Webster Times

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Friday, August 22, 2025

Dudley breaks ground on new Richard Carmignani, Sr. Fun Zone at Municipal Complex



Courtesy

Pictured, from left: Selectperson Jana Deschenes, Recreation Commission Chair Alicia Figueiredo, Selectman Steven P. Sullivan, Assistant Town Administrator Olivia Antonson, Tammy Ruda of state Rep. John Marsi's office, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda and Amanda Hellyar of state Sen. Ryan Fattman's office.

DUDLEY — Shovels in hand, Dudley selectmen Jana Deschenes and Steven P. Sullivan, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda, Assistant Town Administrator Olivia Antonson, Recreation Commission Chair Alicia Figueiredo, Tammy Ruda of

State Rep. John Marsi's office, and Amanda Hellyar of state Sen. Ryan Fattman's office officially broke ground at 10 a.m. Aug. 13.

The Recreation Commission is overseeing the construction underway by Landscaping by J. Michael, who came in as the lowest bidder.

"This playground design began with our kids' ideas, shaped by parents, and supported by voters who care about our town," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. "Thanks to the patience, persistence, and hard work of volunteers, residents, and staff, we're breaking

ground on a safe, accessible, joyful place for every child."

The original Fun Zone was closed early in the COVID-19 pandemic. When it reopened,

Turn To **PLAYGROUND** page **A14**

Scams targeting seniors on the rise

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION — The recent bust of an elaborate elder fraud ring serves as the latest reminder of an expanding crisis that is costing seniors millions.

Last week, 13 suspects were charged in connection with a transnational elder fraud scheme that investigators say involved call centers in the Dominican Republic.

The goal of the complex operation, according to investigators, was to trick hundreds of elderly victims across the U.S. into believing that their grand-children or other close family members were in trouble and needed money.

In total, the investigation identified more than 400 victims, with an average age of 84. These included at least 50 victims in Massachusetts.

The scheme cost victims a total of more than \$5 million in losses.

According to the charging documents, the suspects, led by Oscar Manuel Castanos Garcia, ran a sophisticated call center operation in the Dominican Republic.

Once the suspects obtained money from victims, they laundered their illicit proceeds back to

Turn To **SCAMS** page **A14**

Two local foundations donate to Our Bright Future STEMing Into Sports Summer Program



DUDLEY — Our Bright Future is proud to announce generous donations from The Fels Foundation (\$40,500) and The Herman F. Becker Family Charitable Foundation (\$25,000) to support the STEMing Into Sports Summer Program hosted at Nichols College. These contributions provided free scholarships for 131 students, enabling them to participate in this innovative educational experience that blends athletics with hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) learning.

The Fels Foundation

Founded to honor the legacy of its visionary founders, The Fels Foundation has earned a reputation as a champion of education, innovation, and community growth. With a strong belief that access to high-quality educational experiences can change lives, the foundation invests in initiatives that break down barriers for youth and open doors to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.

Over the years, The Fels Foundation has supported a wide range of programs—from early childhood literacy projects to advanced STEM initiatives—always with the goal of

nurturing curiosity, creativity, and self-confidence in young learners. Their latest gift to Our Bright Future's STEMing Into Sports program reflects their deep understanding that education must address the whole child, blending physical development, teamwork, and mental agility with technical skills that prepare students for the careers of tomorrow.

The Herman F. Becker Family Charitable Foundation Rooted in a tradition of generosity and service, The Herman F. Becker Family Charitable Foundation has Turn To FUTURE page A14 Dudley
selectmen
respond to
open
meeting law
complaints

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen have responded to open meeting law violation complaints stemming from a debate earlier this year concerning the right of first refusal on land donated to the Dudley Conservation Land Trust.

In July, the Board of Selectmen voted to waive the town's right of first refusal for 21 acres of land at 90 Marsh Rd. The decision, which was not unanimous, was the culmination of several meetings of debate, including claims that the town shouldn't have had right of first refusal on the property despite it being registered as a tax-exempt property under Chapter 61A due to no liens being placed on the land.

Following the July 7 meeting, the Board of Selectmen received an open meeting law complaint focusing on four specific concerns including the Board of Selectmen stepping aside to consult with the town's legal counsel outside of the public forum, alleged delayed posting of the meeting details, the sufficiency of compliance with public hearing requirements, and the pace of the motions put forth at the meeting. The Board of Selectmen concluded they found no faults in their process.

Board Chair Deschenes said the latter complaints had no basis in the open meeting laws, and were not subject to specific requirements through Chapter 61A. The other two complaints, regarding stepping away for a private discussion with town counsel and proper meeting information posting, were addressed in full, and the board found that they followed all necessary protocols in both cases.

At one point during the right of first refusal meetings, the Board of Selectmen were presented with a situation where they required clarity from town counsel. The board held a brief recess to discuss the matter with their legal representation away from the open forum, which is allowed under state law as long as a majority of the board is no present to prevent any deliberation. Deschenes said this protocol was followed.

"The complaints that we received alleged that this process allowed the board to deliberate privately, thereby violating open meeting law. Based on the statute that's written in the general laws, a deliberation requires a quorum. It has to be a basic majority of the board. During that meeting, we were very careful about not violating open meeting law. We phoned in to town counsel and at any given time there were only two members of the board present in the room, along with the Town Administrator, to ask those questions," Deschenes explained.

The board also determined, and confirmed with the Town Clerk, that the meeting details were posted in a timely manner and that any changes to the meeting

Turn To **COMPLAINTS** page **A14**

QCC's Scholar-in-Residence leveraging AI tutoring

Quinsigamond Community College is empowering faculty to pursue research, while inspiring campus-wide academic excellence and community belonging through its Scholar-in-Residence program. QCC Professor of Computer Science Hao Loi was selected as the 2025/2026 Scholar to conduct research on how artificial intelligence tutoring tools impact student success in computer programming courses.

The Scholar-in-Residence program is a faculty development initiative that selects one faculty member each academic year to conduct a research project, foster a research community through presentations, and integrate their findings into the existing curriculum.

Loi's research project

W O R C E S T E R examines the integration of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's LLM Tutor, known as PyTutor, in QCC's Introduction to Python Programming course. The study specifically focuses on ĀI-assisted learning affects first-generation college students and non-traditional learners, who often balance work, family responsibilities and academic demands.

> According to Loi, early observations suggest that PyTutor, combined with peer tutoring and additional support sessions, helps level the playing field for students who might otherwise struggle with programming concepts.

> "I have already heard from students that it makes them feel like they belong in the class and that they really can

succeed. They are more willing to try things out and work through problems on their own," commented Loi.
PyTutor provides students

with instant feedback on coding problems, offering hints and guidance without simply providing answers. The tool allows students to work through programming challenges at their own pace and on their own schedule, a critical feature for community college students who often have time constraints.

"The key is using AI in ways that support real learning without replacing important thinking and interaction. When used thoughtfully, AI can make learning more accessible and more inclusive," Loi said. "But we have to stay focused on what is best for students."

mixed-methods research study will assess PyTutor's effectiveness in improving student comprehension, boosting retention

CHARLTON — In a bid to

meet the growing demand for

skilled workers in the electri-

cal industry, Bay Path Regional

Vocational Technical School's

hands-on training course offers

students the chance to acquire

essential skills needed in the

field. With employers actively

seeking apprentices with practi-

cal experience, this course pro-

vides invaluable training across

comprehensive modules such as

wire splicing, conduit bending,

residential wiring, and three/

four-way switching. Students

The curriculum includes

a wide range of areas.

rates and fostering success in STEM pathways for community college students.

Findings from the study will inform curriculum enhancements across QCC's Data Science Certificate program, Computer System Engineering Technology and Computer Science degree tracks. The research aims to align course offerings with current industry trends and workforce development needs.

"Our faculty are uniquely gifted teachers and scholars. QCC's Scholar-in-Residence program fosters faculty engagement and support for their academic research. Faculty members develop or expand upon their academic research with the intent to publish or present at a regional or national conference as well as on our campus," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Kathy Rentsch. "I am incredibly proud of the breadth and depth of scholarly work going on

Hands-on training classes equip

future electricians

ter use, circuit troubleshooting,

and load center/panel wiring.

Additional skills taught include

GFCI/AFCI installation, low

voltage projects, lock out/tag

out (LOTO), smart home instal-

lation, using the NEC, rigid pipe

threading, basic Ohm's Law, and

Spanning 150 hours of immer-

sive training, the course is

divided into two 75-hour semes-

ters. Successful completion of

both semesters and fulfillment

of all course requirements,

as determined by the instruc-

tor, are necessary to obtain a

final certificate. This class is

ladder & safety harness use.

across our campus and look forward to promoting Dr. Loi's work in the coming academic year.'

Loi plans to publish the results in peer-reviewed educational technology journals, as well as hold monthly faculty workshops focused on AI integration in education. He will cover topics such as ethical considerations and hands-on implementation strategies.

'These kinds of opportunities are huge for teaching faculty like me," Loi said. "We don't always get a lot of time to step back and dig into a project or really explore something new in our teaching.'

The Scholar-in-Resident program started in 2022. Previous scholars were Professor of English Michael Gormley, Professor of History Dr. Benjamin Wendorf, Professor of English Dr. Mark Bates and Professor of Sociology Dr. Teresa Varriale-Gonzalez.

Bay Path Continuing Education

since 2015, and he started this

hand on training class a couple

years ago. Prospective students

should note that a list of nec-

essary hand tools will be pro-

vided on the first night of class,

but these are not included in

the course fee. To ensure the

course can proceed, a minimum

enrollment of 10 students is

required. Interested individuals

are encouraged to register early,

as the course will be canceled if

this number is not met one week

prior to the start date. Class

starts Sept. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.,

and runs every Tuesday and

Thursday until Dec. 18. To learn

more and/or enroll, visit: augu-

soft.baypath.net and search on

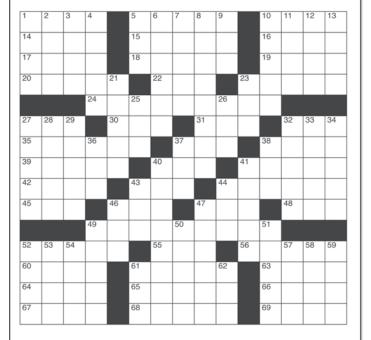
class ID 42213.

ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?

of Hands - Knees-Hips. **Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Charles A. Birbara, MD Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School 25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674 "Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"



CLUES ACROSS

- Mongolian politician
- 10. Rounded knob 14. Japanese city
- 15. Covers in soft material
- 16. Walk around
- 17. Ancient region in Syria 18. French painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Cow part
- 22. Rocky peak 23. Secret plan
- 24. Sings to one's lover
- 27. More (Spanish) 30. Father
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle 32. Hat
- 35. In agreement
- 37. A person's brother or sister 38. Evil spirit
- 39. Monetary units
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)

44. Beach accessory

43. Performer Lo Green

- 46. Partly digested food
- 48. Honorific title added to family

41. About Sun 42. A place to dance

- 49. Salts 52. Lichens genus
- 55. Lowest point of a ridge 56. Type of sword
- 60. Albanian language 61. Gold measurement
- 63. Italian seaport 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry 66. U. of Miami mascot
- 67. Mid-month day
- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Two-toed sloth 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Publicly outs 5. Steep-sided hollow
- Spoke
- 7. General law or rule
- 8. Extravagantly theatrical 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Arm bones 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. __ fide: legitimate
 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels 23. Top exec
- 25. Cool! 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Extract money via taxation

N A N

0

В В

- 28. Dyes 29. Cloying sweetness
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam

SOLUTION

PUZZLE

- 34. Chemical compound
- 36. The bill in a restaurant 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Late comedian Newhart
- 40. Health care for the aged 41. Wise individuals
- 43. A passage with access only at one end 44. Trim
- 46. Former OSS
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth 49. Edible lily bulbs
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit 53. A place to store lawn tools
- 54. Rare goose native to Hawaii 57. Hollywood pig
- 58. Musician Clapton
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Spanish soldier 62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

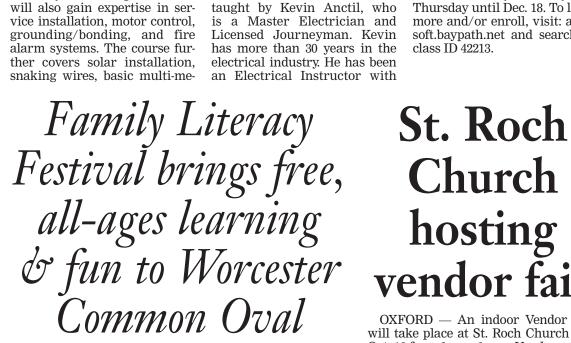
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If not we may be able to help.

Osteoarthritis **Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout**



WORCESTER — SCENSOB Foundation is thrilled to announce the Family Literacy Festival 2025, a free community celebration of books, culture, and hands-on learning, set for Sunday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Worcester Common Oval. The festival removes financial barriers so every family can participate—no tickets, no fees, just show up and read, play, and learn.

Families will enjoy book giveaways, story corners, STEM and maker stations, family crafts and games, live music & dance performances, a cultural fashion show, bounce houses, and a bustling vendor/author marketplace. There will also be food trucks selling their culinary creations. Community partners will offer literacy resources, back-to-school supplies (while supplies last), and wellness and safety demonstrations.

Literacy isn't a luxury; it's a launchpad. We designed this day so families don't have to choose between paying a bill and building a child's love of reading. Our goal is simple-Open the door wider—to books, to culture, to opportunity—and welcome every family through it.

SCENSOB Foundation welcomes sponsors, exhibitors, performers, and volunteers. Support helps keep the festival completely free and expands book and supply giveaways.

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hosting vendor taır

OXFORD — An indoor Vendor Fair will take place at St. Roch Church Hall Oct. 18 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Vendors want-

Please call 508-987-8987 or email parishoffice@strochoxford.com for additional information or an application.

ALMANAC

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OXFORD

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Saturday...... 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

www.Stonebridge Press.com

Finding "solutions through compromise" on immigration

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — To Regina Edwards, a simple lesson from immigration comes in the form of one short question: "Who's an immigrant, and aren't we all?"

Edwards is a member of Grassroots Central Mass, several members of which came to Jacob Edwards Library to talk about the "very complex dimensions to this whole question of immigration" in an effort to "connect and bond" with other people in the commu-

REAL ESTATE

\$15,500,000, 19 Appleton Rd, Herb Chambers Washington S, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC.

\$15,500,000, 20 Prospect St, Herb Chambers Washington S, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC.

\$15,500,000, 27 Appleton Rd, Herb Chambers Washington S, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC.

\$15,500,000, 31 Appleton Rd, Herb Chambers Washington S, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC.

\$15,500,000, 33 Appleton Rd, Herb Chambers Washington S, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC. \$15,500,000, 805 Washington St,

Herb Chambers Washington S, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC. \$15,500,000, 809 Washington St, Herb Chambers Washington S, to

Atlanta Re Holdings LLC. \$6,600,000, 735 Southbridge St,

Herb Chambers Wa St Inc, to Atlanta Re Holdings LLC. \$769,500, 57 Hampton St, Robert C

Post 2021 RET, and Post, Robert C, to Felis, Margaret.

\$525,000, 16 White Ter, Silva, Maxley V, and Demorais-Silva, Vanessa M, to Rheaume, Brenden. \$494,900, 23 Rockland Rd, Rivers,

Cheryl A, to Nicolas, Ricardo, and Nicolas, Darline. \$450,000, 37 Oxford St N, Shemeth

Diane Leola Est, and Bedard, David L, to Harper, Jarrod S, and Harper, Kristina.

\$420,000, 101 Elm St, Bounds, Richard, to Lindsey, Dylan, and Lindsey, Jordan.

\$348,100, 176 Boyce St, Revive Commonwealth LLC, to Nada Re Investments LLC.

\$331,000, 176 Boyce St, Hoey Marguerite T Est, and Clay, Mary E, to Revive Commonwealth LLC.

OXFORD

\$760,000, 27 Sullivan Blvd, Brenneman, Marie L, to Chapman,

\$440,000, 5 Stuart St, McConnell, Derek, and McConnell, Jamie, to White, Vaughan W, and Dawson, Chandler M.

\$325,000, 70 Pleasant St #47, Donovan Jr, William J, and Donovan, Anneliese, to Stockhaus, Matthew R, and Stockhaus, Michelle L.

\$230,000, 6 Thayer Pond Dr #12, Keka, Arben, to Keeler, Christian. \$50,844, 74 Huguenot Rd, Mann,

Larry, to Nipmuc Indian Council Inc.

WEBSTER

\$595,000, 285 Killdeer Rd, Etchells, Shelley L, to Bender, Robert L, and Carter, Sarah J.

\$450,000, 7 Stockbridge St #A, Dupuis, Robert J, and Dupuis, Linde A, to Pielocik, Carol A.

\$410,000, 18 Greystone Ave, Casavant, Laurie J, to Hetzel, Nicholas A, and Hetzel, Janelle M.

\$355,000, 1 Ernest St, Rcf 2 Acquisition T, and U S Bank TNa Tr,

One of those dimensions is war, presented as a brief video of local resident Phoutasone ("DJ Phou") Ketnouvang. He related the fact he came to the US from Laos as a child in 1980, with his mother having to bribe a VietCong soldier with his father's gold watch to let them cross the Thai border. They eventually made it to Southbridge, where the local Hispanic community "took me in and gave me a home ... where I didn't live in fear," he said, noting they "rallied with us, getting us furniture, clothes and food.3

A member of that Hispanic community, Jasmin Rivas, asked listeners to think about why people leave their

Reading a poem, she noted, "No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.'

The poem listed several kinds of atrocities refugees faced in their homelands and insults some receive when here, but noted "the insults are easier to swallow than <seeing> the body of your child."

Her poem elicited a variety of responses. One woman said her family's been here since the 1960s from Ontario, Canada, and came because they thought "there wasn't so much snow here" since her father worked for the railroad and wanted to transfer here. But when they got here, they also saw "snow up to the telephone poles."

While that sparked a little laughter, another man said his father left Germany under Hitler in 1938 because he "didn't know what would happen" there. A third man had a reverse story his father's family was here, but went to France when he was five because their Judaism was "much more acceptable" there. (He came back for college and

Edmonds noted some people opine "Why don't they get in line and do it the right way?" In fact, most do - but the "right way" is very complex, with several different paths, some that lead to citizenship and some that don't. Refugees often take eight to 10 years to go through the process, and the Constitution grants people born here citizenship, while some people brought here as children by their parents can work but don't have a path to citizenship.

She said the law has many categories based on social class, profession, nation of origin, marital status and other details; some can get the documents, some can't. Lately, she added, some people who have been following the rules are getting arrested while at court hearings and during immigration interviews.

Later, Edmonds said there have been recent cases where the US government is denying people already here the right to family reunification by bringing kin from overseas. One friend has kin in Ghana and has been seeking such a visa for 15 years now. Such family sponsorships are generally being disallowed now, while corporate sponsorships are happening. Rivas, however, noted those are quite costly (about \$10,000 for both the company and the person).

One audience member said he'd worked with Nepalese people born in and expelled from Bhutan. The US had allowed about 100,000 to come here legally, but he knew of about 50 who have recently been deported by ICE. They were sent back to Bhutan, who immediately expelled them again; they're now stateless in India, he said.

To Erick von Bleicken, such issues are unfortunately not new. He summarized a history of various ways the law has targeted certain groups of immigrants – most notably the Asian Exclusion Act and laws against Africans. The latter nearly caught his own father, born in what was then the German colony of Tanganyika (now Tanzania). At first, the US wanted to exclude him sight unseen, but let him in when he proved to be white.

"Even the idea of America is entirely the product of immigration," he said, noting everyone who's not Native American or the descendant of slaves came as an immigrant.

He attributed some of the fear and prejudice surrounding immigration to "some of our own religious convictions," and pointed out many groups "have wrestled this ball back and forth" over the years. But he argued knowing the facts can help us find "solutions through compromise.'

To Dave Niles, two major myths dominate the discussion of immigration: the ideas that illegal immigrants are negative for the economy and commit crimes. He put up a slide showed federal tax data from 2022 that undocumented people paid \$96.7 billion in state, local and federal taxes that year. The six states benefiting most from that money are California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey.

By contrast, the estimated cost to deport all roughly 11 million undocumented people would be about \$967.9 billion, and it'd take about a decade to

Regarding crime, Niles noted a Texan study found that undocumented people commit crimes "at a far lower rate" than either naturalized or native-born citizens. He attributed that to one simple fact: if you're undocumented, "you don't want to call attention to yourself." He also observed that our laws do not just grant "due process" rights to citizens, but to everyone who's here.

Niles said he's known two undocumented people over the years, both in the same situation – their student visas expired. One was from Canada, the other from Malaysia; the latter became a notable player in the Providence art scene, where he helped organize the Waterfire events.

We can chart the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants ... but it's difficult to quantify how they truly contribute to their communities," he said, urging people to "not throw away our humanity" in today's climate of animosity.

Edmonds encouraged people to explore their own ancestry and family experiences with immigration. She said she worked with the Women's Oral History Project, which included a look at immigrant stories. Among the people she interviewed, she found several who spoke "four or five languages, just not English," when they arrived here, and were "passionate" about learning it.

Edmonds said there are at least six immigration-related bills now before the state Legislature, and urged people to"tell them we want to protect those who are more vulnerable." Five of them are pro-immigrant, but she singled out one with the "misleading name" of the Shield Act (S 1096/H 2009) for opposition on the grounds it would "protect ICE agents." By contrast, she supported one (HD 4886) that would require ICE agents to take off their masks and ID themselves as law enforcement.

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

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Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick relaxing yoga nidr practice to start your day up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, on Wednesdays. Jess will guide participants upcoming events, and our monthly lunch menu. You may also through a few simple yoga asanas to release join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not physical tension. Participants will then settle have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities into a reclined position for a guided relaxation and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY< SEPTEMBER 1ST FOR LABOR DAY!

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least two business days in advance to reserve or cancel your $\,$ gram door. meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55-64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 9/2: Spaghetti and meatballs with marinara sauce, green beans, fresh fruits. Wednesday, 9/3: EVENT FRIDAY, AUGUST 22nd! Beef stir fry, steamed rice, roasted broccoli, vanilla mousse. Thursday, 9/4: Honey mustard pork, red bliss potatoes, peas and one craft project that will be held on first and carrots, cinnamon pears. Friday, 9/5: Soup du Jour, ranch two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the chicken salad, pasta salad, grahams.

The next Friends Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th at 10:00 am.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am-3:00 pm.

Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster needed. Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays Negocios de EparaTodos – Monday, August 25th by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) at 6:00pm 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

Friday, September 12th from 1-2:30 pm! We'll be falling into va para conocer cómo el Programa Acelerador autumn with live music from Tony Funches, formally of de Negocios de EparaTodos puede ayudarte a "The Platters". Make sure to sign up for all Friends events! lanzar y expandir tu negocio. Este programa Deadline for sign-ups is Monday, September 8th.

Let's celebrate the Fall equinox! The Friends of the Webster itación empresarial y una comunidad de apoyo Senior Center will be hosting their next Friendship Series para ayudarte a alcanzar el éxito. party on Monday, September 22nd from 1-2:30 pm with live music from Bob Jordan! We will also be hosting a Soup Social at 11:30 am! Please make sure to sign up for BOTH! Deadlines for reservations will be on Wednesday, September 17th.

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. is historical folklore: Gods of Jade and Shadow Our September movies are- "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot" on by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. 9/3, "Girls Girls" on 9/10, "Father Goose" on 9/17, and "Mystic Pizza" on 9/24.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the Thursday, August 28th at 6:30pm perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be Full Story of The Band (Rowman & Littlefield, offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your from their days with Ronnie Hawkins and Dylan only one session. bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm. Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group

meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

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

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

Calling all bridge players! Are you looking to spend an afternoon playing Bridge? We're looking to get a group together! If you're interested, please leave your name and number with the front desk. Once we have enough sign-ups, we'll see what day works best for everyone!

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

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

Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmars.org

Adult Programming Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:00pm

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes - Tuesdays

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a (yoga nidr). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the pro-

Library for All - First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft) SPECIAL

This program includes one chair yoga class month. Either join Jess for a one-hour relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are

Sesión Informativa: Programa Acelerador de

¿Tienes un negocio o una idea que quieras Come enjoy September's Forget-Me-Not Memory Café on hacer crecer? Únete a nuestra sesión informatigratuito ofrece mentoría personalizada, capac-

Genre Book Club – Thursday, August 28th at

Join our Genre Book Group! Each month we'll read a different genre. September's genre

Craig Harris- Bob Dylan and the Band Talk -

Based on his ninth book, Last Waltz: The July 2025), music historian, percussionist, and Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am. Washington DC radio host Craig Harris uses rare recordings, a video montage, and intriguing stories to trace this still-influential quintet through their 1990's resurrection, Helm's three Grammy winners and Robertson's soundtracks for Martin Scorsese films including Killers of

the Flower Moon. Join Craig Harris for his talk: Bob Dvlan and the Band.

Programming for All Ages

Library for All: A Music, Dance, and Comedy Show: Reading Rocks! - Friday, August 22nd at 10:00am

A Music, Dance and Comedy Show: Reading Rocks features wonderful classic and original songs and tales. The show engages audiences with songs, comedy, technicolor magic, animals and music technology. Join us for this novel performance which will be accompanied by visual and sensory experiences. Everyone will dance, sing, laugh, use their imaginations and connect with new friends. The show is crafted to be inclusive for everyone, including audience members on the Autism Spectrum.

Shishito Pepper Tasting Class – Friday, August 22nd at 3:00pm

Registration is required for this family shishito pepper tasting program. Join Jess as we try some of the bounty from our garden!

Pesto Tasting Class for Families – Friday, August 29th at 3:00pm

Join Becca and Jess as we make Pesto from garlic and basil grown in our library garden! Participants will make their own pesto and enjoy it with bread. This program will contain nuts. Registration is required for this program.

Children's and Young Adult Programming Maker Mondays - Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test!

Toddler Playtime--- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays from 6:00pm Play with magnets, wooden blocks, and Legos.

Friendship Bracelets - Wednesdays at 11AM

Grab your bestie and come make beaded bracelets in the children's program room. This is a self-guided program, all materials are provided. Ages 8 and up.

Outdoor Messy Play – Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm

Outdoor Messy Play is back! We supply the messy materials for your children to play with, along with a hose for washing off outside afterwards! This program is extremely messy, please dress in something you don't mind getting dirty or stained.

Play-doh Storytime – Fridays at 10AM

Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, play-doh, and fun! This storytime is geared toward ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

Beginner Origami-Fridays at 3:45PM

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

School Bus Storytime – Wednesday, August 27th (2

Is your little one going to school for the first time this year? Join us for storytime and a ride on a real school bus to prepare them for the upcoming year. Author Carrie Finison will be sharing her book "Hurry, Little Tortoise, Time for School!" She'll also be leading a tortoise-themed craft and she'll bring coloring pages as well. Registration is required, but children of all ages are welcome. Please sign up for

EBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Aug. 3-16.

Matthew I. Agusvivas, age 29, was arrested on Aug. 3 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and Possession of a Class B Drug.

Sean Charles Harvey, Jr., age 35, of Dudley was arrested on Aug. 6 for Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, and Disorderly Conduct. A 46-year-old male from Webster whose identity

has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 7 for Assault on a Family or Household Member.

Shangel Renell Haves, age 32, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 8 in connection with a warrant. Scott W. Shea, age 54, was arrested on Aug. 9 in connection with a warrant.

Joseph Theodore Magerowski, Jr., age 44, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 9 on Probable Cause From Another Agency.

Jerard R. Rice, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 10 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and Carrying a Firearm while Intoxicated.

Ryan M. Fuller, age 36, of Pawtucket, R.I. was arrested on Aug. 10 in connection with a warrant.

An 18-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 11 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Jaydn Hunter, age 18, was arrested on Aug. 13 in connection with a warrant.

Nikole K. King, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 13 for Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and in connection with a warrant.

A 20-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 14 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order and Assault on a Family or Household

Christian Yarett Hernandez Garcia, age 21, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 14 for Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle, Forgery of a Document, and Trespassing.

John J. Omadigan, age 30, of Northboro was arrested on Aug. 15 for Assault & Battery.

David Zee Bottom, age 43, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 15 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault Battery, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and Vandalization of Property. A 43-year-old male from

Oxford whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 16 for Disorderly Conduct, Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, and Disturbing the Peace.





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Estate planning in Massachusetts

There is a common misconception that estate planning is only necessary for the ultra-wealthy, but in realestate ity, planning is something that should be addressed by most Americans. The recommended planstratning egies may change based on a person's net worth, but even modest estates should still address

basics. This article will discuss some of these considerations, as well as the Massachusetts estate tax, which is unique to its res-

For starters, it may be helpful to review what an estate actually is. An estate is simply a legal term which refers to the "total sum of a person's assets minus debts at their time of death". This includes everything that person owns such as real estate, bank accounts, investments, personal items, and outstanding debts such as mortgages and credit card balances. If you don't know the

estate, qualified Financial Planner They help. should have software to aggregate these items and help calculate your BY CHRISTOPHER total net worth. This is typical-I. MALLON ly the first step SENIOR VICE before mapping PRESIDENT, out any sug-Program gested action

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items. Once vou have a clear picture of your assets and liabilities, you'll want to decide your assets should

be distributed upon death. The goal is to determine "who should receive what" and deliver it in the most tax efficient manner possible. Proper planning can also help reduce some of the undoubted stress for your loved ones.

Even if you have a "modest" sized estate, it is better for you to make these decisions rather than leaving it to state laws. If your assets do not have a beneficiary attached, and if there is no will, a probate court will need to make the determination. This can be a costly and time-consuming process which

total size of involves attorney fees, court fees, and potential appraisal fees. The average cost of probate as a percentage of the estate's value typically falls between 3 and 7 percent.

When evaluating your estate planning needs, some of the common items you'll want to review include:

Beneficiaries: ensure beneficiary designations on retirement accounts like 401(k)s, 403(b)s, IRAs, annuities, and life insurance policies are up to

TOD Registrations: consider utilizing a Transfer on Death registration for non-retirement assets

Will Last and Testament: a document which outlines how assets and personal items are distributed and names an executor to handle the

Trusts: legal structures which can help manage and distribute assets

Power Of Attorney: a legal document that allows someone to manage your financial affairs if you become incapacitated

Health Care Proxy: a legal document which allows someone to make health related decisions if you become incapacitated

Estate Taxes: depending on the total size of your estate it may/may not be subject to Federal (or Massachusetts) estate

An estate tax is sometimes referred to as a "death tax," which is applicable only if your total value exceeds certain thresholds. While most Americans are well under the federal estate tax levels (in 2025 its \$13.99 million per individual or \$27.98 million for married couples), Massachusetts has its own estate tax which has a much lower threshold.

Massachusetts imposes a tax on estates that exceed \$2 million per person. This tax is progressive, ranging from 7.2 percent to a top rate of 16 percent.

If you're a married couple in Massachusetts, you might think you'd automatically get to shield \$4 million in assets (i.e. \$2 million per person). The reality? When the first spouse dies, his/her \$2 million exemption is not portable to the other

With this in mind, married couples in Massachusetts should pay careful attention to their total estate value. For those with estates valued over \$2 million, there are advanced planning strategies available which involve the use of Credit Shelter (or Bypass) Trusts. These trusts are designed to utilize the \$2 million exemption

when the first spouse dies (essentially allowing a couple to shield up to \$4 million in combined

Yes, \$2 million is a lot of money and not everyone will be impacted by this issue. But when you factor in soaring real estate values, a couple 401(k)s, and (possibly) a vacation home and/or business, there are more and more families whose total net worth exceeds \$2 million.

The bottom line is that regardless of your total net worth, estate planning should not be overlooked, and it should be one part of your comprehensive financial plan. An experienced Financial Planner can help get you started, identify potential issues, and determine when to involve an attorney or CPA in the process.

This article was actually written by the author.
About The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, investment management, and insurance analysis. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone. group or call 508-764-0046.

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax or legal advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor and legal questions with an attor-

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Safe Boating certificate & paddlecraft course offered at Bay Path in Charlton

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing two upcoming boating safety classes. "The Paddler's Guide to Safety," a class for novice paddlers covering basics like: equipment required and advisable for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, etc.; also, safety concerns, situational awareness, and practice skills. Scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 18 from 6 till 8 p.m.

The Boat America Course that meets current and future state mandated educational requirements is offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 7 and Thursday, Oct. 9, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Successful completion of the BA course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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

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

Both courses will be offered at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, 57 Old Muggett Rd., Charlton.

Register online at www.baypath. augusoft.net via Fun & Play/Sports & Leisure links.

By calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 or email sdreitlein@baypath.net You can also contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

information: email phil.uscgaux@ verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses, go to: https://www. cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/ index.php.

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

News Publications, Local Cable Access Channels, and Organizations:

We would appreciate coverage in your next issues covering ALL locations or posting as soon as possible on your website, channel, or bulletin board!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT Phil Kubat - Public Education Officer – USCGAux. 10-2

The following is for copy/paste use by Cable Access Channels to ensure the print is legible as posted in your

If posting the full press release body. please adjust font size or split on two pages/screens...

also, the artwork could be used in posting...

The following pages can also be printed and used for posting at your location to help us reach the local boating community.

BOAT AMERICA One-Day Boating Safety Course for State Cretifications

Milford High School Three Saturdays in 2025: March 15, May 3, and June 7

BOAT AMERICA Two-Night Boating Safety Course for State Certifications

Bay Path Reg. Voc. Tec. High School 57 Old Muggett Road, Charlton, MA

Tuesday October 7 and Thursday October 9, 2025 5:30 till 9 PM

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law January 8, will now require ALL motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after 1/1/1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before 1/1/1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets requirement.

Course offered by your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts

Register online at www.baypath. augusoft.net via Fun & Play/Sports & Leisure links. By calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-

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Thursday September

2025...from 6 till 8 A great class for novice padcovering dlers

basics like: equipment required and advisable for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, etc.; also, safety concerns, situational awareness, and practice skills.

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Meet Chief

*This is a courtesy posting for Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue.

Please contact them directly! https://ygrr.org/profile/chief/ **
"Attention! Stop and give me 20 treats!" Chief here to whip you into shape for all the cuddles, snuggles and pets! Oh, not to mention the gentlest game of tug or an endless

round of fetch (my favorite).

I'm an older southern gentleman, a Georgia peach as they say, that had a rough time before making my way to Yankee. My previous home had a little one that just wasn't my cup of sweet tea so I was surrendered to a shelter and discovered by a friend of YGRR who knew I would have my best chance there! I quickly won the hearts of the staff here with my never-ending prairie dog impersonations. Some of the tricks I'm best at are sit, paw, down, and of course, prairie dog! I also know "get your ball" and "where's your ducky."

I'd do best in a home without children, other pets, or a lot of foot traffic. A quiet life with my people is all I need. I'm tolerant of other doggos outside of my space but I'd much rather be your only companion. So, if you're ready for a loyal retired companion, I'm the

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Frank G. Chilinski STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> Brendan Berube **E**DITOR

EDITORIAL

Seize the waning days of

Oh, no! Summer is coming to an end; however, we know the weather will stay warm likely through September, then it's on to what we New Englanders affectionately call "Sweatah weathah." But for now, let's focus on making the most of what we have left of our coveted New England summer days.

Time passes so quickly that we forget we had meant to do this, or go here and see that, or visit this old friend. The good news is that there is still time for a no regrets summer.

The most fulfilling thing we can do is to reconnect with friends. Plan a night out having appetizers, or a last-minute summer grill session. Even planning a short meet up for a walk or a hike is a great idea. Find a lake or a river with some nice rocks and just relax and catch up, taking in all that summer has

Nostalgia tells us that time spent with friends on our bikes until the lights came on were the best carefree times during the summer months. Why not take a night and watch old movies to bring you back, and escape from the go, go, go that is adulthood. Our favorite blasts from the past include "Field of Dreams," "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Crocodile Dundee," and anything with Steve Martin and Martin Short.

Spending time outdoors during late night hours is always a treat. Look up at the stars, even if it's from your own porch and enjoy a peaceful moment, listen- ing to the crickets and the frogs have a chat.

That book sitting on your coffee table that's been staring at you all summer? Pick it up, and give your-self a goal to read at least five pages...iust do it, before you know it, you'll be engrossed in it.

Get outside and go for a run, bike ride or a hike in a new place. Find places that you can revisit when the snow falls! Snowshoes and Nordic skis, heck even moon boots do the trick! But alas, let's stav focused on summer.

Take a refreshing swim in a nearby lake or river. Pop yourself onto a floaty and just bob as all of your cares float

Try to cook as many meals as possible outdoors on your grill. Soon it'll be too cold to wait to flip your burgers and dogs.

We love all seasons, and every time one ends, we get excited for the next. One of the benefits of living in New England is enjoying a solid four-season year. Pretty soon it will be pumpkin everything, apples and crisp fall leaves, but for now...let's stay in summer mode!

Letter submission policy

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

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

week's newspaper is Friday at noon. **SEND ALL ITEMS** to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepres

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next Brendan Berube at The Webster Times — news@stonebridgepress.news

My soul magnifies the Lord

"My souls magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior." These are the words the Virgin Mary proclaimed when the Archangel Gabriel told her she would give birth to God the Word. Yet, when the Virgin Mary says she "magnifies" the Lord, she doesn't mean she makes Him bigger. God is the Almighty and Infinite One. She implies that her life acts as a magnifying glass through which others can see God more vividly.

St. Ambrose of Milan explains, "Let the soul of Mary be in each of you, so that it magnifies the Lord. Let the spirit of Mary be in each of you, so that it rejoices

Here lies our challenge in life! Every day we magnify something, whether our problems, our challenges, our insecurities, or maybe our achievements, our successes, our own ego. The Blessed Mother magnified only God. When people encounter the "Panayia," the All-Holy One, they saw Christ is her.

I'm reminded of Saint Seraphim of Sarov, whose life was so filled with Christ that people who left an encounter with him saying, "I saw the light of God in his eyes." He greeted everyone—rich or poor, sinner or saint—with the words, "My joy, Christ is risen!" His soul reflected Mary's, acting as a magnifying glass through which people could get a clearer glimpse of the radiance of Christ.

The way the Virgin Mary's "spirit rejoices in God" was not spoken in a time of ease. She was a young, poor woman in a small, occupied land. She faced gossip, misunderstanding, and uncertainty. Her life would fact the sorrow and horror of her son's suffering and death. Yet, her joy was rooted in God's faithfulness, not in her circum-



BEYOND THE

PEWS

By Fr. Luke A. VERONIS SAINTS

CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX

CHURCH, Webster

St. John Chrysostom highlights, "The joy of the righteous comes not from worldly ease, but from the hope of the good things to come." We rejoice in God, not in the comforts of this world.

Right before the Mother of God offers these inspiring words, she noted, "He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden." In her humility, she did not pretend to be more than she was, nor did she doubt what God could do through her.

St. Gregory Palamas writes "Her humility drew God down into her womb; her purity made her worthy to be His dwelling place."

And so, she teaches us that God does not work through the proud or the self-sufficient, but through the humble of heart who are willing to say, "Let it be to me according to Your word.'

Orthodox Church The reminds us that the Holy Mother's death was peaceful because she had already died to herself long before. Her will was completely united to God's. Her life was one long Magnificat, and her Falling Asleep was its final verse.

The Virgin Mary's Magnificat is not just her hymn of praise, let us make it our song as well.

When we are tempted with the trials of life, let our soul magnify the Lord.

When we are weighed down by sorrow, let our spirit rejoice in God my Savior.

When we are thinking about our future and may not understand God's plan, let us say let it be to me according to Your word.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Let a financial advisor help plan for life's curveballs



FINANCIAL Focus

DENNIS

ANTONOPOULOS

No matter what stage of your life you're in — caring for children, working toward retirement or planning your legacy — unforeseen events like a job loss, a major illness or even a stock market drop could derail what you're

working so hard to achieve financially.

With your future at stake, you may want to get guidance from a financial professional who can develop a personalized financial strategy to help you navigate life's curveballs.

Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

Create a customized long-term strategy. This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals — your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.

Set realistic expectations. Successful investing requires discipline and most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized

strategy in place. Diversify your investments. The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting "all your eggs in one basket." Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation doesn't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Keep a long-term outlook. It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage — your financial advisor can show you how.

Keep your emergency savings well-funded. This is your "rainy day" fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income, and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

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

A history of the quill pen and ink

BY HELEN POIRIER

The first tool for writing was a stylus (stick) used to write on clay and wax. The stylus was made from a single piece of reed, which is a type of plant found near water, pointed into a square and split at the point. The first people to use

it were the Ancient Egyptians. A guill pen was used for writing and was made mostly from goose feathers although swan and turkey feather could also be used. Quill tips were cut in certain ways to make it possible to hold ink and write. It does take more time to make a feathered pen. The quill pen was used to write the Dead Sea Scrolls around the 2nd century BC and the Declaration of Independence. Quills were easier to use on parchment paper; it is an art to make a quill pen. Quills were used until they were replaced by metal tip pens in the 19th century. These pens were quicker and cheaper to make. The goose quill pens are still available for use at the U.S. Supreme Court when

Writing inks have been found as far back as 2500 BC in Ancient China and Egypt. The ink was made from lampblack, which is soot, mixed with glue

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and molded into sticks to dry. To use it, water had to be added. India ink is made of carbon black in water with other ingredients to stabilize the ink. This kind of ink is good for drawing. In the 20th century ink-making was made with a complicated chemical process.

The children who participated in the uburn Historical Society & Museum Summer program got to use quill & metal point pens to write in cursive, The ink was poster paint that had water added so it could be washed out of clothing. Participants also got to make their own "quill" pen to take home, A craft feather, the inside ink cartridge of a click pen, and some tape, were used to create this "faux" pen along with lined paper with the cursive alphabet and sample sentence when home with each child. They could all choose a book to have also.

The next installment will tell about the leather bound journal.

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

What is it about money?

What is it about money? At first glance, it is nothing but paper, or digits on a screen, or the shimmer of gold, silver, or crypto code. It seems to hold no intrinsic value—and yet it governs nearly every movement of our world.

We pursue it because we must: to feed our families, to build our dreams, to secure the lives we long for. In this society, money is a necessity. And yet, it slips through our fingers like water. One can possess it in abundance, only to watch it vanish overnight. It is a teacher disguised as currency revealing what we value, fear, and chase. A balancing act of spirit and matter. For what does it profit a person to gain all the money in the world if, in doing so, they lose

their soul—their inner

compass, their true Self.

How much of our lives have been shaped by money? Not only by its absence, but by the illu-

sion that once we finally possess it, we will at last feel safe, valid, and real. Whispering to ourselves: "Once I get enough, I'll relax. Once I'm promoted, I'll be whole. Once I buy that thing, I'll finally become someone." But the finish line keeps moving, always just beyond reach. If we don't awaken to that trick, it pulls us deeper into its labyrinth.

And if we fall into that trap, money ceases to be a tool. We no longer use it—we worship it, potentially turning us into something not unlike a modern-day Scrooge rich in possessions, but poor in spirit.

Carl Jung, the famous psychiatrist, taught that when money aligns with our values and purpose, it stops being just currency—it becomes a mirror, a symbol, a servant of the Self.

It can express who we truly are, fueling work that brings meaning and relationships that nourish life. But when we separate money from our purpose, or never discover one outside of accumulation, money begins to work against

When we chase it for the shimmer of cars, clubs, houses, and status, it's just a mask. Yet behind that mask, nothing is there.

Society tells us this chase is typical, even noble. Careers are cho-

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A14**

National Watermelon Month

It's fat free, low calorie, sweet and delicious. As if that isn't enough, watermelon is high in lycopene, an antioxidant that helps reduce the risk of cancer. All that and it's fun to eat too!

In celebration of the virtues of summer's favorite fruit, the Watermelon Promotion board has designated August as National Watermelon Month!

Undoubtedly millions of cookouts have included watermelon this month, and will continue to be on the menu long after August! In celebration of summer's favorite fruit, here are some tips and tricks for picking, storing and eating wonderful watermelon:

Picking a Perfect Melon: An ideal candidate should be firm and symmetrical, free of bruises, cuts and dents. Check out the bottom of the melon. The underside should have a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun. Select melons that are heavy for their size. Watermelons are 92% water, which obviously accounts for most of their weight. A good rule of thumb is to buy the melon size that will satisfy your needs, so you don't waste

Did you ever wonder what the grades on the watermelon stickers mean?

U.S. Grades

- U.S. Fancy Very few defects are permitted.
- U.S. No. 1* Greater number of defects permitted compared to the U.S. Fancy Grade.
- U.S. No. 2 Greater areas of defects are allowed compared to higher grades; of-shape is per-
- * For example, Grade No. 1 consists of watermelons that are mature, have similar varietal characteristics, are fairly well formed, and are not overripe. Watermelons should be free from sunken lesions, decay, sunscald, and damage by other means

Ripen and Store:

Melons will ripen after they are picked but their sugar content won't increase. To ripen, store melons at room temperature. It shouldn't take more than a few days for them to ripen.

Don't refrigerate melons unless they become too ripe or have been cut. Watermelons don't like frigid temps.

Watermelons that are stored long lose flavor and

texture. Melons cannot be successfully frozen, as it causes rind to break down and produces a mealy, mushy texture. Once a melon is cut, it should be wrapped and stored at 37° 39° F. Cut watermelons should be loosely covered in plastic wrap or stored in plastic containers before refrigerating.

According to the USDA: Watermelon stored at 50 to 60 °F with a relative humidity of 90% will be acceptable for up to 3

· Watermelons held in dry storage below 75 °F will have approximate shelf life of up to 10 days. If dry storage temperatures are above 75 °F, shelf life will decline to 5 days.

- At temperatures between 32 and 45 °F, watermelons are subject to chilling injury that may result in pitting, of-favors, and color loss.
- · Watermelons may become mushy and shelf life may be reduced when exposed to ethylene gas producing fruit such as Apples, stone fruit or grapes.

Watermelon Freeze

A twist on Italian Ice, this frozen treat is a refreshing summertime dessert.

Ingredients: cups watermelon juice; one third cup granulated sugar; one quarter cup lime juice

Directions: In large shallow pan, stir all ingredients together until sugar is dissolved; place pan in freezer. Stir watermelon mixture every 20 minutes until frozen, about two hours. Cover; store in freezer. To serve, break mixture up with fork. Makes four servings.

*In blender, process chunks of seeded watermelon until liquefied.

Watermelon Fun Facts:

More watermelons are sold during the Independence Day weekend than the rest of the entire year.

·Over four billion pounds of watermelons are produced in the United States each year.

·Americans consume more watermelons than in any other country.

· The seeds of a watermelon can be white, spotted, brown, striped, black, pink, or red, and range in size from 5 to 15 millime-

· Watermelon's official name is Citrullus lanatus and it is a vegetable. It is related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.

The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt.

A watermelon was once thrown at Roman Governor Demosthenes during a political debate. Placing the watermelon upon his head, he thanked the thrower for providing him with a helmet to wear as he fought Philip of Macedonia.

·Early explorers used watermelons as canteens.

·The word "watermelon" first appeared in the English dictionary in 1615.

·The watermelon is one of the most varied of all melons, with some two hundred varieties grown in fortyfour states.

· Every part of a watermelon is edible, even the seeds and rinds.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House

TAKE THE HINT

KAREN

TRAINOR

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

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

Freshen up your late season gardens and containers with strawflowers

summer winding down and fall approaches, your thoughts may turn to mums, asters, and pansies. Consider changing things up this year by adding deer-resistant strawflowers to your late summer and fall containers and gardens.

Grow strawflow-(Xerochrysum bracteatum formerly Bracteantha) in full to part sun and moist well-drained soil. They are heat and cold tolerant, grown as annuals in most areas, and shortlived perennials in zones 8 to 10. You'll enjoy continuous blooming and visiting pollinators from spring through summer and into fall until frost. Plant some now to replace fading summer annuals, freshen up your late season garden or create fall containers. The range of flower colors makes them easy to include in your late season displays.

Plant strawflowers in the garden or a container with drainage holes and fill with a quality potting



GARDEN Moments

MELINDA **MYERS**

mix. Select a pot, at least 12 inches in diameter to avoid the plant becoming rootbound and drying out too quickly. Although the flowers look dry, the plants prefer moist welldrained soil. Check containers daily and water thoroughly as needed. Those growing in the garden should be watered thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist.

blossoms look and feel dry to the touch, making them extra fun for kids to grow. This straw-like texture of the flowers inspired the common name. You may also hear them referred to as everlasting flowers since they don't wilt readily when picked and retain their shape and color for years

once dried.

Granvias (suntoryflowers.com) are larger, vigorous plants with much bigger blooms than other strawflowers, making them excellent thrillers in containers and showy in the garden. You can find these supersized strawflowers in gold, pink, white, Crimson Sun, Harvest Orange, Peachy Keen and Orange Flame.

Set a pot of colorful strawflowers among your pumpkins, ornamental squash and other fall décor. Combine them in containers and garden beds with other fall favorites like ornamental kale and cabbage, grasses, ornamental peppers, pansies, calibrachoas, and more.

Grow plenty so you'll have enough to enjoy as cut flowers and even more to dry for crafting wreaths, garland, flower spheres, and adding to dried arrangements. Harvest strawflowers when two to three layers of their petal-like bracts have unfolded but the center is still tightly

closed. The flowers will continue to open as they dry so waiting too long results in a more open bloom. Harvest regularly to encourage even more flowers.

Recut the stems at an angle and place the strawflowers in fresh water and condition them in a cool, dark place for a few hours or overnight when using in fresh arrangements.

Hang the stems in bundles upside down in a warm, dry place when preserving them dried. You may opt to remove the stem and replace it with florist wire if you plan on using the dried strawflowers in a wreath As the flower dries, it secures the wire in place. Remove the flowers from the stems once dried if you plan on using just the flowers in crafting projects.

Discover the beauty and many uses of strawflowers this fall. Then next season, start early and grow even more to enjoy all season long.



Suntory Flowers — Courtesy

or an arrangement Peachy Keen, Pink and White Granvia strawflowers where a stem is needed. combine nicely creating a colorful container garden.

> Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD and instant video series and the nationally syndicat-

ed Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Suntory Flowers for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is www. MelindaMyers.com.



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DELIVERY!

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director marks 12 years as dedicated Pan-Mass Challenge volunteer



Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina

CHARLTON — Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Director of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, recently marked her 12th year as a committed volunteer for the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) — one of the most impactful athletic fundraising events in the nation. On Aug. 2 & 3, the PMC community came together from all corners of the world with one mission: to raise funds for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Since 2013, Bolandrina has served as a volunteer for PMC. She started as a medical volunteer and became the Signs and Supplies Manager at the PMC's Monument Finish shortly thereafter, where she ensures smooth logistics and safety by managing crucial signage and distributing materials to support other volunteers, riders, and staff. With 3500+ volunteers, their efforts help guide thousands of cyclists through their final miles, culminating in an emotional and inspiring finish line experience.

The Pan-Mass Challenge raises critical funds for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and relies on a vast network of volunteers like Dr. Bolandrina. Her long-term service exemplifies her passion for community health and her unwavering support for causes that extend beyond the classroom and clinic.

"Volunteering with the Pan-Mass Challenge has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life," Bolandrina shared. "Along with my family, my husband Joseph, our children, and their significant others, it's an honor to be part of something that brings hope, healing, and support to so many."

Her role in the PMC reflects the values she promotes at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy: leadership, service, and compassion—both professionally and personally.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



Fattman
announces
no-cost
early literacy
tutoring
initiative
for Dudley
Charlton School
District

REGION — State Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) announced that Dudley Charlton Regional School District will participate in the No-Cost Early Literacy Tutoring initiative. This program includes 272 elementary schools throughout Massachusetts and will provide literacy tutoring for students at no cost to the district or students.

"Literacy is the backbone of education and is essential for future success in life," said Fattman. "I'm glad to see Dudley Charlton Regional School District apply for and receive this initiative that will only help their students and communities. This early literacy initiative comes at a crucial time for Dudley Charlton. We're facing budget challenges with some schools losing Title I funding for the 2025-26 school year, which makes state support even more valuable. Many of our kindergarten and first-grade students struggle with foundational reading skills - learning to connect sounds with letters and blend them into words."

The Dudley Charlton Regional School District continues, "This intensive tutoring program will give our youngest learners the extra practice and one-on-one attention they need to master these essential building blocks of reading. We're excited to partner with the state and watch our students develop the strong literacy foundation they need to succeed."

Offered through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), this initiative will provide participating schools and districts with tutors at no cost to the school or student. The tutoring will offer flexible models — including in-person and virtual formats — designed to meet local needs during and after the school day. DESE has selected qualified tutoring providers to partner with schools and work with students across the state. First graders are prioritized as this is a crucial year to solidify early reading skills.

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Courtesy

On Aug. 16, the Friends of Saint Louis awarded this years \$1,000 scholarship to Lillian Maglich Webster. Each year, the Friends award this scholarship to a graduating senior of Saint Louis Church in Webster. Lillian will be going on to pursue a career in Physical Therapy at Saint Joseph's College.



From São Paulo to Massachusetts

A NURSE'S JOURNEY TO COMPASSIONATE CARE

CHARLTON — In the heart of Massachusetts, a dedicated nurse is celebrating a major milestone. Maria de Amorim Hentschke, a recent graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, has passed the NCLEX-PN on her first attempt, officially becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the state. This accomplishment is a testament to her hard work and the rigorous training she received at the academy.

A strong foundation in education

de Amorim Hentschke's journey to becoming an LPN is a story of international experience and local dedication. Before her nursing education in Massachusetts, she earned a postgraduate degree in Family Medicine from the Universidad de São Paulo in Brazil. There, she worked with the Brazilian Federal Government, gaining valuable experience managing patients with chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. This hands-on experience has shaped her philosophy of providing compassionate, holistic care.

When asked about the strengths of the nursing program, de Amorim Hentschke credited the instructors.

'Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's biggest strength is the dedication of the instructors," she said. "They truly care about students' success and take time to explain difficult topics."

She also praised the well-organized clinical placements at facilities like Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and Harrington UMass Memorial Health, which provided her with a wide range of realworld experience.

A commitment to excellence

de Amorim Hentschke dedication extends beyond her core education. She has earned certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop The Bleed, and has completed training in Domestic Violence and Narcan Administration. She is also a proud member of the UNICEF Club and the Mock Code Team. She was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society. Her commitment to the community is clear through her volunteer work, which includes health screenings at Shepherd Hill High School and the Charlton Senior Center. For her efforts, she was nominated for The Dr. Adelina Healy Clinical Excellence Award and received the Random Act of Kindness

After a well-deserved trip to Brazil, she plans to apply for nursing positions in October. With her strong background in chronic disease management, a wide range of certifications, and fluency in Portuguese, English, and Spanish, she is poised to make a significant impact on the local healthcare community. She is eager to contribute her skills and compassionate approach, delivering safe, evidence-based care to patients

in Worcester and beyond.

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy V. Szymczak, 98



Dorothy V. "Dot" (Sabaj) Szymczak, 98, died Saturday, August 16, 2025 in the presence of family after a long illness.

She leaves her husband of almost 63 years, Edward

N. Szymczak; her cousin whom she thought of as a daughter, Zofia Walker and her husband Richard; she was a beloved nana to Garett Walker and his wife Johnna of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Bradford Walker and his wife Lauren of Webster; two sisters-in-law, Constance Favreau of Dudley and Shirley Sabaj of Webster; a brotherin-law, William Szymczak and his wife Mary of Grafton; many god-children; numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews; and close family friends. She was preceded in death by four brothers, Charles, Benny, Henry and Frank Sabaj, and by her five sisters, Lena Swierzbin, Stasia Sabaj, Josephine Tadla, Helen Kralik and Rita

She was born on January 28, 1927 in Webster, a daughter of Felix and Veronica (Mrzyglod) Sabaj and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1945,

Mrs. Szymczak worked for Mass. Electric for many years retiring in 1988 a supervisor in the accounting depart-

She was a communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica and belonged to its Sacred Heart Society and the former St. Joseph Women's Club. Active in the church all her life, she counted the collection on weekends in the 1950's and 1960's, helped at parish festivals and volunteered at the rectory.

Dot and Ed made many trips to Poland including visiting their ancestral villages. They also visited parts of Europe and wintered in Marco Island, Florida. She enjoyed polka dancing, completing crossword puzzles and word games. She excelled at cooking and baking. Above all, she was devoted

Her funeral Mass will be held on Friday, August 22, at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. A calling period will take place in the church on Friday from 9:30 AM until the Mass at 11:00 AM. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street. Donations in her memory may be made to either Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street or Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, both Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

Gail Hicks Jackson, 72



Webster, MA - Gail Jackson, a devoted nurse, passionate gardener, and beloved Mother and Grandmother, passed away peacefully at the age of 72. Born and raised in Eastford, Connecticut,

September 16th, 1952, Gail spent most of her adult life in Webster, Massachusetts, where she worked as a nurse and cared deeply for her com-

Gail's nurturing spirit extended far beyond her profession. She found joy in gardening and her kitchen was a place of warmth, filled with the comforting aromas of home-cooked meals and the laughter of family. Gail had so much love for her cats Tovi and Bowie. They brought her endless companionship. She cherished vacations in New Hampshire, where she enjoyed nature and time with loved ones.

Gail's presence was gentle and grounding, and her love for her family was unwavering. She is survived by her sons, Matthew Bard and Erik Jackson; her brother, Rodney Hicks; and her grandchildren, Liam, Aidan, and Rory Bard. Gail was predeceased by her husband, Gilbert Jackson, with whom she shared many years of love and partnership and her parents, Priscilla and Raymond Hicks.

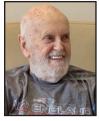
Gail's legacy is one of kindness, resilience, and devotion. She touched many lives through her work, her passions, and her quiet strength. Her memory will live on in the gardens she tended and the hearts of those who knew her.

A private memorial service will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local animal shelter or library in Gail's honor.

She will be deeply missed and loving-

ly remembered.

Michael B. Gagner, 89



DUDLEY - Michael passed away peacefully at home on August 13, 2025 surrounded by his loved ones.

is survived He by his devoted wife of 21 years, Betty Reiss-Gagner; his six

children, Shari Polletta, Lisa Fuentes and her husband Agustin, Michael A. Gagner and his fiancée Jo LaRoche, Keith Gagner, Monique Pierangeli and her husband Mark, and Tara Miler and her husband Will; 3 step-children, John Cathell and his wife Johanna, Dave Cathell and his wife Jen and Kristin Cathell; he was a proud grandfather to 16 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren; he leaves his beloved sister, LoraLee Gagner and her wife Helen Sienna.

He was born in Webster on December 18, 1935, the son of Emile and Evelyn (Wood) Gagner.

Mr. Gagner was the maintenance manager for the Thomas Smith Company in Worcester.

He served in the United States Marine gives you a sense of open-

Mike was blessed to have a large and loving family who brought him immense joy. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he was an avid Boston fan who rarely missed a chance to cheer for the Red Sox or the Patriots. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golf, and playing pitch with friends and family. In his younger years, Mike played softball, including the Jack Benny League, where his competitive spirit shone through.

He will be remembered for his warm smile, quick wit, and the countless memories he created with those he loved.

Calling hours will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 23, with a memorial service at 12:45 PM in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster. Burial with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council will be in Waldron Cemetery, Dudley. Donations in his memory may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Leukemia Research, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9188. www.websterfunerals.com

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

"This place is your playground"

AUBURN'S A GREAT NOTION BRINGS REAL BOOKS TO THE SOCIAL MEDIA ERA



This is a normal scene at "A Great Notion" highlighting the store's family-like community sensibility. Courtney Galicia, left, takes care of her daughter Cooper while Tyler Galicia helps a customer and Emma Christian, right, uses her phone to promote the store online.

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

AUBURN After years of being a school mental health counselor, Courtney Galicia got tired of crying at home over her students' trauma and not being to help them enough. So she started a bookstore.

A Great Notion, the two-and-a-half-yearold store she runs with husband Tyler, is now the kind of job she says 'when you're doing what you love, it's not work" and is "a really cool way to get back in touch

with the community." Her husband, Tyler, isn't quite in the same position yet. He's still teaching full time, but is totally on the same page, noting, "I want to make a life out of this."

They decided to go for what he dubbed their "pipe dream retirement plan" when "I realized I could get hit by a bus someday," he said. She partly attributed it to her mom's early death five years ago, noting she didn't want to have any regrets if she departed this world early.

Walking into their 65 Southbridge St. space ness and welcome, especially as one or both of the Galicias greets you. A screensaver of jellyfish plays on the TV screen when it's not being used for other things, their baby daughter Cooper sits in a crib by the register, and, of course, people browse and chat about books.

"This place is your playground," Courtney added.

It felt the same way last year, but looked fairly different. Outside it was the same – a space in a sprawling red wooden building shared by a church, realty office and other things. But inside, bookshelves were packed much tighter; today, the space is more open, and they aim to use it to "host events as a main attraction.

One such event represents what they're hoping to do. In May, Jersey Shore star Mike Sorrentino brought his book talk to A Great Notion. Courtney recalled having 500 people show up (many more than the





READER'S **JOURNEY**

GUS STEEVES

space can hold). A line went around the building, with people sampling a food truck and Auburn Police presence ensuring peace. Given where they are

now, it's a little ironic that Courtney admits she wasn't much of a reader in school.

"I was one of those kids in high school who wondered 'Why are we doing this?" when it came to reading assigned books. "It was challenging for me." Later, in college, she became a history major, but found a lot of the books dull.

It was Tyler who loved reading, and later instilled that in Courtney, encouraging her, his students and others to "start with something you enjoy." The store's name comes from his favorite novel, Ken Kesey's "Sometimes a Great

Notion.' For Courtney, that starting point was graphic novels. She said she "thinks graphic novels are very helpful" for getting kids to dive into reading even though some teachers "hate them."

Although there have always been comics, graphic novels are a recent phenomenon, and the Galicias are more than willing to tap into other such tools to encourage reading. Courtney said online presence via Booktalk, Bookstagram and other hashtags go a long way to promote their brand. They even have their own online influencer in Emma Christian, who created an Instagram account as "a great opportunity for a booksore I love.'

"The community's huge online, and they're really into supporting each other," Emma said, noting the store's followers have grown from 120 to 500 in three weeks.

Courtney also noted they're working with another local social media site which goes by the name "Wicked Creatiff" after its owner's first name, Tiffany. All of them are con-

sciously tapping into the fact that many younger people are focused on shopping local. That's especially critical for small bookstores who face the monopoly of Amazon, which can afford to lose money on books to control the market and make it difficult for small stores to get local authors they control, the Galicias said.

They have a shelf of local authors who are either self-published or went through small publishers and thus still have the rights to their own work, but don't presently have direct contact with such publishers. They also use their front window as space for a variety of locally-sourced crafts, art and other items, noting many people are tired of the chain stores.

"In five years, I'd love to build my own space and have outdoor space to do events," Courtney said when asked what they plan for the future.

"So far, so good," Tyler added. "We just need to keep going that way.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@

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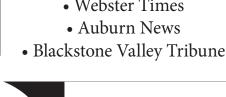
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NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on September 8, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows:

Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot

14 as shown on said plan; THENCE S. 50 degrees 35' 40" E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake;

THENCE S. 35 degrees 14' 30" W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake;

THENCE N. 52 degrees 37' W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet to a stake;

THENCE by a curve to the right a radius of which is 160 feet, a distance of

40.39 feet to a stone bound; THENCE N. 37 degrees 23' E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of beginning.

Said last three courses being by Glenview Road.

Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC. Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 26353 August 15, 2025 August 22, 2025

August 29, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21 P0029PM

CITATION ON PETITION

FOR ORDER OF

COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Estate Of:

William Barauskas A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Brookside Rehab & Healthcare Cen-**

ter of Webster MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account,

3rd and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/02/2025. 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 August 01, 2025 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate August 22, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family

Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P1336EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTA-**TIVE**

Estate of: Michael Patrick McCart

Date of Death: 03/17/20241 To all interested persons:

A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: Margaret A Gray of Oakham MA

requesting that the 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 09/02/2025. 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: August 06, 2022 Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate August 22, 2025

DUDLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION Public Hearing Notice

A Public Hearing will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:15 PM on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability of Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act for the property located at 191 & 193 Oxford Ave, Dudley MA. This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Conservation Commission's office at the Dudley Municipal Complex on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-3:00 PM. For more information, call 508-949-8011.

August 22, 2025

Notice is hereby given by Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 West Main St, Dudley MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A that on 9/5/25 @ 5 PM at Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571

The following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

Description of vehicle: VIN# 4T4BF3EK3BR088557; 2011 Toyota Camry Grey, Reg# NONE

August 15, 2025 August 22, 2025 August 29, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO25P2759EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

LEGALS

Estate Of: Gerald G. LaFrance Date of Death: 05/20/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Holly LaFrance of Worcester MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Holly LaFrance of Worcester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/16/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 12, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 22, 2025

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Webster Department of Public Works is requesting sealed bids for a new 2026 Ford F350 regular cab 4x4 pickup or equal. Bids will be received up to and read at 10:00 am on Thursday, August 28, 2025. Specifications are available at the Town of Webster/Highway

Department, 23 Cudworth Rd, Webster, MA 01570.

All envelopes must be marked "BID TRUCK

Office hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 am - 3:00 pm, office number 508-949-3862.

The Town of Webster through its Board of Selectmen reserves the right to reject any all bids if deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. August 15, 2025

August 22, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Dalessandro Premises: 11 Avenue a/k/a 11 D'Alessandro Avenue, Dudley, MA 01571

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott Roseen and Karen Roseen to Household Finance Corporation II, and now held by U.S. **Bank Trust National Association, not** in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust, said mortgage dated April 1, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29550, Page 155, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 11, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69122, Page 86; said mortgage was assigned from Household Finance Corporation II to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by assignment dated September 11, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52797, Page 325; said mortgage was assigned from U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by assignment dated April 3, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 61008, Page 371; said mortgage was assigned from DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated September 15, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68285, Page 19; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on September 11, 2025 at 3:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premis-

es described in said mortgage, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated on the westerly side of D'Alessandro Avenue, in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being Lot #15 on plan of lots surveyed for Stanley Deren et al, Dudley, Mass., dated August 28, 1952, drawn by Henry A. Racicot, Engr., and recorded with the Worcester District Registry Of Deeds, Plan Book 184, Plan 13, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southeasterly corner thereof, at a stake on the westerly side of said D'Alessandro Avenue, said stake being at the northeasterly corner of Lot #16 as shown on the aforesaid plan; Thence North 82 deg. 18' West by the northerly line of said Lot #16 for a distance of ninety-eight and seventy-three hundredths (98.73) feet to a stake at land of John Ruda, Jr.; Thence North 6 deg. 18' East by land of said Ruda, a distance of eightythree and sixty-five hundredths (83.65) feet to a stake at the southwesterly corner of lot #14 on said plan; Thence South 81 deg. 19' East by the southerly line of said Lot #14 a distance of one hundred and fifty hundredths (100.50) feet to a stake on the westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue; Thence South 7 deg. 39' West by the Westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue. a distance of eighty-two (82) feet to the point of beginning. Subject to the following restrictions: 1. NO BUILDING OR PART BUILDING SHALL BE **ERECTED** OR **MAINTAINED** THEREON WITHIN THIRTY (30) FEET OF THE STREET LINE; 2. NO HOUSE SHALL BE BUILT THEREON AT A LESS COST SIX THOUSAND 00/100 (\$6,000.00) DOLLARS; 3 THE PREMISES AND BUILDING THEREON SHALL BE USED FOR TRADE OR MANUFACTURE BUT FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES ONLY; 4. NO STABLE SHALL BE ERECTED THEREON ANO NO HORSES, CATTLE, SWINE, OR POULTRY SHALL BE KEPT ON THE PREMISES. SUBJECT ALSO TO THE RIGHTS OF THE NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COUNTY AND THE COUNTY WORCESTER ELECTRIC COMPANY TO ERECT MAINTAIN POLES WIRES, AS RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK 3359, PAGE 56 AND IN BOOK 3489, PAGE 407. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM HENRY GELINEAU, NOT STATED ΤO SCOTT ROSEEN AND KAREN ROSEEN. HUSBAND AND WIFE T/B/E BY DEED RECOR0ED 5/29/1998, IN BOOK 20005, AT PAGE 130, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 29, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20005, Page 130.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC

23 Messenger 2 n d

Street Floor

Plainville, MA 02762 Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capac-

ity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Present Holder of the Mortgage

(401) 217-8701 August 8, 2025

August 15, 2025 August 22, 2025

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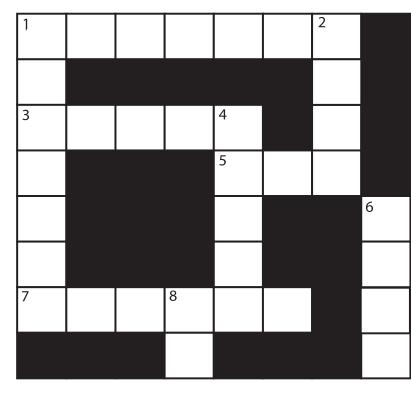
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This outdoor activity involves climbing rocky terrain using hands and feet.

Answer: Rock scrambling

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

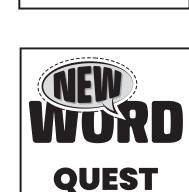
- 1. Wooded areas
- 3. Water area in desert
- 5. Conjunction to connect words
- 7. A well-lit sky

DOWN

- 1. Sweet-smelling blooms
- 2. Granular material at the shore
- 4. Enjoy completely
- 6. Body of water
- 8. "The Ocean State" (abbr.)

:syewsnA

1. Flowers 2. Sand 4. Savor 6. Lake 8. RI UMOM 1. Forests 3. Oasis 5. And 7. Starry Across



1680: Pueblo Indians capture Sante Fe from the

1911: The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia, a Louvre

1959: U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower signs an executive order proclaiming

Hawaii the 50th

Spanish.

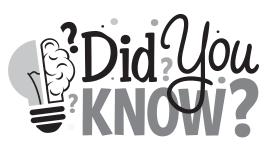
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state.

a long and difficult search for something



English: Adventure **Spanish:** Aventura Italian: Avventura French: Aventure **German:** Abenteuer



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Raft

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE <u>OF REAL ESTATE</u>

Street, Premises: 189 Main Oxford, MA 01540

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dominico DiGiovanni to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for LYC Mortgage, LLC, and now held by JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, said mortgage dated February 28, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50516, Page 73, as affected by a Loan Modification dated November 5, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64700, Page 103; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for LYC Mortgage LLC to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated February 15, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 56760, Page 126; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on September 8, 2025 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premis-

es described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in said Oxford, together with the building thereon, situated on the westerly side of South Main Street, shown as Lot C on Plan entitled "Plan to show Division of Property in Oxford, MA owned by Victor Casavant et ux, Book 2176, Page 268" dated December 10, 1956, survey and

plan by Kenneth Shaw and record-

ed with Worcester District Registry of

Deeds, Plan Book 222, Plan 11, and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the Southeasterly corner thereof at an iron pipe in westerly line of South Main Street at land now or formerly of H. LaCrosse; THENCE by said LaCrosse land N 77 degrees 27'W one hundred twenty and 93/100 (120.93) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE by land now or formerly of Victor Casavant et us N 19 degrees 30' E one hundred six and 31/100 (106.31) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE by said Casavant land S 70 degrees 30' E ninety four and 25/100 (94.25) feet to a point; THENCE by a curve to the right (radius 20 feet) for a distance of thirty one and 41/100 (31.41) feet to a point in west line of South Main Street; THENCE southerly by the westerly side of South Main Street by a curve to the left (radius 2032.50 feet) for a distance of sixty four and 69/100 (64.69) feet to a Massachusetts highway bound; **THENCE** southerly by street seven and 24/100 (7.24) feet to a point of BEGINNING.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 25, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50516, Page 71.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)

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

the way.

Other terms to be announced at the

Brock & Scott, PLLC 23 Messenger Street 2nd Floor Plainville, MA 02762 Attorney for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701 August 8, 2025 August 15, 2025

August 15, 2025

August 22, 2025

TOWN OF WEBSTER WATER DEPARTMENT P.O. BOX 793 38 HILL STREET WEBSTER, MA 01570

WWW.WEBSTER-MA.GOV **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

SEALED BIDS clearly marked "Fire Hydrant Replacement" will be received up to 1:00 P.M. local time Friday, August 29, 2025 in the office of the Webster Water Department, 38 Hill Street, Webster, MA 01570 (using FedEx or UPS) **If mailing USPS use Webster Water, P.O. Box 793, Webster, MA 01570

Bid shall include: Install up to five (5) fire hydrants at the

• 400 Thompson Rd \$

following locations:

• 34 Racicot Ave

• 15 Aldrich St \$

• 49 Lake Parkway/Juniper Ave \$

• 73 Bigelow Rd \$

price will be per location up to five (5) locations. The Water Department reserves the right to select one (1) or up to five (5) replacements depending on amount and current available budget.* *Price is for installation only. Webster

Water will supply the fire hydrants and supplies needed for the replacement.*** Scope of work will include the following: • An active drain layer license which can

- be obtained at 38 Hill Street Trench/street opening obtained at the Highway Dept located
- at 23 Cudworth Rd Any other permits deemed necessary
- Excavation and removal of the old fire hydrant-Old hydrant can be dropped off at 38 Hill Street for disposal
- Gravel, sand, loam, seed, pavement and or concrete sidewalk repair will be included in the price per location. Webster Water will only supply the replacement hydrant and appurtenances needed to connect the hydrant
- Construction specifications can be obtained at 38 Hill Street
- Please include prevailing wage and certified payroll if applicable Requests for information should be directed to Michelle Roy, Administrative

Assistant: mroy@webster-ma.gov Requests for bid packages or questions can be made during normal business office hours of 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday - Friday by phone 508-943-3861, or visit our website www.web-

ster-ma.gov August 22, 2025

PLAYGROUND

continued from page A1

visible damage, such as broken equipment and deteriorating surface materials, as well as ADA compliance deficiencies, caused its permanent clo-

Resident's call to reopen the playground in 2022 led to a focus on grant funding. To qualify for a grant, the town was required to come up with a design plan and to update its Open Space

Recreation Plan. The Dudley Woman's

Club launched a one-year fundraiser in 2022 that paid for a consultant to design a park that would meet today's safety, accessibility, and adaptability standards. The generosity of local businesses and residents who supported the fundraiser aided the town in hiring Radner Design and Assoc. and will also contribute to funding its new equipment.

Radner Design prepared the playground

plan and selected its equipment after meeting with 60 or so children of all ages during a Board of Selectmen meeting last year.

Led by the Open Space and Recreation Committee, the former Town Planner and Town Administrator used a grant received through the state Division of Conservation Services to update the Open Space Recreation Plan.

With the completed design and the updated Open Space Recreation

Plan in hand, the town worked with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to submit a grant application.

The playground was selected by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to receive a \$496,650 state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant.

The grant represents an amount of up to 70 percent reimbursement of the project cost, which is estimated at \$704,410. The local contribution, therefore, is expected to be \$207,760.

"Local organizations and nonprofits can build on the community spirit that brought us this far by bringing in sponsors and partners for naming rights on park equipment, which will help offset the project's local contribution," Ruda said.

Last October, Dudley town meeting voters approved a \$704,410 borrowing. Once the \$496,650 reimbursement

of Our Bright Future.

is received and applied to the borrowing, the remaining debt will be paid from available funds over the course of years.

"We're aiming for a ribbon cutting at either our Halloween or Christmas celebration so Dudley's kids can be the first to enjoy it," Ruda said.

The community and all who made this play park possible will be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony when the project is complete.

future of the communi-

FUTURE

continued from page A1

long been a pillar of philanthropic support in the region. Created to carry forward the values of Herman F. Becker—a strong advocate for community service, equal access to opportunity, and the transformative power of education—the foundation has provided grants to causes that improve the quality of life for families and indi-

viduals alike. Their giving spans a wide spectrum: supporting health initiatives, enhancing cultural and arts programs, funding community development projects, and investing heavily in educational opportunities for underserved youth. donating to Our Bright Future's summer program, the Becker Foundation continues its mission of empowering future generations with the tools, skills, and inspiration needed to thrive in an increasingly complex

About Our Bright Future

Founded in October 2016, Our Bright Future is a local non-profit orga-

nization dedicated to empowering youth and developing the leaders of tomorrow through a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). Programs include robotics, 3D printing design, Cricut Club, arts and crafts, homework help, sports, social-emotional learning, and financial literacy—each designed to inspire and equip young people with the skills and resilience needed to lead.

Founder's Statement: "As a small non-profit, funding is very hard to come by," said Kwasi Acheampong, Founder and Executive Director

"To have the support of the Fels family and the Becker family gives us all the confidence in the world to freely teach our future leaders about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). Our vision is to inspire the next generation through early exposure to industrial science and technology software. Our goal is to lay a solid foundation, providing our students with a distinct advantage to excel in the dynamic fields of Science and Technology."

The commitment of these local foundations to investing in the ty is remarkable. Their generosity ensures that young students have access to valuable educational opportunities paving the way for a brighter tomorrow. By backing the Our Bright Future program, The Fels Foundation and The Herman F. Becker Family Charitable Foundation are not only supporting a single program—they are investing in the longterm success of an entire generation.

For more information about Our Bright Future, visit www.ourbrightfutureinc.org or email info@ourbrightfutureinc.org.

SCAMS

continued from page A1

the Dominican Republic, investigators said.

Garcia Castanos allegedly oversaw multiple call centers in the Dominican Republic, where he employed co-conspirators who carried out what are commonly known as "grandparent scams."

These scams would often begin with an "opener" employee, who would call victims and pretend to be a grandchild who was in an accident, investigators said.

Later in the process, a "closer" would allegedly follow up with another call, pretending to be an attorney representing the victim's grandchild, asking for a sum of money to pay fees related to the accident.

Garcia Castanos allegedly ran the call centers with the help of several managers who supervised, instructed, and paid employees.

In many cases, suspects from the call centers allegedly made follow-up calls to victims and asked for additional funds to assist their grandchil-

dren. Members of the public who believe they may be victims of this scheme, or other elder fraud scams, should contact investigators by email at: USAMA. VictimAssistance@usdoj.

You may also call 1-800-225-5324 to speak with investigators.

The following agencies and officials are thanked for their involvement in the investigation: the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs; the Dominican National Police; and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Holcomb.

Locally, law enforcement leaders continue to expand educational programs to warn residents about the prevalence of scams. In recent years, Worcester County police departments have been forced to investigate a sharply rising number of incidents.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is cautioning the public to be aware of text messages falsely presented as notices sent from the RMV. These messages often request payments or personal information.

The RMV scams fall under the umbrella of the increasingly popular "smishing" strategy,

which involves the sending of fraudulent text messages intended to trick victims into providing personal information.

In the case of the RMV scams, messages typically warn residents that the RMV will take action against them due to unpaid fees.

RMV scam attempts have been made in Massachusetts and several other states, causing victims to share credit card numbers and other sensitive information. The messages also direct victims to fraudulent websites to pay bogus outstanding balances.

"If you receive any kind of message telling you to make a payment, or that you need to act quickly, do not click the link. The RMV will never text you looking for payment," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie.

Additionally, scam text messages are warning residents of traffic ticket enforcement, indicating that immediate action must be taken to avoid license suspension and vehicle registration revocation that can impact one's credit score.

ways to avoid scams, visit can bind us just as tightwww.mass.gov.

COMPLAINTS

continued from page A1

notice were also handled within proper proce-

Deschenes read an official statement into the record: "The board submits that no violation of the open meeting law occurred at the July

7 Board of Selectmen meeting referenced in the complaint. In fact, the board carefully followed the open meeting law requirements in each step. The board takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the open meeting law including ensuring all matters subject to the open meeting law are properly

noticed and discussed in public meetings."

The chair followed up those statements, adding that the Board of Selectmen encourages continued public participation in their meetings and hopes that the concerns from the July debate do not hamper any continued public involvement in the process.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A6

sen, lifestyles built, identities forged on its foundation. But deep down, the psyche knows the truth: money without meaning is hollow. It leaves us restless, dissatisfied, still searching for something we cannot name.

And it is a double-edged sword, because money not only shows up in greed it also hides in fear. Fear To learn more about of financial instability ly as the lust for wealth. It can stop us from risking, from creating, from offering the gifts of our soul. In that fear, we trade potential for safety, burying our talents in the ground. The shadow of money lies not only in hoarding gold, but also in the person who never becomes what they could be because of the fear of instability.

It seems that Jung saw money not simply as coins, paper, or digits, but as energy—a collective symbol, created by society and invested with psychic weight. To him, money's value was never inherent but symbolic, reflecting what we project onto it: security, power, or even self-worth.

At its best, it can serve as a tool for expression, growth, and care. But when money becomes the measure of meaning, when we pursue it for its own sake, it can easily slip into darkness - confusing worth with wealth.

The endless chase for wealth and status leaves us mistaking accumulation for wholeness; we try to patch inner wounds with outer excess. In truth, Jung thought, the only wealth that endures is the journey of individuation—the slow, lifelong work of becoming who

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you truly are.

Money, then, should serve the soul—not the other way around. In hands guided by purpose, it expands creativity and generosity. In hands ruled by fear or greed, it magnifies insecurity and imbal-

And so the real question is not how much you can make, but whether your relationship with money is rooted in alignment with who you are.

If you find yourself trapped in fear or endlessly chasing status, Jung would call you back inward: discover your purpose, and let money serve that higher calling.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

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Friday's Chi



Elvin Age 13 Registration #9084

Elvin is a unique and thoughtful child. He is naturally shy and prefers to avoid confrontation, finding comfort in calm and familiar environments. Although he loves sports, Elvin chooses not to join sports teams, enjoying physical activity in his own way. He has a special love for toys, especially locks and keys, and always carries a heavy set of them with him. Along with his locks and keys, Elvin also treasures a set of walkie-talkies that he enjoys using. When he grows up, Elvin hopes to become a custodian, inspired by the custodian at his school. Elvin attends an after-school program where he takes Taekwondo classes, an activity he truly enjoys and looks forward

to. His quiet strength, unique interests, and dedication make him a remarkable child with a lot to offer.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/22664085795

Can I Adopt?

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. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

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Featured Listing WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD

NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bathr, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed

* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

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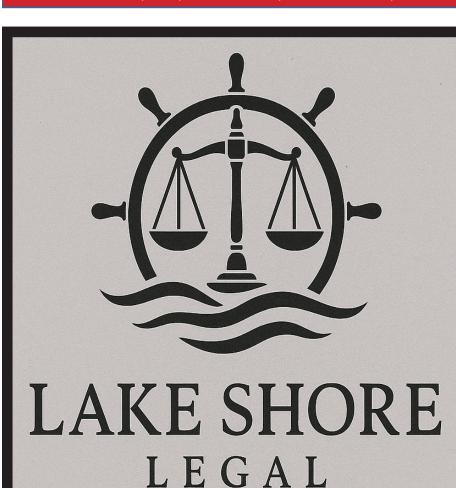
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News, really close to home

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry St. Mary's Church 4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM: Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry McKinstry Building 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday 9-11 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish 759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524 Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM

Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469. St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community

St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

OXFORD

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf Oxford Community Center 4 Maple Road Oxford, MA 01540 Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALEThe Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry

Greenville Baptist Church 674 Pleasant St. Rochdale, MA Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518 Stocked by donations Contact: 508-347-6398

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -

RESIDENTS ONLY Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry 60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562 Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518 Stocked by donations Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER

Webster-Dudley Food Share 4 Church St #2 Webster, MA 0570 Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and Dudley residents. Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry First Congregational Church 36 North Main Street, W.Bookfield, MA 01585 Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM

