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Friday, October 2, 2020

Oxford selectmen appoint temporary clerk

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – The Board of Selectmen split 3-2 to appoint Michelle Jenkins as temporary Town Clerk on Sept. 22.

“Oxford makes a lot of sense to me,” said Jenkins, a Whitinsville resident who’s currently clerk in Maynard.

She noted he has a child and takes care of her father, therefore “really [has] to stay here.”

That location, even though it’s fairly close, highlights the underlying issue – she’s not an Oxford resident, as the bylaw and charter require. The selectmen were able to appoint her under Mass General Laws Chapter 41, section 14, to fill the legally-mandated need for a town clerk to oversee the Oct 7 Town Meeting and Nov 3 election, plus the various other duties the office fulfills.

Town Attorney Marc Rich urged them to do so without setting “an almost-arbitrary deadline” on the appointment, noting they’d have discretion to revisit it at any time, since it’s an “at-will” post. However, Dennis Lamarche and Michael Daniels voted against it because Meaghan Troiano’s motion included a caveat that the board will “reconvene in six months to ... see where we’re at.”

Troiano’s motion also specifically stated that was not an end to the appointment itself, but Daniels

Turn To OXFORD page A7



Courtesy

FUNDRAISERS UNDERWAY FOR FAMILY DISPLACED BY FIRE

Webster firefighters, aided by several area fire departments fought a house fire at 1 Carla Circle at 12:16 p.m. on Sept. 21. Webster Fire Chief Brian Hickey arrived to find an attached garage fully involved with fire already extending into the house, sounding a second alarm and bringing in fire departments from Douglas, Dudley, Southbridge and Sutton to the scene with Oxford and Charlton fire departments covering the empty Webster and Dudley fire stations. Although Webster Fire has recently received a grant for more staffing, the initial arriving fire engine only had two firefighters on it and the Chief credits the police officers and members of Webster EMS for assisting firefighters with stretching hoses. The two family cats survived despite staying in the house throughout the entire fire. The cause is under investigation. The homeowners, Mike and Danielle Calnan, lived in the house with their four children. Fundraisers for the family, who are well known within the Webster Fast Pitch Softball community, have been set up on Go Fund Me, as well as through the Saint Joseph School in Webster.

Clerk residency on town meeting warrant

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Next Wednesday, in-person democracy gets another chance to prove its strength as Oxford hosts its Fall Town Meeting at the high school at 7 p.m.

The warrant’s 17 articles include a few that will make small wording changes that could have significant impact on how things operate. Most notable are two (Articles 13 and 14) seeking to eliminate the requirement the Town Clerk be a resident – one changes the bylaws, the other sends a question to the ballot to change the charter.

“It’s the only professional department head position that has this residency requirement,” Town Manager Jen Callahan told the selectmen Sept 15.

This became an issue with the recently-announced retirement of long-time clerk Lori Kelley just before

Town Meeting and the November election. Callahan said she’s got ads out for a temporary and permanent clerk, but is so far finding no takers because of the requirement they move here. Two people she interviewed did not have “actual experience directly related to the Town Clerk’s position,” she said.

Callahan recently hired retired Sterling Clerk Dawn Michanowicz as a consultant to help advise Oxford through this process. Michanowicz said she’d be willing to run the Town Meeting if necessary, but cannot do the election, since she’s already helping Spencer. But she advocates eliminating the residency requirement, noting she has lived in Holden all of the years she served as clerk in Southboro and Sterling.

Michanowicz said this year’s particularly tough because of the huge number of mail-

in ballots “on top of all the other requirements of this office,” and has seen more than 30 clerks and assistants retire. Eliminating the residency requirement will enable Oxford to “cast their net far and wide” to get qualified people.

She said she knows a few people who could do the job without that rule.

“The days are absolutely gone when people can walk in” and do the job, because of technology, laws, information-keeping needs and ethics officer duties, Callahan said.

Despite that, the selectmen were mixed on whether they liked the proposal. Some did, but John Saad said, “I’m not sure I can support doing away with the residency requirement.”

“I do appreciate that,” Callahan responded. “... We do not have professional candidates who can walk into the role we currently have vacated who can handle what we have coming on the hori-

zon ... after both recruitment and advertising in multiple places.”

Article 15 aims to eliminate just two words from the current bylaw covering the Building Commissioner – “upon conviction.”

Callahan said those words conflict with the authority state law gives the job to enforce building code violations and would make that job “parallel” to all other inspectors, who can issue fines. Under the law, such violations are non-criminal, civil offenses, not criminal ones that might lead to convictions. That makes the wording “a uniquely strange situation. ... If someone wanted to challenge that [in court], they could,” she said.

Of the rest of the warrant, the first eight articles are “routine” transfers, prior-year bills, and a lease formalization item.

Turn To WARRANT page A7

Nichols debuting new competency-based program

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College has launched a new program geared towards offering a new pathway towards a Bachelor’s degree for non-traditional students at the Dudley school.

Called the Competency-based Education (CBE) Program, the new offering is meant to be a flexible and independent pathway towards a degree for students who have chosen to pursue their college education either years after high school or as a part-time student which is defined as “nontraditional.” The program will assess the mastery of subjects by examining knowledge, skills and abilities rather than being based on classroom time.

“With the degree requirement for more jobs growing, and the attainment rate for adults lagging, the need for Competency-based Education has never been more critical,” said Kerry Calnan, Vice President for Innovation and Institutional Effectiveness at Nichols College in a press release on Sept. 21. “Nichols is committed to providing this alternative and viable pathway to help today’s professionals achieve their goals.”

The new program will include seven-week terms, two courses at a time allowing students to take class-

Turn To NICHOLS page A7



Courtesy

St. Joseph School First Grade Student, Charlotte Dollar, takes her Measured Academic Progress (MAP) Test in Reading.

St. Joseph School tracks student growth through testing

WEBSTER — One-way St. Joseph School measures students’ academic growth progress is by utilizing Measured Academic Progress (MAP) Testing, which the school began administering this past week.

Math and reading tests are taken by all St. Joseph School students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 in the fall, winter, and spring of each academic year. Students in Grades 2 – 8 also receive testing in Language Arts. The school last administered the tests in January, before pivoting to remote learning because of the pandemic.

“Due to missing the

tests last spring, this fall’s testing is crucial,” stated principal Michael Hackenson. “The tests will re-establish baselines for our students and help us determine their strengths and weakness. We will also utilize the test results to drive improvement across the entire school.”

Although it has been some time since their last tests, students and teachers quickly re-adjusted to the evaluation process. On Monday, Charlotte Dollar and her peers in Mrs. Kayla Maynard’s First Grade Class began the day with a MAP Reading Test.

“It was a little easy, but

a little hard,” Charlotte exclaimed when asked about the test, “but I like taking them!”

Charlotte didn’t realize that her test was dynamically adjusting to her performance and, by doing so, creating a personalized assessment of her reading skills. This feature allows teachers to plan for differentiated instruction, tailor their lessons to challenge all students, and encourage students to take charge of their learning.

In addition to MAP testing, St. Joseph School is off to a busy start! Other educational programs utilized at the school are Khan Academy for

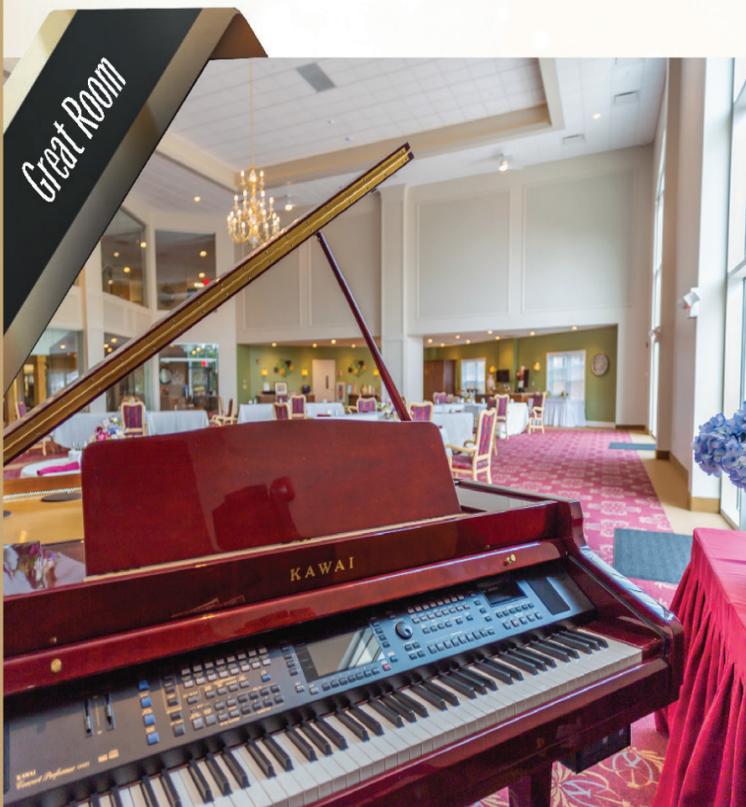
fine-tuning math skills and Renaissance’s Accelerated Reader program, which provides engaging quizzes and activities. Plus, new to St. Joseph School students this year, Renaissance’s myON Reader provides students with a personalized literacy environment and gives them access to over 6,000 digital books.

St. Joseph School students are having fun settling back into their in-person learning routines, even though they are challenged with MAP testing and other classwork. They will receive their first quarter progress reports on Oct. 8.



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“It’s the way Nature knows”

SPEAKER URGES CHANGES TO FARMING TO PROTECT CLIMATE

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — “We need a more indigenous relationship of honoring Earth,” said psychologist and former Rodale Institute CEO Tim LaSalle. “... We can enhance everybody’s livelihood, including the non-humans on this planet.”

To LaSalle, that major worldview change would anchor a broader way to address what he termed the “sort of desperation” many people have regarding environmental concerns. In brief, he sees a need to balance understanding the psychology of how we got where we are with changing how we get food to address “two existential crises” – soil fertility loss and climate change.

“We need a whole-systems approach,” he observed. “... We have to go to some of the core elements and find the leverage points to change it.”

He was speaking recently on “Regenerative Agriculture: Cure for an Ailing World.” The basic principle behind regenerative agriculture is that restoring soil fertility and thereby improving crop yields does not require more and better chemicals, but working with the living things that are already there. Instead of fertilizers, it calls for allowing grazing animals to leave manure, letting leaves and clippings stay on the soil, and allowing the native soil fungi, microbes and small organisms to thrive. When that happens, plants are healthier and can fend off pests without pesticides.

Those pests, he later observed, are naturally a minority: “There are thousands of beneficial insects for every one pest.”

LaSalle noted regenerative methods work quickly, rebuilding soils over less than a lifetime that would otherwise take around 1,000 years per inch. In gardens, using a system called a Johnson-Su bioreactor (the plans for which are available at the www.csuchico.edu website and can be built in a basket) can

restore soil fungi in around one year if kept fairly warm. After that, it only needs to be applied to the garden once or twice to inoculate the soil. What he termed symbiotic systems of plants, animals and fungi sequester carbon at a rate that’s “a magnitude higher than what current science says is possible.”

“It doesn’t take long to bring life back” to the soil doing such things, he noted. “... It’s the way Nature knows.”

Event host Adam Sacks noted there’s been “a good exponential curve” in public interest in regenerative agricultural practices. While that’s “an extraordinary paradigm shift,” it’s still notably a minority in terms of farming acreage.

To him, climate is not a technological problem, but a “biological problem.” Working with the animals and plants helps biodiversity recover – “all kinds of things start coming back.”

LaSalle agreed, noting that promoting the change requires reaching out to farmers who may be “climate deniers.” Instead of selling it to them that way, he advocated providing evidence the change would save them money (especially on chemicals), give them healthier plants and cleaner water and better profits. Furthermore, he added, recent trials using no or far less fertilizer with regenerative methods grew the same quality of corn at lower cost than chemical-heavy methods.

As an example, he pointed to an Australian regenerative farmer who has been able to double his crop yield while also buying up acreage from nearby failing traditional farmers.

At a large scale, though, getting there requires fixing the fact that, as we’ve become more urbanized, we’ve increasingly lived in “concrete canyons lacking a real relationship with Nature,” he said. Computerized culture, even in farming itself, accelerates that.

In many respects, what we see has been driven by the misuse of psychology by Madison Avenue. He noted advertisers latched onto the ideas of Freud

to manipulate the public or their own profit, but some of it can be reversed.

Companies know “to have a business 20 years from now, they have to get a handle on climate change,” he said. A key part of that is turning agriculture back into a “carbon-capture system,” when it now is not, and recognizing that all energy sources are sunlight-based.

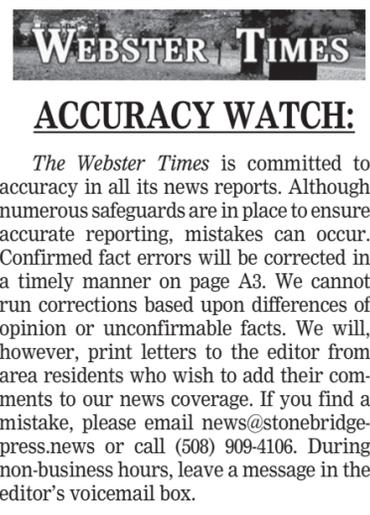
That’s a reference to the fact fossil fuels are concentrated plant life of 60 million years ago, solar is current sunlight, wind is the motion of air driven by solar heat, and even nuclear power comes from atoms produced at the cores of ancient stars. Most current systems pump carbon into the atmosphere at some stage of their process, and even hydroponics won’t help reduce CO2, LaSalle noted. Although hydroponics don’t have the contaminants of standard agriculture, he’s not sure how their crops compare to regenerative ones nutritionally, and would like to see it studied.

When asked about organic farming, he observed those soils “can be as dead or nearly as dead” as conventional farms because of tillage, which breaks up the soil communities.

“Who needs to profit from this? Earth needs to profit from what we do.” LaSalle asked rhetorically, adding our present culture “has been destructive of what produces life on this planet.”

LaSalle’s talk was the most recent of WGBH’s “Life Saves the Planet” series presented by Biodiversity for a Living Climate (www.bio4climate.org).

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



WEBSTER TIMES
ACCURACY WATCH:
The Webster Times is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected in a timely manner on page A3. We cannot run corrections based upon differences of opinion or unconfirmable facts. We will, however, print letters to the editor from area residents who wish to add their comments to our news coverage. If you find a mistake, please email news@stonebridgepress.com or call (508) 909-4106. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voicemail box.



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GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Solair Recreation in Woodstock CT has a full time position for a Maintenance worker. This position involves projects and preventative maintenance. The campground is open to members year-round. The successful candidate should be able to work with limited supervision, have a working knowledge of mechanical systems, carpentry, painting and basic electric and plumbing skills. The position also requires some supervision of volunteers who assist with many of the duties.

Job duties include but are not limited to: Plowing snow, cleaning sites and grounds, maintaining a pool, hot tub, general landscaping, escorting guests to site, general labor and general minor repairs. Previous maintenance experience is required, some on the job training will be provided. Must be flexible with hours of availability as holidays and weekends are required during the season.

This is a salaried position. Please send your resume and salary requirements.



Send letter of interest and resume to Jobs@SolairRRL.com

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 20-26.

Nelson Blanco, Jr., age 31, of Springfield was arrested on Sept. 20 in connection with a warrant.

Tanya L. Beeber, age 46, of Oxford was arrested on Sept. 21 in connection with a warrant.

Nicholas Jon Holmes, age 38, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on Sept. 22 for Failure to Stop or Yield, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Receiving Stolen Property valued at less than \$1,200.

Joseph E. Nolette, age 53, of Auburn was arrested on Sept. 23 for Failure to Wear a Seat Belt and in connection with multiple warrants.

Michael A. Chapdelaine, age 56, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 23 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License (subsequent offense) and operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

An adult female whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 24 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 28-year-old male from Webster was taken into protective custody on Sept. 25.

Daekharie Nix, age 26, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 25 in connection with a warrant.

Edwin Rafael Beauchamp, age 40, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 26 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation.

Ronald J. Vancelette, age 49, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 26 in connection with a warrant.

Miguel Angel Alcoba, age 41, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 26 in connection with a warrant.

Savanna M. Brioso, age 28, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 26 in connection with a warrant.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

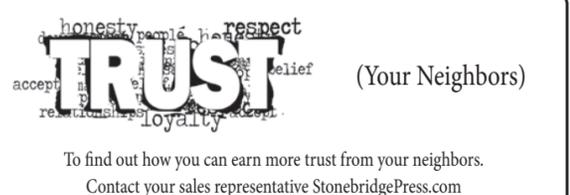
DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 18-25.

Brian D. Duffy, age 19, of Southborough was arrested on Sept. 19 for Possession

of Liquor by a Person Under 21, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation.

Logan David Picard, age 19, of Northborough was arrested during the same traffic stop for possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle and Possession of Liquor by a Person Under 21.

Robert O. Gagne, age 28, of North Oxford was arrested on Sept. 20 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (second offense), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation.



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Friday's Child



Photo by Linda Fitzpatrick

Gianna Age 13

Hi! My name is Gianna and I am up for adventures!

Gianna is an outgoing and friendly girl of African American and Caucasian descent. Though she is quiet when she first meets people, she is sweet, friendly and funny with a great sense of humor! Gianna is very interested in gymnastics, running and walking 5K's, and cheerleading. Gianna's social worker describes her as a resilient child who is very determined and kind hearted.

Gianna has attended weekend sleep away retreats with her sister through the sibling connections programs on a few occasions and has enjoyed this opportunity. Any opportunity to spend time with her sister is enjoyed and anticipated greatly by Gianna. She is supported by an IEP in school and has developed some very close relationships with her support staff there. She has begun to take great pride in her work and earned honor roll all of the past academic year. Gianna works hard in school and truly appreciates the positive feedback and recognition that she receives as a result.

Legally freed for adoption, Gianna would do best in a single-female-parent or two-female-parent home where she is the youngest or only child. She will need continued contact with her younger sister who is placed separately. Gianna loves animals and learning about how to care for them and would love to have a pet. In a future home, Gianna hopes to have her own room. Her social worker is open to exploring local families that could potentially start off as a visiting resource for her in order to build a relationship prior to placement.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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Design pro Andre Mills illustrates graphics' power to persuade

WORCESTER — Professional graphic designer, illustrator and caricaturist Andre K. Mills will illustrate graphics' power to persuade in The Communicators Club's Oct. 6 virtual event.

Sometimes, words aren't enough. An often-overlooked component in raising awareness — and the personality profile — of a business and brand is through memorable graphic design. Mills will explain the power of graphics in a Zoom presentation set for noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. The \$10 program fee includes networking opportunities and the chance for those attending to pro-

mote their business before the main discussion begins. A question-and-answer session will follow his talk.

Mills, a Jamaica native who majored in art at the University of Lowell (now UMass Lowell), plans to address the following areas of interest:

- Defining graphic design.
- Detailing how it's best used to convey ideas and concepts in the enterprise.
- Describing the impact strong visual communication can have on people, businesses and the world-at-large.

Mills' Lowell-based digital services include logo, website and animation creation; he also draws caricatures and portraits, and commissioned work that includes T-shirt and book illustrations.

To register for the program, go to <https://conta.cc/32F2dsr>. For more information about The Communicators Club, visit <https://communicatorsclub.org/>.

About The Communicator's Club (TCC)

Just as communications and the roles of diverse jobs within communications have morphed and expanded since the 1950s, TCC has grown and changed. The Communicators Club today is a blend of the Society of Professional Communicators (founded in 1951 as the Worcester County Editors Council) and the former AdClub of Greater Worcester. Membership reflects twenty-first-century professional communications—advertisers, writers, editors, multimedia design and production specialists, marketers, and public relations experts—all work toward an integrated marketing approach that's crucial to success in today's marketplace. The Communicators Club's monthly pro-



Andre Mills

grams provide professional development from industry experts, networking and other opportunities in a friendly, informal atmosphere, all online this year.

QCC president decries marginalization at Barton Lecture

WORCESTER — Advocating for the under-privileged and underserved has been a hallmark of Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja's career. Dr. Pedraja was the recent keynote speaker at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology Barton Lectureship. He spoke on the multiple pandemics plaguing our society in a webinar, "Living in the Margins: Equity, Education, and Theology in the Age of Pandemics."

The Roy D. Barton Lectureship was established in 1995, to honor Dr. Barton for his service to the seminary and his service to the Hispanic United Methodist Church. Through these lectures, participants have heard from the leading Hispanic/Latino scholars in theological education and church leaders who have made a significant impact on the Hispanic/Latino church and beyond.

"I had the pleasure of working with Roy and considered him a colleague and a friend," said Dr. Pedraja, who taught religion, philosophy, and theology at SMU from 1994-2000.

Dr. Pedraja's webinar defined and explored the topic of the "margins," as it relates to economic gaps, changes in ethnic and racial demographics, and the roles of the Church and higher education in the new decade. He focused on the historic racism that has plagued society and looked at racism through the lens of education, addressing issues such as underfunding K-12, diminished resources, lack of educational role models, legacy of segregation, criminalization and labeling, high stakes tests, cost of education and underfunding of minority serving institutions.

"These barriers and many others contribute to the growing equity gap in colleges," he said. He used the example of the higher education equity gap in Massachusetts, a state known for its contributions to higher education.

"The college attainment gap between white females and Latino males exceeds 40%. These gaps are not accidental, they are the result of a broken education system that intentionally marginalizes segments of the population," Dr. Pedraja said, noting the declining state investment in public and higher education for educational institutions that cater to the under-served populations.

Today, community colleges serve close to 50 percent of all undergraduates in the nation and serve more than 30 percent of minority populations. Dr. Pedraja added that at QCC, the minority percentage is 40 percent, higher than any other

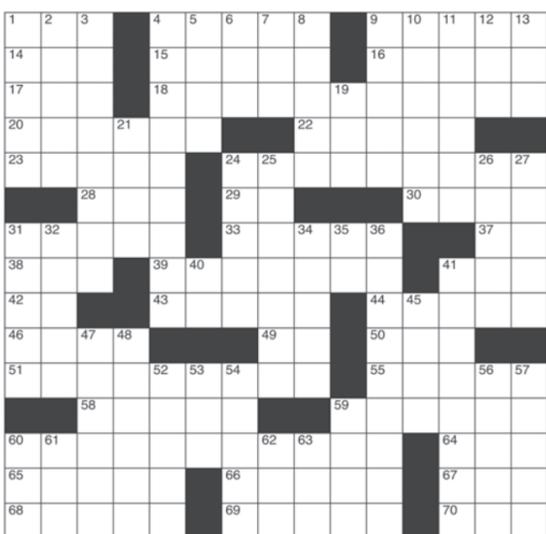
population sector yet in terms of state funding, all 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth only receive 25% of state funding allocation.

"We educate the most, yet we get the least support," he said.

Addressing why these equity gaps should matter to society, Dr. Pedraja said that beyond the immorality of continuing to allow this to persist, in the aftermath of the pandemic if this continues, the economic gap will continue to grow.

"Education is essential to economic and social stability. In order to dismantle marginalization, we must be as intentional as those who marginalize others. Our task is to equitably and continually expand our notion of 'we' until we include those that we define as 'they,'" he said. "The equity gaps that exist in our society must be acknowledged and dismantled in education and even in theology."

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.



CLUES ACROSS

- Part of (abbr.)
- Persons
- Moved with a curving trajectory
- Bitterly regret
- Cause to feel embarrassed
- Type of toast
- Bobby __, NHL champ
- Analogies
- Mixes
- Beloved flowers
- Clinton special prosecutor
- Avoids
- Innermost brain membrane: __ mater
- Atomic #18
- Remain as is
- One who's been canonized
- Indian king or prince
- The Bay State
- Forms adjectives
- Give off
- Partner to flow
- Biblical Sumerian city
- Popular clothing material
- Organism parts
- Central US Native American people
- Blood type
- Wrath
- Perennial tropical grass
- Vetches
- Buffaloes
- Envelope type
- Tuberculosis
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Pops
- Indo-European languages
- Fiddler crabs
- Large bank
- Not fresh
- Scientist's device (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- High schoolers' dances
- Style of rock music
- Maryland athlete
- Softened by soaking
- Native Aussies
- Some are on it
- Clairvoyance
- Broken piece
- Wrong
- Starts over
- Where to hang clothes
- One point north of due east
- Gov't lawyers
- Mass of eggs in a shellfish
- Smile
- Wrap
- A citizen of Iran
- Island off the coast of Tanzania
- Attempts
- Beloved "Doctor"
- Type of turtle
- Leg (French)
- Indicates position
- Self-doubt
- Of I
- Retired but allowed to retain title
- Algerian port
- African country
- "Wayward Son" rockers
- Bring out of sleep
- Auburn legend Newton
- Heavy wooden shield in ancient Greece
- Choose to represent
- Peace
- Work hard
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Express delight
- Explosive
- Journalist Tarbell

PUZZLE SOLUTION

W	I	S		E	T	V	I	S		E	S	V	H	O
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REAL ESTATE

Dudley
\$440,000, 51 Pierpont Rd, Depot Road Charlton LLC, to Mankarios, Botros A, and Youssef, Samia.

\$303,000, 83 Oxford Ave, Morgan, Medhat, and Massoud, Beshoy, to Balbi, Vicente L.

\$135,000, 9 Chestnut St #21, Patwardhan, Natalia, and Patwardhan, Soumil, to Waldo, Lorna.

\$130,000, 6 Warsaw Ave #1, Lazo, Victoria A, to Jennifer L Chavarie IRT, and Dymek, Cheryl.

Oxford
\$485,000, 3 Overlook Ln, Cairns, Mathew A, and Cairns, David D, to Beck, Joseph, and Barbosa-Beck, Ma L.

\$200,000, 624 Main St #C, Crescent Builders Inc, to

Mcgarry, Jason.
\$186,000, 7 Aspen Dr, Carlson, Karen F, to Mendez, Carlos D.

\$99,900, George St, 37 George Street NT, and Conner Land T LLC Tr, to Ide, Mark, and Ide, Rebecca.

Webster
\$320,000, 1206 School St, Itse, Christopher, and Itse, Kristina, to Barton, Paula.

\$290,000, 7 Juniper Ln, Doros, Eleanor P, to Mountain, Kathleen E, and Mountain, William H.

\$268,500, 203 Beacon Park #203, Gogan, Joanna E, and Gogan, Joseph, to Kasierski, Christina, and Kasierski, Justyn.

\$10,000, Church Ct, Guay, Ann M, to Moore, Eugene, and Melendez, Carmen, Mgmt LLC.

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Shepherd Hill students recognized in National Merit Scholarship program

DUDLEY — William F. Chaplin, Jr., Principal of Shepherd Hill Regional High School, has announced that Olivia H. Cloutier and Serena J. Veilleux have been named Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although these students will not continue in the 2021 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, these Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5

million students who entered the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”



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OXFORD

continued from page A1

moved to amend it to eliminate the six-month element. He cited a board policy stating that when the attorney is asked to advise “we are to abide by his suggestion.” That was rejected 2-3.

Discussions at the Sept. 15 meeting, when this idea first came up, included a few referenc-

es that members did not want to have a temporary appointment that just kept going indefinitely.

Despite that technical dispute, the board members generally praised Jenkins for her experience and willingness to take on the duties on short notice. Several said something akin to Cheryll LeBlanc’s observation that this temporary slot is “an opportu-

nity to evaluate [Jenkins] and gives you the opportunity to evaluate the town, too.”

Jenkins agreed, saying she would apply if it is re-posted as a permanent job, noting she’s “willing to take that chance” that Town Meeting opts not to change the residency requirement.

“It’s my hope I can prove to you you’d like me to stay on,” she said.

Town Manager Jen Callahan said she interviewed three candidates. One would not have been able to start before Nov. 3, and the second was not qualified. Jenkins, by contrast, has about 20 years’ experience in Framingham, Southboro and Maynard, is certified in various aspects of the job, was Elections Coordinator in Framingham for seven

years and in general “has the notable experience we’re looking for.” She said her references were very good, identifying Jenkins as “highly organized, very attentive to detail,” “very intimately aware of the technology that goes into elections,” and otherwise skilled.

Jenkins said this will be her fifth presidential election, noting “it is a difficult one” because of

numerous changes due to Covid, early voting, federal requirements for overseas ballots and changed registration deadlines. She added that the state Elections Division is “constantly checking on us,” but feels “I truly believe I’m up for the challenge.”

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

WARRANT

continued from page A1

Article 9 seeks to set additional money aside for dangerous tree removal, after recent storms saw more than 75 calls about downed trees. Callahan said the current account is “far, far short of what we really need.”

Article 10 re-purposes capital money originally set aside for fire department breathing gear to purchase incident command vehicles. The department recently received a federal grant that will cover the full cost of breathing gear.

Article 11 aims to change the wording of the Robinson Pond Protection District bylaw to prohibit motorized boats that don’t have electric engines. Saad questioned that, too, prompting Callahan to clarify that the change will not affect other bodies of water, just those in that specific district.

Article 12 aims to correct a mistake from 1951. Back then, a couple parcels were taken in tax title and recently sold to the developer of a cannabis site. But finalizing the purchase and sale agreement found that the tax title had never been recorded on a “small sliver” of just 855 square feet, Callahan said.

The last two articles address small-scale chicken and duck ownership. One is a citizen petition that got 118 signatures. The other is the selectmen’s proposal to make owning up to six birds subject only to a license, rather than a special permit process.

Callahan said she thinks the latter “will address the concerns” raised by the former.

After selectmen approved the warrant, Callahan noted last year’s Fall Town Meeting needed “50-odd minutes to get quorum” of 100 people. In the spring, the state passed legislation allowing towns to reduce quorum to no less than 10 percent for Covid concerns, and she said she wanted to have that option available, but it would require reposting the warrant and selectmen’s approval at the Sept. 29 meeting.

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

NICHOLS

continued from page A1

es at their own pace. Students will be allowed to add new courses before the end of the term if they finish a course ahead of time. All courses will be structures for online learning with an annual subscription fee regardless of how many courses students take during the year. Students who complete the program will be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a management concentration attached.

Candidates for this new program must carry a minimum of 24 college credits into the program. Academic advisors will also be made available for students. Interested potential students can learn more about the program by visiting <http://pages.nichols.edu/cbe/>.

Dudley Cultural Council accepting grant requests

DUDLEY — Cultural Council Grant Requests for programs to be offered locally, in 2021, by the Dudley Cultural Council of the Town of Dudley must be submitted online at this Massachusetts Cultural Council website: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Dudley>, between Oct. 1 and Nov. 15. Applications are available on line only.

Grant requests must pass the MCC’s requirements and also must comply with the DCC’s Priorities. Applicants must have secured a venue and must submit a written commitment of location with the application. The DCC is stressing to applicants the importance of reviewing the updated DCC Priorities which must be adhered to for potential grant acceptance.

Grant requests will be reviewed for approval by the Board Members of the DCC in December - 2020. The approved grants will support a variety of artistic projects and activities and may include exhibits, artistic performances and activities, and lectures in various local venues such as: town schools, workshops, The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library, The Black Tavern, The Dudley Grange and The Dudley Senior Center.

If you have any questions, you may call the following Chairperson:

Ginni DiDonato at (508) 943-7511. The Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Local Cultural Council Programs represent all cities and towns in the Commonwealth. It is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation with the purpose of promoting rich cultural experiences for every Massachusetts citizen.

bankHometown earns recognition for quality, community commitment

OXFORD — bankHometown is pleased to announce that it was recently honored for overall quality and commitment to the community.

The bank earned several distinctions in the 2020 New England Banking Choice Awards, earning a spot among the top three banks in Massachusetts and top five banks in central/eastern Connecticut in Overall Quality, as well as among the top three banks in Community Contribution in its Connecticut region. The awards are presented annually by American Business Media, publishers of “Banking New England,” and are based on the results of the Rivel Banking Benchmarks, the largest and most comprehensive measure of banking customer experience in the world. The 2020 results are based on more than 17,000 interviews and nearly 500,000 reviews of more than 400

Massachusetts and Connecticut institutions.

The bank also was named an honoree by The Boston Business Journal in its annual 2020 Corporate Citizenship Awards, a recognition of the region’s top corporate charitable contributors. The Business Journal annually publishes this list to showcase companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities. Companies qualify for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities and social-service nonprofits last year.

“We’re honored to be named among the best banks for quality and community commitment in New England, and then to be recognized among the most benevolent companies in Massachusetts is just icing on the cake,” said President

and CEO Robert J. Morton. “Being here for our customers and giving back to our communities is what we’re all about.”

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, and has \$1.2 billion in assets and 16 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and north-eastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated more than \$328,000 to nearly 270 organizations. Over the last four years, the program has donated more than \$1.1 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

Webster First donates \$10,000 toward cancer research at UMass

WORCESTER — 2020 marks the fourth consecutive year that Webster First Federal Credit Union proudly sponsored the annual UMass Cancer Walk & Run. Every year, this event raises funds to support cancer research, clinical trials, and patient care for the UMass Cancer Center located in Worcester, where Webster First has its headquarters.

Speaking about the value and importance of supporting this cause, President/CEO Michael Lussier said, “The reality is that most of us have been personally affected by cancer whether

that be our family, friends, colleagues, or even ourselves. The Webster First team wanted to show our support for the UMass Cancer Walk because we saw how it brought the community together to raise awareness and it connected with our team on an emotional level. It is also meaningful to know that all funds raised through this event directly support cancer care, research, and clinical trials.”

The UMass Cancer Walk & Run was held Sunday, September 13th, 2020. This year, due to the uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic, the event

was held virtually. The virtual event featured special guest appearances from The Voice’s Toneisha Harris and Worcester native Ricky Duran.

About Webster First

Webster First Federal Credit Union serves the financial needs of Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Founded in 1928, Webster First is one of the largest credit unions in Massachusetts with over \$1B in assets and serving over 77,000 members.



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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

EDITORIAL

Leave the signs where they stand

As the days wind down to the Presidential election, we're seeing more division than ever. Fortunately, in smaller areas such as ours, it's largely business as usual, and people on both sides can still have friendly conversations, in person that is.

The online banter and sign stealing is another story, however. We must note that sign stealing is a crime that comes with a fine of \$1,000. Stealing signs will in no way sway someone to change their vote.

Beware the division that social media can sew and intended to sew all along. If you read something, don't automatically take it as fact. There's been a veer from reality due to social media trolls, with the sole purpose of dividing the country. We are better than that, and intelligent enough to see through it. We've said it before, if you see something you disagree with online, you don't need to jump on it and chime in. Think for yourself and trust your own ability to weed out what's true and what's not. Private conversations are also best. Further, commenting on a stranger's post is absolutely useless, don't even waste your time.

It's not OK to hate another person due to their political views. If someone disagrees on policy with you, that's ok. Maybe you don't want to go to Sunday brunch with that person, but there's no need to hate. It's especially hard when you see some individuals who think that acting mean and condescending is a sign of toughness. It's not. It just means they are simply, mean and condescending.

What's interesting is that the people you see on television shouting rude comments and carrying guns as a way to intimidate, probably don't like it when someone yells back. The second amendment was not intended to be used to intimidate fellow Americans into thinking the same way that we do. We think it's safe to say that those same individuals, prefer when people in their own lives are kind to them. So, what gives? The hate is exhausting.

While this may be easier said than done, if you see a sign that you don't agree with, at least try to appreciate the fact that in America we have the freedom to think differently from one another, and to make it known. For example, if you drive by a sign of a person you would not vote for, just shrug your shoulders and remember the freedom that those different signs represent. A freedom that must be protected.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
 We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.
 But first, you have to write us!
 Mail your letters to the Webster Times, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.
 Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.
 We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.
 Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.
 So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



Deny yourself to save yourself

I recently read about the life of St Maximillian Kolbe, the Polish Catholic priest who died in the Auschwitz Nazi death camp during WWII. His story is one of truly "denying yourself, taking up one's cross, and following Jesus Christ." When Germany invaded Poland, they began severely persecuting the church, especially the clergy. St. Maximillian knew that his monastery was in danger, so he told most of the monks to leave and seek safe refuge elsewhere. He remained with a few monks and began providing shelter for thousands of internal refugees, including more than 2000 Jews. Although he was threatened by the Gestapo, he persisted in this risky ministry of love for two years. Finally, the day came when the Nazis arrested him and the few other monks who stayed, sending them all to the Auschwitz concentration camp in May 1941.



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

and to lose our lives for others. Yet this is precisely the fundamental teaching of our Lord. It's interesting to note when Jesus said this to his followers. It was right after they answered the most important question "Who do people say that I am?" with the declaration "You are the Christ." The disciples finally understand who Jesus is, and he then reveals to them the path of true discipleship. If they want to sincerely follow Him, they must walk the way of self-denial. They must be ready to give up their life, to lose it for others and for the sake of the Gospel. This is precisely the path of the Cross in which we discover the greatest meaning of life!

His self-denial reached a climax two months into his time at Auschwitz. The Nazis had the practice of killing 10 random prisoners every time someone escaped the concentration camp. One day, a prisoner from St. Maximillian's bunker escaped, and the commander of the camp quickly rounded up the entire bunker and selected 10 men to be placed in the starvation hole. As he selected the 10 men, one of them named Francis began crying out, "My poor wife! My children! What will they do?"

As these cries of despair rose to the deaf ears of the Nazis, St. Maximillian broke rank from the other prisoners and boldly approached the commandant. The commandant was just as shocked at the audacity of the man who approached him, as he was by his words: "I am a priest. I would like to take the place of this man, because he has a wife and children."
 The Commandant stood in silence, and then surprisingly agreed. St. Maximillian took the place of Francis Gajowniczek, and the 10 condemned men were led away to the starvation bunker, where they remained without food or water until they starved to death. On Aug. 14, 1941, at the age of 47 years, St. Maximillian died, having given his life for another man. Francis

Gajowniczek survived the horror of the camp, and the war itself, living to the age of 95. He never forgot St. Maximillian's selfless love.
 In the Gospel, we hear Jesus say, "If you want to become my follower, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:35)
 Our society doesn't often encourage us to deny ourselves

with faith, fortitude, and hope. Ultimately, following Jesus isn't about what we want! Christ shatters our egocentric world and leads us to a new discovery of being. As the Apostle Paul so clearly stated in today's epistle: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Are we willing to give up our own will and honestly pray, "Your will be done?"
 Here lies the most important discovery for every authentic follower of Jesus - we deny ourselves and give up our freedom to discover something greater than ourselves. We are free, yet Christ-centered freedom leads us to use our freedom not for ourselves, but for others. We are free to love others, even when they don't love us; free to forgive others, even if they choose to hold a grudge against us; free to treat others kindly and to treat others as we want them to treat us, even if they don't reciprocate in like manner. In other words, we use our freedom to deny ourselves and live under the reign of God's kingdom here and now, even in a fallen world!

Understanding this type of freedom helps us better comprehend today's strange invitation of our Lord: "If you want to become my follower, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it."
 Let me conclude with another story, one not quite as serious as St. Maximillian, but one still with an important lesson. Several years ago, there was a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare blood disorder. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five year old brother Johnny, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his older sister. The little boy hesitated for only a brief moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save my sister." As the transfusion progressed, the boy laid in bed next to his sister, he smiled at her. Slowly the color in his sister's cheeks began to return, while his own face grew pale and slowly his smile faded. As he looked up at the doctor, he asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being so young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor and thought he was going to give his sister all of his blood. For love's sake, he was willing to deny himself, to give up his life in order to save his sister. Here is the power of sacrificial love!

Our Lord made many promises to His followers: "Follow me on a journey into the Kingdom of God and you will discover God's peace that passes all understanding. I will be with you and will never abandon you to the end of the age. Come to me all you who are burdened and heavy laden and I'll give you rest. I will reveal to you the path toward paradise and fill your life with the deepest meaning and purpose. I adopt you as my precious and beloved child and will help you discover your eternal heritage as my cherished children."
 "If you choose to follow me, all of these precious promises await you," the Lord says, "HOWEVER you must understand that the path which leads to this truly blessed life is the path of self-denial, of crucifying your ego. Becoming my disciple won't include the easy, comfortable and prosperous path that society idolizes."
 No! To walk intimately with Jesus means rejecting the self-centered life and walking an other-centered life; it means turning away from the spirit of this world and seeking first the kingdom of God; it means denying certain pleasures and desires in order to place something more eternal and meaningful at the center of our lives; it means accepting whatever cross God allows to come our way and bearing that cross

No fines associated with painted lines



CHIEF'S CORNER
 STEVE WOJNAR

Roadway markings and signs often result in questions. I was recently asked about stop lines painted on roads. Some dead-end side streets have stop lines at the intersection without a sign present. The question was, can a driver be written a citation in the event they do not stop at these locations?

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 89 Section 9, covers stop sign regulations. The obligation of a driver is to stop at an intersection where there is a posted stop sign or red signal light. The white line is present to indicate the location where a vehicle should stop. The law states a vehicle "shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it." The penalty for a stop sign violation is a \$35 civil infraction.

Stop lines have been painted in many locations throughout town. Certain streets that do not have signs already, may be designated for one in the future. In those places, these lines can be considered "advisory," and not necessarily the subject of a fine. These can serve as a warning for drivers, particularly those who may be unfamiliar with the area. Through traffic is most likely traveling by the approaching street, and therefore, drivers should be prepared to take appropriate measures. As always, should a crash occur, the circumstances are considered on a case by case basis. It is always advisable to proceed with caution at any intersection, even those with signs or traffic lights, to avoid accidents and prevent injuries.

In addition to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is a great deal of turmoil taking place in our state and around the country. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I continue to thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, government and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. We 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. 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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make your voice heard

To the Editor:
 We are living in a time when our beloved country is in crisis. Never before in our history have our leaders strayed so far from truth, morality and the principles of democracy. What has happened to basic decency and caring? We are drowning in the raging waters of deceit, bigotry and greed.
 A devastating pandemic has ravaged our country, and our President and his followers have distorted scientific facts and hidden the truth. Bigotry and hatred have led to senseless violence across our nation. Our military service men and women have been outrageously disrespected. Most unimaginable of all-children have been taken from their mother's arms at our border and put in cages and many will never see their parents again. These are facts, not fake news and

not exaggerated, and it is shameful.
 The United States of America has always been the leader of the world, and a shining beacon of hope, lighting the path to a better future. Many of the alliances the United States has forged with other nations have now been destroyed by this president and his administration.
 You may feel that we are helpless and that there is really nothing a person can do to make things better. Here's the good news, there is something everyone can do - vote! Let's make America a shining example of democracy and a respected world leader once again. Please vote. It is a cherished right and privilege.
 The Dudley Democratic Town Committee endorses Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. We ask that you consider voting for them on November 3rd.

They will work hard to unite our country and bring back the values we cherish. This is the most important election of our lifetime. Let your voice be heard, and vote.

If you're not sure how to or where to vote, you can message the Dudley Democratic Town Committee, Oxford Democratic Town Committee and the Webster Democratic Town Committee on Facebook.

Charles Marlborough and Liza Moran Co-Chairs, Dudley Democratic Town Committee, et al
 Mary L. Wells Chair, Oxford Democratic Town Committee, et al
 Brian Beckwith Vice Chair, Webster Democratic Town Committee, et al

A good time to get outside



Photos Courtesy

Two nice Tautog taken aboard FishNet Charters this past Saturday.

The cool weather that we enjoyed last week is a sign of things to come before winter sets in. It is why I love New England so much. If you do not like the weather today, just wait a few weeks and sometimes, a few days, and it will be changing. The hot, muggy weather that we experienced a few weeks ago was hard on the elderly, but now that the fall weather is here, everyone can enjoy the outdoors. Hunting and fishing is being enjoyed by many more residents of Mass. since the pandemic started. Hunting and fishing equipment was flying off the shelves since spring, and restocking of the equipment has not happened.

Guns and ammunition are almost impossible to purchase, with ammuni-



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

tion being the hardest to get. Many target shooters are not practice shooting at ranges because of the shortage. It took a pandemic for some residents to find the outdoors, and their new activities.

People are also doing the basic things like spending more time with their family, and enjoying meals together. Many now realize what they have been missing all of their life! Having someone else raise their kids, is now being done by their parents. Being taught to respect others, as well as law enforcement, is something my parents taught us at a very young age.

Upstate New York's famous Salmon River exploded with action last week, according to Fat Nancy's Tackle shop in Pulaski. Rainbow trout, Big Brown



This could be you! Courtesy of Fat Nancy's Bait & Tackle Shop.

trout, Steelhead, Coho, and King salmon are all in the river at the same time. Sure wish I was there! Low water conditions still hampered the migration of fish, but this week rain was expected to hopefully increase the water in the river, making fishing even better, if that is possible.

The long hot summer did have its upside, as far as mosquitos and ticks are concerned. Sitting in the back yard early evenings was a lot more enjoyable without the constant humming of a swarm of mosquitos ready to suck your blood dry, for their evening meal. I have not found a single tick on my dogs this year, and they have spent some time in the woods. They still need their monthly dose of medications to avoid heart worm and Lyme disease.

Captain Mel True of "Fish Net Charters" has been doing very well catching Tautog and Seabass after spending some time tied up to the

dock waiting for the seas to calm down after all of the tropical depressions passed. The fall fishing is heating up on all fronts and should provide anglers with some great fishing before winter sets in. This week's second picture shows a couple of Capt. Mel's clients with a couple of real nice Tautog taken last weekend.

By the time you read this column, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife should be stocking trout in their annual spots that receive trout every year. If the predicted rain happens, they should start their fall trout stocking program this week.

Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury received a large stocking of 12 inch Northern Pike recently by MFW. They sure do like to put all of their eggs in one basket.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Cynthia Grabowski and Danny Ray Marable w/s/a Danny R. Marable to IndyMac Bank, F.S.B., dated February 23, 2004 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32976, Page 32 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as Trustee for the registered holders of ACE Securities Corp. Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2004-IN1, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates is the present holder by Assignment from Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver for IndyMac Bank, F.S.B. to HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as Trustee for the registered holders of ACE Securities Corp. Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2004-IN1, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates dated March 18, 2016 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 55857, Page 66, and Assignment from Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver for IndyMac Federal Bank, FSB f/k/a IndyMac Bank, F.S.B. to HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as Trustee for the registered holders of ACE Securities Corp. Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2004-IN1, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates dated December 4, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 59911, Page 332, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 249 North Main Street, Webster, MA 01570 will be sold at a Public Auction at 11:00 AM on October 13, 2020, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: All that certain parcel of land situate on the westerly side of North Main Street in Webster, in the County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being known and designated as Lot No. 14 as shown on a plan in sub-division showing properties of Slater Mills, Inc. and Slater Co., Inc., Webster, Mass., drawn by B. A. Wakefield, Eng., dated April, 1935 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 85, Plan 37. Together with the right of common use in certain sewers, drains and cesspools as described in Deed Book 31162, Page 184, Recorded 08/08/2003. The premises is more particularly described in the Deed(s) recorded at Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 31162, Page 184 to wit: The land in Webster, Massachusetts and being a certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated on the westerly side of North Main Street in said Webster and bounded as follows: BEGINNING at a stake driven into the ground in the

Westerly line of said North Main Street at Lot #13 as designated on a plan hereinafter mentioned, and being the Southeasterly angle of the tract hereby conveyed; THENCE Westerly 66.2 feet by said Lot #13 to a stake in the ground on the Easterly line of Lot #16; THENCE Northerly 35 feet by said Lot #16 to a stake in the ground at land now or formerly of Slater Mills, Inc. and being the Northeasterly corner of Lot #16; THENCE Northeasterly 30 feet by land now or formerly of Slater Mills, Inc. to a stake in the ground deflecting to the right and extending Easterly a distance of 41.9 feet by land now or formerly of Slater Mills, Inc., to a stake in the ground on the Westerly line of said North Main Street; THENCE Southerly 55 feet by said North Main Street to the point of beginning. Being Lot #14 as shown on a plan in subdivision showing properties of Slater Mills, Inc., and Slater Co., Inc., Webster Mass., drawn by B. A. Wakefield Eng., dated April, 1935 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 85, Plan 37. Said premises are conveyed subject to and together with the right of common use in certain sewers, drains, and cesspools as they now exist but without obligation on the Slater Mills, Inc., its successors and assigns, to maintain or repair or clean the same and without any other liability of the Slater Mills, Inc., its successors or assigns, in connection therewith, but such right of use over remaining land of the Slater Mills, Inc., not shown as numbered lots on plan hereinbefore referred to and not shown as streets abutting such numbered lots may be terminated by the Slater Mills, Inc., its successors and assigns, as owner of the servient estate, upon ninety days notice to the owner of the within described premises whenever a municipal sewer or a sewer at the expense of the Slater Mills, Inc., its successors and assigns, has been constructed or provided within reasonable access for connection with existing sewers and drains serving the within granted premises. For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31162, Page 184. The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession. Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder

to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale. HSBC Bank USA, N.A., as Trustee for the registered holders of ACE Securities Corp. Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2004-IN1, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Grabowski, Cynthia Estate of, 10-000702
September 18, 2020
September 25, 2020
October 2, 2020

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A
Notice is hereby given by: School Street Towing 17-31 School Street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C., Section 39A, that on: 10 Oct 2020 at 9:00 AM at 17-31 School Street, Webster MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
Vehicle description: Year 2007 Make: Hyundai Model: Elantra Registration#/State: Unregistered VIN: KMH-DU46DX7U022240
Name and address of vehicle owner Destiny Masi Lopez 21 2nd Island Road, Webster MA 01570
By Frank A Czechowski Jr.
September 14, 2020.
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.C. 255, Section 39A.
September 25, 2020
October 2, 2020
October 9, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P0267EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
Kevin L. Gardell
Date of Death: 12/02/2019
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has

been filed by:
Mark E. Gardell of Webster MA requesting that court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/13/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 21, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM
Notice of License Application pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 91 Waterways License Application Number BRPWW06
DOCK
NOTIFICATION DATE:
October 2, 2020
Public notice is hereby given of the application by Scott Anderson to [maintain an existing or construct and maintain a proposed: pier/dock at 8 Fairfield Street Webster, MA, 01570.
The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received by within 30 days subsequent to the "Notification Date". Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4) (c). The group of citizens must include no less than five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located.
Additional information regarding this application may be obtained by contacting the Waterways Regulation Program at 617-292-5929. Project plans and documents for this application are on file with the Waterways Regulation Program for public viewing, by appointment only, at the address below.
Written comments must be addressed to: MassDEP's Waterways Regulation Program [select Boston, Southeast or Western Regional office**] located at [insert mailing address of the appropriate regional office].
October 2, 2020

OBITUARIES

Irene Zajac, 100



Irene (Johnson) Zajac, of Dudley died Monday at Harrington Hospital from Natural causes. She was born on December 14, 1919, in the wake of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and left this

world 100 years later in the wake of the Covid 19 Pandemic. She was predeceased by a husband, Charles Zajac in 2005 (age 95) and a daughter, Linda Zajac Marin in 2009 (age 58). She leaves behind a brother, Peter Johnson of Brookfield, a son, Jeffrey Zajac of Dudley and beloved nieces, Deborah Chabot of Mansfield, CT and Marlene Pehler of Dudley.

She spent nearly a decade as Acquisitions Librarian at Nichols College in the 1980's, but her great passion was natural health and healing through proper nutrition. She was an avid reader with an extensive library of books on alternative medicine and healing. She became close friends with the late Adelle Davis, a pioneering nutritionist, lecturer and author of a number of books still referenced today in the field of nutrition.

Having been born prematurely and being a sickly child she contracted

Rheumatic Fever at the age of 8 years. Having overheard the doctor tell her mother: "This child will not see 12 years old" she was determined to get as healthy as possible and learned as much about health as she could. Her maternal grandmother was a midwife and herbalist from Europe and with her help and reading what little was available regarding nutrition she managed to regain health.

She opted for organic foods whenever possible and maintained a strict supplementation regimen. The doctor told her in her early 30's that she would never see age 40 owing to her damaged heart valve as a result of the Rheumatic Fever. Finally at age 80 in June of 2000, she had an Aortic Valve replacement at the Cleveland Clinic and told that owing to her age she should expect 10 good years from the valve which would bring her to 90, as none of them assumed that she would actually reach that age. Twenty years later she passed away.

What she had that amazed all of her doctors was amazing resilience. Her favorite saying was; "Your health is your wealth". She is a lady who defied all of the odds for over 100 years before peacefully slipping away only a few months short of her 101st birthday. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Janet M. Arcieri, 83



WEBSTER - Janet M. "Jan" (Marois) Arcieri, 83, died Thursday, September 24, 2020.

She leaves her husband of 57 years, Ronald V. "Ron" Arcieri; 4 children, Paul R. Arcieri of Webster, Maria E. Arcieri and her spouse Linda M. Monroe of Beverly, Anita J. Bugan and her fiancé Jim Lambert of Dudley, and Marc P. Arcieri and his partner Heidi Chatfield of Woodstock, CT. Jan was the proud grandmother of 7 grandchildren, Janelle, Marla and Jillian Arcieri, Jocelyn, Leah and Jack Bugan, Oliver Arcieri and a great grandchild, Myles Lamica. Additionally she leaves a brother, Roger Marois of New Jersey and was predeceased by 3 sisters, Claire Vigeant, Suzanne Marois and Irene Smith. She also leaves many nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

Jan was born on March 29, 1937 at the family home in Worcester, the daughter of George and Eva (Boucher) Marois. She graduated from the former Ascension High School in Worcester in 1955. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree in both social work and music from Anna Maria College in Paxton in 1959. She completed further studies at Fordham University in Manhattanville, NY.

Jan was a social worker at Tri-Valley Elder Services in Southbridge and later became the co-director, along with her

husband Ron, of the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Worcester, before retiring in 2002. In addition to offering spiritual direction in her home for many years, Jan was involved in several other groups, including RCIA, WOW (Women of Wisdom) and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl Ministry was near and dear to Jan's heart because of the comfort the shawls brought to those whose need was greatest.

She was a foundational member of Saint Louis Church and a lector there. Her involvement also included teaching religious education classes at the parish for many years. On the diocesan level, she was a member of the Diaconate Selection Committee. An accomplished musician, she was a concert pianist in her earlier years. She received the Joan of Arc award from Anna Maria College.

Her funeral was held on Monday, September 28, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street (please meet at church). Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Guidelines regarding Covid 19 will be observed and everyone is asked to wear a face mask. Donations in her name may be made to either Catholic Charities, 10 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610 or to Catholic Relief Services, 228 W Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main St., Webster. http://www.scanlonfs.com

Robert W. Pye, 77



WEBSTER - Robert W. Pye, 77, passed away peacefully on the morning of September 11, 2020 while at the Blaire House in Milford.

Robert is survived by his longtime girlfriend Deborah Coolidge of Holliston.

Robert was born in Worcester, MA on November 8, 1942, son of the late James D. and Antonina (Kaseta) Pye; he was predeceased by three brothers: Jimmy, Richard, and Dennis, and two sisters: Betty and Patricia. Robert

worked for the Montrose Wire and Cable Company for many years; he very much enjoyed bowling, playing horseshoes and playing his mandolin.

Please consider making a memorial contribution to the Dudley Police Department Gift Fund or Kosciuszko Society (Bush Hall) in honor of Robert.

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

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

The positive solution is American optimism

I awoke this morning, thinking, "When pessimists pick up a brick, they throw it, but when optimists pick up the same brick, they build something positive and useful."

There is much in the news as I pen this column about Judge Amy Comey Barrett and her spiritual beliefs. She is an enthusiastic participant in her Roman Catholic faith and that seems to offend some and frighten others. How is it we've come back to this point?

Criticize her for her rulings on the bench. Her political ideology is certainly fair game and open for debate. Roe v Wade, the Affordable Care Act ... there are many areas of her public, professional and ideological life that can be debated, but I believe there is one area that is off limits and that's her family. And when it comes to her faith, politicians should tread very lightly. Unless her faith is leading her to break the law or have some life view that is so extreme as to be completely out of the American mainstream, which she does not ... her faith should also be off limits.

How did we get here? The ideological differences are stretching us to limits that are in danger of tearing apart the very fabric of our nation. I believe our national character is in danger of being scarred forever, and in the process, altering our very way of life. The rational majority of people across the nation must stand up and reject the violence in the streets and political vitriol that is pulling us apart.

Optimistic people do not react this way to ideological differences.

No nation in history has shared, nurtured, and prospered, with such powerful optimism as the United States of America. When people talk about "American Exceptionalism," I believe we are talking about our optimistic spirit and positive belief in our future. I don't believe we are smarter or better than other nations, but I am certain that it has always been our optimism in our future that has propelled us into world leadership. I believe the ultimate optimism is our history of faith that has created the foundation of our constitution and is woven tightly into the fabric of our nation.

Scripture speaks of Thomas and how his doubts brought a risen Jesus to his side to proclaim, "Blessed are those who believe but have not seen."

Judge Amy Coney Barrett, by all accounts, lives the life of a faithful believer and again, it seems to offend some and threaten others. Within twenty-four hours, her faith has been dragged through the mud and her family criticized. I read an opinion commentator who said it was



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

wrong for her to adopt two children with different skin pigmentation from Haiti, as it caused them some type of psychological damage. Another criticized her for not aborting a child with down-syndrome. Are there no limits? I'll not comment on her political leanings, but I'll

fervently defend with deep admiration, this judge, and her family for not only practicing but living out their faith.

You can be an optimist and not like the President's choice. You can be a positive person yet disagree with this nominee's rulings from the bench, but optimistic people do not try to damage those with whom they disagree. Optimistic people enter debates believing something better will come because of the discussion. Positive people believe that others with differences of opinion can still work together for the betterment of our nation and world. An optimist will not throw bricks, damage other people's property and physically harm others over ideological differences. When an optimist has a brick in hand, they build something positive and beautiful.

I am confident that rational people on both sides of the political debate can find common ground and return our nation from the brink. I believe in American Optimism. But let me assure you that believing in optimism is only half the battle. We must rise together and demand an end to the vitriol that's tearing us apart. Both extreme sides will stand and point fingers at the other side, but I assure you, it is coming from the extremes on both sides. Those in the extremes will never admit fault, it's going to take those of us in the middle who believe this nation and our values are worth saving, to rise up without a brick in our hand and say enough is enough.

I believe it will be "American Optimism" that will save us. The silent majority of us in the middle must demand more and better from our elected officials. Write your representatives in all branches of government and on both sides of the aisle and tell them enough is enough. Right now, they are only hearing from the extreme pessimists on both sides, and as such, it is the vocal and negative minority that will drive us over the cliff unless we stop them.

I believe in "American Optimism." I believe in the collective "us."

What will you do today with your brick?

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

Financial moves for life's 'Inflection Points'

You've probably heard or read about inflection points. The term has a specific definition in mathematics, but it's also used widely to describe historical or technological events, such as the Industrial Revolution or the creation of the internet - events that changed human existence in some important way. However, you have personal inflection points, too - and when they occur, you'll need to make the right financial moves.

Here are four of the most important of these inflection points, along with suggestions on dealing with them:

Marriage - When you get married, you and your spouse will need to discuss a variety of financial issues: What assets and liabilities do you each bring to the marriage? Should you combine your finances or continue with separate accounts? Is one of you a "saver" while the other is a "spender"? Do you share similar investment philosophies, or is one of you much more aggressive than the other? You don't necessarily have to agree on everything, but you should at least try to gain enough knowledge so you can avoid unpleasant surprises, such as hidden debts, and find enough common ground so your household can advance toward your common financial goals.

New child - When you welcome a new child into your family, you'll need to make sure you have adequate life insurance. You'll



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also want to review the beneficiary designations on any existing insurance policies, as well as on your IRA and 401(k). And if you can afford it, you may want to start contributing to a college fund, possibly using a 529 savings plan, which can provide you with tax advantages as you put money away for your child's higher education.

Divorce - It's unfortunate, but true: Divorce is still pretty common, and it's neither pleasant nor cheap. You might not be able to avoid some of the costs, such as lawyers' bills, but if you and your ex-spouse can work together amicably, you both may be able to avoid serious financial disruptions. You'll need to work out how to divide your financial assets, paying attention to beneficiary designations, which you may well need to change. Also, as a newly single individual, you may need to review and revise your long-term investment strategy to accommodate changes in your goals and your retirement income.

Retirement - By the time you retire, you will have hopefully been investing in your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan for several decades. But once you do retire, you'll

need to determine how much you can afford to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts. Your withdrawal rate will depend on your age, your asset level and your retirement lifestyle. And you'll also want to consider other issues: Are you

prepared to deal with health care costs? Even with Medicare, these costs may be higher than they were when you were working. And how about your estate plans? Are they up to date? Have you protected your family from the possibility of your estate going through the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate? You may need to work with your financial, tax and legal advisors to develop an effective estate strategy.

By making smart decisions following your own inflection points, you can ease the transitions in your life - wherever life takes you.

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 Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Member SPIC.

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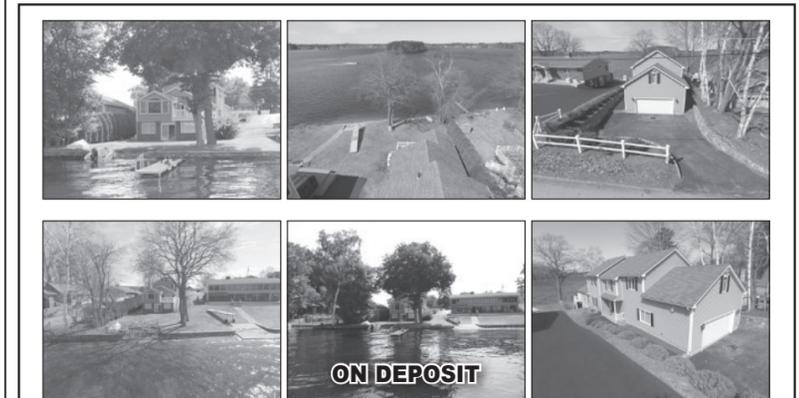


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WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT - 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Fr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplcd! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

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WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



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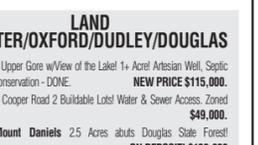
DANIELSON CT - 52 TAFT STREET
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WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD
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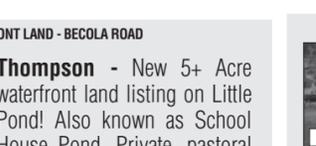
WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE
SORRY, SOLD!



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LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD
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REAL ESTATE

DIY Ideas that Capture Autumn's Brilliance

Few simple pleasures compare to the colorful show of a New England autumn. Why not capture that brilliance with projects that will recall crisp, fall days of yore? Read on for inspiration and instruction to spotlight the blazing color that comes but once a year.

Botanical Prints

Botanical prints are timeless and vintage examples command premium prices. Here in New England, we are surrounded by nature's foliage, which have natural dyes and just happen to make the most appealing botanical wall hangings. Here's how:

Materials: Pliable, colorful autumn leaves, the darker the better; parchment or rag paper (resume paper that is at least 25% rag content also works); absorbent paper towels, flat end hammer.

Directions: Clean off any dirt or debris from the leaf. Place one sheet of parchment or rag paper on a flat, clean and sturdy surface such as a workshop table or cutting board. Place leaf flat down on surface. Cover with a few layers of paper towels. Using even force, tap the entire area of the leaf (to gauge the area, outline the leaf with pen on the paper towel to use as a guide). This step helps to anchor the leaf to the paper. To release the leaf's natural dyes, go over the leaf surface again, hammering every inch of the leaf. When done, do the same working in the opposite direction. Don't be afraid to take a peek



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

every once in a while to check your progress. When done, peel the leaf from the paper to expose the print!

To preserve the color of the print, spray with an acrylic protectant. Mat and frame individual prints, or create a collage of different leaves and colors!

Note: Brighter colored leaves such as Japanese Maples create the most vivid colors.

Autumn Luminaries

The most colorful and textural fall leaves are literally "in the spotlight" with this homemade luminary project. Use either a real or flameless candle to create a variety of different mood lighting.

Materials: Dried and pressed leaves (drying between weighted newspaper or paper towel pages results in leaves that are dry, yet pliable; Mod Podge (available at craft stores); canning jar.

Note: Lighter leaves allow for more illumination.

Instructions: Using a paintbrush coat the entire outside of the canning jar generously with Mod Podge. Do not coat the bottom of the jar or the rim area.

While jar is still wet, place leaves onto the jar and press in place. Brush over the leaves with another coat of Mod Podge.

Note: Keep in mind spacing leaves apart allows more light to shine through. Overlapping leaves collage style creates a denser jar and dimmer light.

Once leaves are placed, dab or stipple the Mod Podge in the clear spaces. This little extra effort will pay off when the light shines through and shows off the texture rather than brush strokes.

Allow to dry overnight, and then apply one last coat of Mod Podge. As a final touch, spray the outside surface of the jar with an acrylic finish. Again, allow to dry completely. To use, place a contained tea light candle or flameless candle inside the jar.

Foliage Garlands

Garlands strung across a mantle or doorways are popular autumn décor, but why buy faux foliage when you have the real thing right outside your door?

Note: If you are not using preserved leaves, this garland only gets better with age for as they dry, they curl up and take on a new look!

Materials: Colorful fall leaves (crimson and yellow Maple leaves are best); Mod Podge (available at craft stores); plastic straws; twine; hot glue or tape

Instructions: Choose flat, clean leaves. Dry by pressing until all moisture

is removed (press between weighted newspaper and paper towels). Carefully brush Mod Podge on each leaf. Note: Do one side at a time and allow to fully dry. Cut straws in half inch length. Attach a straw piece to back of each leaf with hot glue or strong tape. String each leaf on twine and hang!

**

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.



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Create new garden beds this fall



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Fall is a great time to create new garden beds. Cool, usually drier, fall weather makes it easier to work in the garden and for plants to establish. Plus, the Garden To-do list is often a bit shorter this time of year and you will get a head start on the next growing season.

Start by locating the placement, size and shape of this new garden. Always contact your local underground utility locating service at least three business days in advance. It's free and as easy as calling 811 or filing an online request. They will contact the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in your work area. This reduces the danger and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while you create a beautiful landscape.

Use a rope or hose to outline the area. Avoid tight corners or creating narrow grass borders that will be difficult to mow or require hand trimming.

Once satisfied with the layout, take a soil test and decide how to kill the existing lawn and weeds as needed. A soil test will tell you how much and what type of fertilizer you will need for the plants you are growing. Testing now means you will have the information in hand when it is time to fertilize in spring.

Next edge the bed. Use a shovel to dig

a V-shaped trench around the border of the garden. Or rent or borrow a power edger to make larger jobs easier.

Once the edging is complete, remove healthy grass with a sod cutter and use it to fill bare spots in the lawn. Or create a planting berm or simply add it to the compost pile. Just place it green side down and wait for it to decompose.

Another method for clearing the grass is to cover the area with cardboard topped with several inches of organic mulch and wait for the grass and cardboard to decompose. You can push back the mulch and cut through the cardboard to plant immediately. Or wait to begin planting next spring after the grass and cardboard have broken down completely.

For quicker results and control of perennial weeds, try a total vegetation killer. These products kill the top and roots of the good and bad plants they touch. Read and follow label directions carefully. Start your soil preparation after the required waiting period has passed.

The next step, an important one, is soil improvement. It is easier to repair and improve the soil before you plant. Plus, time spent now yields years of good results. Add two to four inches of organic matter like aged manure, peat moss or leaf compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil. These materials improve the drainage in heavy clay soil and increase the water holding ability in fast draining sandy or rocky soils.

Check the labeling on the bag when purchasing these products. Make sure the product you select is USDA and STA certified to ensure quality. USDA BioPreferred certified products are derived from plants and other renewable products, providing an alternative



Photo Melinda Myers

Renting a power edger will make creating a large garden bed easier and less labor intensive.

to petroleum-based goods. Look for United States Composting Council's STA certified compost that is a renewable, consistent, high quality product made from locally available organic material.

Once you mix in the organic matter, rake the garden level and smooth. Your garden is ready to plant. Fill it with spring flowering bulbs, perennials, trees, and shrubs this fall. Or cover it with shredded leaves or other organic mulch to suppress weeds and prevent soil erosion. Use the winter to plan the garden so you will be ready to plant once spring arrives.

In either case, your efforts this fall

reduce your workload next spring and shorten the time to a more beautiful landscape.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is the host of *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.

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 Visit <https://www.spencerma.gov/home/pages/employment-opportunities> for application details. Submit letter and resume to Town Administrator, Town of Spencer, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562, or email tgregory@spencerma.gov. AA/EOE

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Overlook earns top marks from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CHARLTON — In 2007, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced a program to rate the quality of care and services provided by nursing homes throughout the country.

A nursing home's overall quality rating, as recorded on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website, is based on 3 critical ratings:

- 1) Health care inspections
- 2) Quality of resi-

dent care measures

3) Staffing
In its newest set of ratings published in August, the esteemed Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center a maximum five out of five stars—for its overall rating, placing it among the top 10 percent of best nursing homes in the country.

In addition to its overall rating of five stars, Overlook Health and

Rehabilitation Center earned five-star ratings for both its staffing and quality of resident care measures.

The five-star rating is a seal of excellence from CMS, underscoring the high quality of health care and service standards delivered within The Overlook Continuing Care Retirement Community. As well, the rating serves as a valuable tool for consumers when seeking the best of the best in nursing

home care.

Tameryn Campbell, President & CEO of Masonic Health System of Massachusetts and the first-ever female leader of the senior living organization, noted, "We are honored to achieve this notable accomplishment from CMS. It lets us know we are fulfilling our mission and vision of providing superior person-centered care—and providing it with passion."

"I am especially proud

of the five-star ratings for staffing and quality measures," Campbell added. "Our team members deserve that distinction, as they work incredibly hard—especially with the COVID-19 challenges confronting our industry, nation and world."

Campbell, who joined The Overlook in 2014, has spearheaded a transformation of the organization on all levels, leading to its financial stability and desirability among

seniors in the region. The turnaround also earned her recognition from the Worcester Business Journal—on an elite list of 2019 outstanding women in business.

The new CMS ratings include data for more than 15,000 senior care providers participating in Medicare, Medicaid or both. Overlook Masonic Health Center is one of 102 providers in Massachusetts to receive a five-star overall rating.

QCC offers innovative professional development training

WORCESTER

Quinsigamond Community College's Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education (CWDCE) has launched an innovative way to deliver professional development training with a new, "all you can learn" subscription model. The CWDCE performed extensive research to discover the best way to respond to the needs of both employ-

ers and individuals working in today's digital age.

QCC's subscription-style model of learning contains more than 500 unique online modules in 14 different areas of Advanced Manufacturing, as well as Microsoft 365 online software services suite. Participants can choose between 30, 60, 90, 180 or 365 days of unlimited access to all the training modules for a set rate. Since the pandemic

began, companies have had to adopt more online practices into their current workplace practices to remain viable.

"We looked at a number of trends both locally and nationally, which resulted in some new course offerings for the fall, as well as new ways we will be offering our courses. One of the most innovative ways we have responded to the need for workers to quickly 'skill up,' is by offer-

ing this type of learning model," said Dean of the Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathleen Manning.

Students can mix and match between all modules to target their individual skill needs. Each module takes approximately one hour to complete and includes a pre and post assessment. Students can print out a certificate when the module is completed.

"We are moving away from the one-size-fits-all approach and are allowing individuals to design

a custom program that is best suited to their individual career goals," Ms. Manning said. "This is a smarter approach in delivering professional development training to our workforce of the future."

QCC offered free business courses to help with online transition at the start of the pandemic, as well as a free infectious disease control course to assist companies in navigating the new workplace landscape.

"Now with these 'all you can learn' programs, there is another safe and

effective way to learn new skills or increase existing skillsets," Ms. Manning continued. "Adapting to the needs of our changing world is paramount to the economic prosperity of our nation."

To learn more visit, <https://www.QCC.edu/center-workforce-development-and-continuing-education>

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Selectmen discuss tree removal at Corbin Cemetery

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Selectmen in Dudley are hoping increased communication will ease any potential tension over the planned downing of several trees near the Corbin Road Cemetery.

Dudley Highway Superintendent Vincent Polletta, who also serves as tree warden, provided selectmen with a list of trees his department planned to remove due to age or safety concerns during a Sept. 14 meeting that included five trees bordering but not within Corbin Cemetery. Polletta said three of the trees are halfway dead while one is half gone and the other is completely expired. He stressed that the trees are not an immediate emergency or safety risk but should be considered heavily for removal.

This led to a short debate among selectmen who recalled previous tree removals that caused outrage from citizens in town including one alleged threat of violence through email. Selectmen wanted to avoid another incident by handling the removal of the trees properly. Selectman Steve Sullivan inquired about whether a public hearing was warranted but Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda argued the selectmen don't want to set a bad precedent for future tree removals.

"I want to be careful that if we're not in a historic zone and we're not inside the grounds of a cemetery - I want to be careful not to set a precedent that every time we cut down a tree we need a public hearing," said Ruda.

Selectmen felt that the key might simply be better communication, but they also wanted to avoid superseding the tree warden who they trust to make decisions about the need for tree removal outside of cemeteries and historic areas.

"It does fall on us - as we all know, every circumstance is a little different

but I just don't want to see a repeat where somebody sends an email to somebody and we get copied on it and says 'next time I'm going out there with my shotgun to make them stop,' which happened the last time," Steve Sullivan said.

Board Chair Kerry Cyganiewicz agreed and felt that communicating with locals and informing them of their intent to remove the trees might be the best immediate solution.

"I don't think we're asking anyone for permission; we're asking for input and we're allowing people to have a voice," Cyganiewicz said. "I wouldn't want to put this off for a year, but I'm thinking we do something quick."

Town Administrator Ruda stressed that the trees are outside of both the historic district and the cemetery itself but suggested that the town start with eliminating two trees, one that is clearly dead and the other than broke in half as they are both considered safety issues. Selectmen voted to have the tree warden communicate the plans for the tree removal to the appropriate parties, including town boards if necessary, including plans to remove at least two if not all five trees.

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Poetry reading event planned at Roseland Park

WOODSTOCK, Conn. — The public is invited to attend another free poetry reading featuring six regional poets at Roseland Park. The event will be on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 2-4 p.m. in the open air barn and is sponsored in part by Sharpe Hill Vineyard of Pomfret, Conn. Reservations and masks are required.

Poets will include National Beat Poet Laureate for 2020 Paul Richmond; Montreal International Poetry Contest finalist and Woodstock resident Karen Warinsky, and poet Robert Perry, of Dudley, as well as three other area poets. The first reading was held in September to a capacity crowd.

The foibles and triumphs of life will be the topics covered with new material by these poets. Richmond, Warinsky and Perry are all published authors through Human Error Publishing. Books will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to ages 14 and up. Beverages will be provided and masks are required.

To make reservations, call (860) 942-6664, or email Mrs. Warinsky at karen.warinsky@gmail.com.

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