYENE TSTEINARVLAE<br>Higgins Energy Alternatives   |
| 9. KEY SGROTEA<br>Key Storage                                   | 18. AILLCH RITE<br>Cahill Tire                       |  |

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**BIDS**

continued from page A1

internal discussions and having discussions with our transportation providers our recommendation is to continue to negotiate a contract for special education transportation outside of the bid process," Mathieu confirmed. "That doesn't mean we will only look at one bidder. We certainly want to get pricing from as many interested parties as possible, but given some of the shortages that are out there in terms of vehicles and staffing it may make more sense not to put it out to bid."

Another option that Bergeron and Mathieu discussed was the potential for a district fleet of buses and handling transportation internally rather than contracting out the service. Mathieu said this certainly wouldn't be implemented overnight and was, at best, a long-term idea.

The typical length of the district's Big Yellow Bus contract is three to five years while the special education agreements have typically run for three years. Mathieu expects the new contracts to follow that same standard.

**FAMILY**

continued from page A1

"It's a whole new life for me now," said Lavallee, who has 21 brothers and sisters in total.

Special thanks goes to Ashley Peterson, who did extensive research to help the siblings connect. Due to their determination to find each other and connect over the past year, family members have begun referring to themselves as "The Head Hunters."

Lavallee also thanks her daughter for the gift of the DNA testing kit, which got the ball rolling on a family journey of discovery.

The siblings are already looking forward to their next meeting, Lavallee said.

**HONOR**

continued from page A1

send other Webster officers there.

Of course, his being gone for eight weeks left a gap in town, and Shaw commended his staff "for picking up the slack that allowed me to really enjoy and immerse myself in the experience."

Becker noted he also got lucky. Shaw was on the witness list for a case up here at the same time, but the judge canceled it before Shaw had to return.

Lastly, Becker transitioned to a "more somber part of the police department evening tonight" – the retirement of three long-time reserve officers. With more than 20 years experience each,

**WATER**

continued from page A1

of the game and prepared for what they believe will be even harsher limits soon to be established on the state level.

"We should be in great shape because I know the state's looking at lowering numbers down even more. I know that's

Capt Todd Jankowski, Sgt Chad Deveno and Officer Richard Walcek chose to step down rather than have to go through the requirements imposed on volunteer officers under the state's fairly new POST legislation. That law requires even reserve officers to go through the police academy and meet the other training demands of regular officers.

Shaw said Webster and other departments have seen various issues recruiting such volunteers because of the law, and that has resulted in the town sometimes paying overtime for regular officers to do jobs (like parade traffic duty) the volunteers used to do.

"We really counted on the reserve

officers here," he said, noting they did it "because they cared about the community."

"The legislature really dropped the ball on that. It was really short-sighted," Shaw added.

Afterward, State Rep Joe McKenna agreed.

"It's really sobering to hear that, and is one of the reasons Senator Fattman and I were not in favor of that bill," he said. "It's frustrating to see the negative impacts of the action the Legislature took with the best of intentions in mind."

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

coming up and we're so far ahead right now. All of our equipment vessels and things are coming in, so we don't expect any delays," said Patrinos.

However, it wasn't all good news in the update. Patrinos also revealed that another main break was recorded on Halloween week, this time on Ramshorne Road. Several main breaks have been reported in 2022 with officials

tending to the issues quickly. Patrinos admitted this break took much longer to resolve as citizens didn't notice or report the problem for some time. The fix took several hours but water department workers were able to properly repair the line and return full service back to customers despite dealing with several roadblocks along the way.



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**GENTEX OFFERS RESOURCES FOR LOCAL VETERANS**

The Town of Dudley is extremely fortunate to have Gentex as a major employer in our community. Gentex is involved in programs and activities that are beneficial for their employees, such as the Safety, Health and Wellness Fair which they held last month. There were several representatives from various companies and organizations who gave lessons in emergency first aid. There was a representative from Planet Fitness who addressed the importance of staying fit and the Town of Dudley Veterans Services Officer, Stephen Rogerson, who manned a table with the VFW Post 654 Webster/Dudley Commander, Richard Norton, to address questions regarding the GI Bill and other benefits there may be available for employees who are veterans. As the Veterans Services Officer observed, Gentex has a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere that proved that they valued their employees and their organization. They are very pro-veteran and community oriented. After leaving the Safety, Health and Wellness Fair, Mr. Rogerson was left with the lingering smile due to the happy, cooperative, and caring environment he had just experienced at Gentex.

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Larry D. Darling, Sr., to CitiFinancial Services, Inc., dated October 9, 2009, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44956 at Page 47, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from CitiFinancial Services, Inc., to CitiFinancial, Inc., dated June 17, 2013, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 51114, Page 268; by assignment from CFNA Receivables (MD), Inc. f/k/a CitiFinancial, Inc., to CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, dated April 21, 2016, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55261, Page 214; by assignment from CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated April 21, 2016, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55261, Page 215; by assignment from Community Loan Servicing, LLC, to Koitere Dispositions, LLC, dated March 15, 2021, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65308, Page 105; and by an assignment from Koitere Dispositions, LLC, to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Igloo Series IV Trust, dated May 3, 2021, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65308, Page 108, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on the 13th day of December 2022 at 69 Ramshorn Road, Dudley, MA 01571, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:

A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Dudley on the westerly side of Ramshorn Road, Bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake in the westerly line of said Ramshorn Road 944.04

feet northwesterly of the northeasterly corner of land of one Dunham; THENCE N. 23 degrees 12' W. 440 feet by the westerly line of said Ramshorn Road to the end of a stone wall; THENCE S. 85 degrees 48' W., 317.15 feet along said stone wall to a corner of said wall; THENCE S. 5 degrees 12' E. 600 feet along said stone wall to another corner of said wall; THENCE N. 89 degrees 13' E., 302.75 feet along said stone wall to an iron pipe; THENCE N. 23 degrees 12' W., 200 feet by land of the grantors to an iron pipe; THENCE N. 89 degrees 13' E., 200 feet by land of the grantors to the point of beginning.

BEING the same premises described in a deed from Larry D. Darling, Sr. and Judith A. Darling to Larry D. Darling, Sr. and Judith A. Darling dated July 25, 1995 And recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 17193, Page 398.

Excepting therefrom the following sales: Book 4687, Page 267, Book 4891 Page 99, and Book 5038 Page 232 and 5045 Page 593

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

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in

full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Igloo Series IV Trust, Present holder of said mortgage, By its Attorneys, Demerle Hoeger LLP 10 City Square, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02129 (617) 337-4444

November 18, 2022  
November 25, 2022  
December 2, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. W022P3839EA Estate of: Bruce F. Beach Date Of Death: September 19, 2022 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Bruce F. Beach, Jr. of Webster MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate

**Bruce F. Beach, Jr. of Webster MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal

procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
November 25, 2022

**(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 22 SM 003319 ORDER OF NOTICE**

**TO: The Heirs, Devisees or Legal Representatives of the Estate of Mark P. Paszkowski a/k/a Mark P. Paszkowski, Sr. Mark P. Paszkowski, Jr. and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq) Bank of America, N.A. claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 3 Carriage Drive, given by Mark P. Paszkowski to Bank of America, N.A., dated February 20, 2008, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42448, Page 102, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/19/2022 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 11/4/2022 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder November 25, 2022**

# SPORTS

## KIPP Academy hangs on to beat Pirates in instant classic, 34-33



Nick Ethier photos

Oxford's Lucas Lambert rushes out of the pocket, escaping KIPP Academy defender Morenel Castro in the process and picking up a few of the 99 yards he accumulated on the ground.



Oxford's Jordan DeLeon cuts inside while rushing the football.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

AYER — The good news for the Oxford High varsity football team was that they scored 33 points in each of their three Division 8 State Playoff games. The bad news for the Pirates was that in the third game it was a point shy of being enough.

After bouncing No. 14 Taconic High (33-0) and No. 11 Murdock High (33-8) in the first two rounds of the tournament, No. 3 Oxford met No. 7 KIPP Academy of Lynn in the Final Four, the game taking place Friday evening, Nov. 18 at Ayer Shirley Regional. And the contest turned into an instant classic, the Pirates and Panthers trading touchdowns in a back-and-forth affair. KIPP Academy came out one point ahead, though, winning by a 34-33 final score.

The loss stung even extra for Oxford (9-2), as they lost 8-6 in the Final Four last year to eventual state champion Randolph High. The Panthers (7-4) will play No. 1 Hull High (11-0) for this year's

state title.

"I said at the end of the game, 'there wasn't much we could have done differently.' We played our hearts out," Pirates' head coach Jeff Clarkson told his team in the postgame huddle.

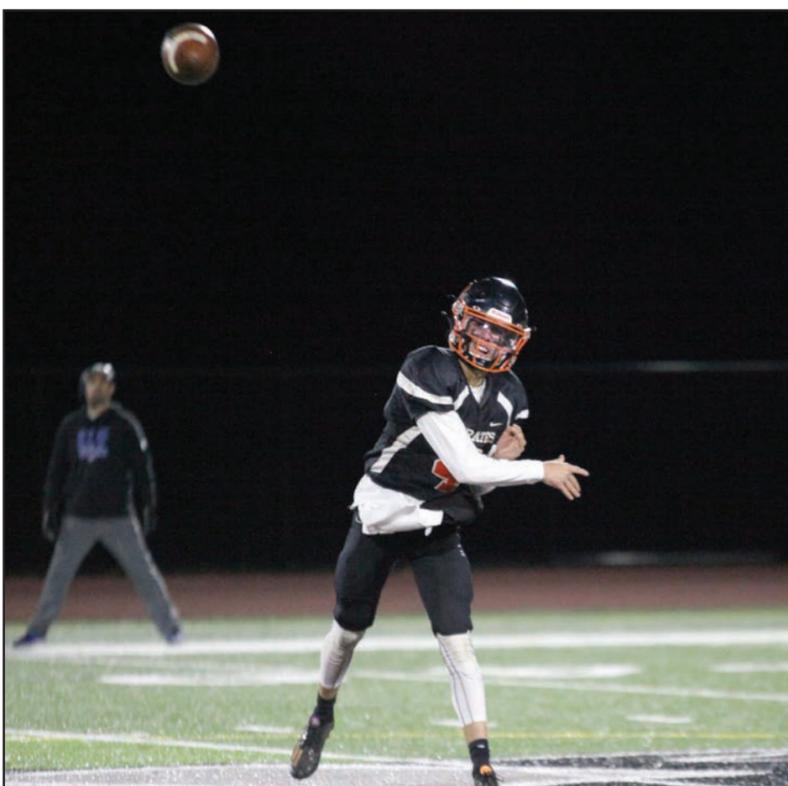
"Obviously a great season, but yet again came up just short. Last year two points, this year one point. It just hurts 10 times more this year because it's my senior year. It kills," added quarterback Lucas Lambert, who nearly willed Oxford to victory.

Lambert was 14 of 26 passing for 200 yards and 4 touchdowns, and he rushed the ball another 12 times for 99 yards and a score. Lambert had the Pirates' offense at KIPP's 21-yard line with under two minutes to go, looking to give Oxford the lead. His pass deflected off the fingers of receiver Brett Morgan and into the hands of the Panthers' Juan Setalsingh for Lambert's lone interception.

"Going down for a game-winning drive basically and to have a tip ball be the difference in the game — we



Oxford's Connor Fantasia breaks away from KIPP Academy's defense for his third touchdown reception of the game.



Quarterback Lucas Lambert of Oxford, seen here tossing a pass, threw for 200 yards and 4 touchdowns versus KIPP Academy.



Zak Parmenter of Oxford reaches out in an attempt to block KIPP Academy quarterback Juan Setalsingh's pass.

tipped it and the kid was in the right spot, fell right in his basket," said Clarkson. "If it wasn't for that one tip, I think we would have went right in and scored and I think it would have been a different ending."

"Just a few small mistakes, really," Lambert said when asked what the difference in the game was. "One less mistake in that game and we win."

Oxford's defense, which came away with a fumble recovery and two interceptions by Connor Fantasia and Jordan DeLeon over the course of the game, got the ball back with 14 seconds remaining by forcing a KIPP punt.

With the ball at the Panthers' 48-yard line, Lambert completed a short pass to Fantasia, who then looked to make a deep throw down the sideline to Robbie Fisher on a double pass. But KIPP's defense bottled Fantasia up, tackling him inbounds as the clock struck zeroes.

"Just trying to throw a double pass up, and it just didn't work. We had practiced that all year (but) never ran it," said Clarkson.

Back in the game's opening possession, Oxford set the tone by scoring quickly. Lambert hit Fantasia on a 51-yard touchdown pass down the right sideline to make it 6-0.

KIPP Academy took a 7-6 lead later in the first when Setalsingh (18 of 36, 327 yards) threw his first of five TD's, this one going to Morenel Castro from 30 yards out. Vic Mafo then kicked his first of four successful point after kicks.

Lambert then had two second quarter scores, the first a 17-yard pass to DeLeon, the second a 29-yard scamper up the middle. Alex Perry also added an extra point kick, giving Oxford a 19-7 lead.

KIPP Academy then scored as time expired in the first half and on the opening possession of the second half to reclaim the lead, 20-19, Setalsingh throwing touchdown passes to Castro and Mafo.

The Panthers also scored in the waning moments of the third quarter to take a 27-19 advantage. Setalsingh launched a 57-yard scoring strike to Castro for the TD.

But the Pirates never wavered, as they responded immediately to tie the score at 27-27. Lambert hit Fantasia on a 14-yard pass and Lambert added the two-point conversion rush.

Oxford then grabbed the lead, 33-27, with 9:02 remaining. For the third time it was a Lambert to Fantasia connection, this one from 16 yards out.

"Just the catches he was making and the yards after catches was phenomenal," Clarkson said of Fantasia, whose stat line included 8 catches for 125 yards. "He bounces around and gets away from tackles."

"I always have trust in him," added Lambert. "Maybe one day I'll play with him in college. That'd be great."

Clarkson also had nothing but a heap of praise for Lambert.

"It's his leadership. He put all the weight on his shoulders — don't get me wrong, he had a lot of help around him — but man, did he play well tonight," said Clarkson.

But the Panthers won the game with 4:04 to play, Setalsingh connecting with Castro (7 catches, 150 yards) for a fourth touchdown, this one from 7 yards out. Mafo's extra point gave KIPP a one-point lead that barely ended up standing.

"We knew it was going to be a battle. They had four great athletes and they had some phenomenal linemen," Clarkson said.

Oxford will conclude its season on Thanksgiving Day at Bay Path Regional (7-4).

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# SPORTS

## Oxford's Davis shines at Cross-Country State Championships, while Rams qualify as team



Nick Ethier photos

Oxford's Cameron Davis



Shepherd Hill's Meghan Stevens



Emery Mullen of Shepherd Hill

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

DEVENS — Cameron Davis, an eighth grader on the Oxford High girls' cross-country team, has had a stellar first season for the Pirates. She won the Southern Worcester County League individual championship and then placed second in the Divisional 3B qualifying meet to reach the Division 3 State Championship race at Fort Devens on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Although the moment could have been too big for the 13-year-old Davis, she continued to pass with flying colors.

Davis clocked in at 20:00.87 on the 5K course, averaging a 6:27 mile split. That was good for a seventh-place finish among 183 runners. Davis was the top eighth grader in the race.

"I think I did pretty well. I got out fast, but I think I held with it pretty well," said Davis. "I just wanted to get in the top 15. Being my first race, it's still beginning with

experience, but now that I know I can run with a lot of these girls, it's easier."

Davis now has four more years to improve on her already impressive time and placement.

"It's exciting to be at a young age and burst right through," said Davis.

The Division 1 races were also held at Fort Devens, and the Shepherd Hill Regional girls' squad qualified as a team. Aside from the 2020 COVID-19 season, when there were no postseason races, the Rams have reached the States dating back until at least 2016, according to head coach Nicole Fossas.

Shepherd Hill placed 19th, with Meghan Stevens leading the pace with a time of 20:02.59, which was good for 58th place. Other scoring Rams included Emery Mullen (79th place, 20:18.45), Emily Hultgren (104th, 20:33.23), Grace Bateman (116th, 20:44.62) and Megan Andress (141st, 21:18.14).

"They went out there

and they battled. That's all you can do," said Fossas.

Shepherd Hill was equipped with seniors in Mullen and Bateman, but also a new-to-cross-country sophomore in Stevens and a pair of freshmen in Hultgren and Andress.

"They have never been in this type of situation, and it's unique. You're condensing the talent. It's concentrated, it's intense and you're in the middle of the pack. You don't know where you are and you've got to run hard," Fossas said of her young runners stepping up to the challenge.

Fossas was also pleased with how the team, which includes only 11 runners, stuck with it all season long and battled through until the State Meet.

"We couldn't get hurt, they had to take care of themselves and they did all the things that I asked them to," said Fossas.

In the Division 1 boys' race, Shepherd Hill's Andrew Trudel competed as an individual. He placed 117th, crossing the finish line in 17:22.95.

## MOHEGAN BOWL FALL LEAGUES, WEEK ENDING NOV. 20

Monday Men's Business  
Single — Keith Labay 145, Mike Nardone 135, Dan Labay 130  
Series — Jason Mahan 374, Ryan Pelletier 343, Dan Labay 342  
Series over average — Jason Mahan +68

Ten Pin City  
Single — Division 1: Erika LaChance 169

Division 2: Diane Gagnon 160  
Series — Division 1: Marie Piegorsch 489

Tuesday Chet's Social  
Single — Ryan Pelletier 131, Richard Girouard 127, John Dupuis 126, Diane Levesque 100, Kellee Tella & Kerry Welsh 99, Mikayla Van Dam and Dawn Gleason 94

Series — John Dupuis 344, Ryan Pelletier 342, Richard Girouard 328, Kerry Welsh 271, Mikayla Van Dam and Dawn Gleason 268, Ellen Fugatt 264  
Series over average — Robert Rogers +63, Mikayla Van Dam +28

Wednesday Women's Industrial  
Single — Monique Pierangeli 124, Roberta Zacek 106, Dianne Hosegood 102  
Series — Monique Pierangeli 335, Marie McNally 279, Tara LaLiberte 278

Series over average — Jessica Germain +42

Summit Tenpin  
Single — Division 1: Bob Grant Jr. 231  
Division 2: Lee Standrowicz 203

Series — Division 1: Mike Smith 656  
Division 2: Justin McGroary 543

Thursday Morning Coffee  
Single — Pat Blake 105, Sue Kolodziejczak 103, Carol Montpelier 102  
Series — Barbara Penkala 271, Pat Blake 269, Carol Kondratowicz and Ruth Penniman 267  
Series over average — Joan Wentworth +48

Thursday Men's Industrial  
Single — Mike Manseau 131, Joe Pranaitis and Ryan Pelletier 129  
Series — Ryan Pelletier 359, Joe Pranaitis 345, David Blake 325  
Series over average — David Blake +52

Thursday Mixed Tenpin  
Single — Frank Bosma 205, Todd Gaucher 180, Zach Merchant 179  
Series — Frank Bosma 540, Todd Gaucher 503, Randy Schlegel 471

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**Hi! My name is K'Lonie and my favorite color is purple!**

K'Lonie is a sweet young girl of African-American descent who loves hugs and kisses. K'Lonie enjoys listening to music and humming to the melody. She also likes having books read to her and playing on the iPad.

K'Lonie has been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and is currently attending a day program where she is learning sign language. She is able to participate in her lessons and activities but requires supervision when doing activities on her own.

Legally freed for adoption, K'Lonie will thrive in an energetic and committed two-parent family that has natural supports in place. A family will also need to be strong educational advocates and comfortable accessing community services. K'Lonie has contact with some members of her birth family and an ideal family for K'Lonie will help her maintain these relationships.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/5794>

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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.

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## Dudley Woman's Club hosts comedy fundraiser

DUDLEY — It was a merry night of laughs at the Dudley Woman's Club's Comedy Fundraiser, featuring New England's best comedians from "Funny4funds" on Nov. 11. Drafters Sports Cafe was the location where our guests enjoyed the comics, our raffles and a fun evening supported by the hard work of our club members and the generosity of our show sponsors. We thank all who supported or participated in the event that raised money for the DWC's many charitable undertakings as well as our scholarship program. Big shout out to our show sponsors, we couldn't have done it without them:

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