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Friday, April 12, 2024

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Dudley Board of Health closes Subway

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Board of Health has ordered the closure of the longstanding Subway restaurant at 157 West Main St. after a series of violations dating back to December of 2023.

The Dudley Subway is owned by Seema Sub Shop LLC, and has been in business for roughly 14 years. On Dec. 29, Dudley Health Agent Patrick Hannon performed an inspection revealing 14 violations. During a hearing before the Board of Health on March 19, Hannon noted that he thought the store was clean and that food storage was organized but revealed the only employee on hand that day was untrained in how to take proper food temperatures, was not ServSafe certified, and was not trained in allergen awareness. Records concerning food temperatures were not available to Hannon at the time of inspection. Hannon left an order that a certified food manager be on site when food is being served, proper training be administered to the employees, and that temperatures be recorded every two hours until further notice. Failure to follow those orders would risk revocation of the food service permit, which Hannon said was not appealed. Hannon paid a second visit to the restaurant the next day when the owner was there where the only violation recorded was once again issues with food temperatures.

A follow-up inspection was performed on Feb. 24 where a different employee was alone, again improperly trained and not a certified food manager. This employee shared negative comments concerning the owner and the condition of the store, and revealed that they had been improperly trained in re-heating tactics for the food. The business was also not adhering to the temperature logging requested by the Health Agent. Hannon told the Board of Health that the first employee he met in December, identified as Lauren Dobson, who testified during the hearing, visited his office, sharing information and around 225 photos from the business showing poor storage practices, cleanliness issues, and food quality concerns. Hannon found the photos disturbing and commended the employee and her coworker for coming forward.

“I think the girls finally got comfortable enough that we weren’t trying to make it their fault that they were willing to come forward and actually say what was really going on at the Subway,” Hannon told the Board of Health.

A selection of the photos was presented during the hearing showing moldy vegetables, evidence of date tampering with cold-stored foods, visible proof

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Wojnar honored with Grange Public Service Award



Courtesy

Retired Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar is presented with the National Grange 2024 Public Service Award by members of Sunrise Pomona Grange #9.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley’s retired Police Chief Steven Wojnar was honored on April 1 with a special award by Sunrise Pomona Grange #9 in recognition of his decades of dedication to the town.

Wojnar was presented with the National Grange 2024 Public Service Award in a special ceremony during a meeting of the Board of Selectmen. The honor recognizes individuals who have proven their commitment to being a servant of the people. Wojnar devoted over three decades of his life to the town in law

enforcement starting as a reserve officer in 1988. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2002 and then Chief a year later, a position he would hold for the next 20 years until his retirement in 2023.

Before presenting the award, members of the Sunrise Pomona Grange #9 listed off just a selection of Wojnar’s accomplishments and contributions to his community during career. These included serving as a Court Liaison Officer and Crime Scene Technician and leading many programs with the Dudley schools such as starting the School Resource Officer Program and serv-

ing as field attendance officer. His role in the local schools earned him the nickname “Officer Friendly” at Mason Road Elementary School.

During his career, Wojnar was heavily involved in charitable programs and causes including the United Way of Webster and Dudley, Helping Address the Needs of Dudley Seniors (HANDS), and the Jimmy Fund. He has served on the Southern Worcester County Drug and Counter Crime Task Force, as President of the Central MA Chiefs of Police, and as a member of the Executive Planning Committee for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. He served a term as President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association in 2018 and helped respond to the first Amber Alert

in Massachusetts in 2003. Wojnar has continued to contribute to his community as Director of Public Safety at Nichols College. The recognition also came nearly ten years to the day after Wojnar received a cancer diagnosis, a battle he has since won.

Wojnar was known as a softspoken and humble leader during his time with Dudley Police, and those traits shined once more when selectmen asked him to comment on his latest honor.

“This was always one of those things where you did this job and you’re not a golfer or a tennis player, you’re part of a team no matter where you work. I was fortunate to have a great wife and family behind me, a great group I worked with, a great community. I always admired

Turn To **WOJNAR** page **A15**

Sheriff’s office promotes Auburn residents at Worcester County Jail & House of Correction



Courtesy

WCSO Lieutenant Tony Delarosa (Left) poses with Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis (Right).



WCSO Lieutenant Ryan Bennett (Left) poses with Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis (Right).

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis is pleased to announce the recent round of lieutenant promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office. These new lieutenants will join the superior officer’s group and assume administrative responsibilities at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. The last round of lieutenant promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office took place in 2021. Among those promoted from the rank of sergeant are

Auburn’s Tony Delarosa and Ryan Bennett.

Delarosa, an 11-year WCSO veteran, began his career in 2012 and was promoted to sergeant in 2017. Before his promotion to lieutenant, Delarosa worked in the receiving/intake area at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. He was also a member of the Special Operations Group and the WCSO Critical Incident Stress Management team. Delarosa will now take on additional oversight and responsibility in this

area as well as maintain his specialty roles.

Bennett, a 17-year WCSO veteran, began his career in 2006 and was promoted to sergeant in 2022. Before his promotion to lieutenant, Bennett worked in the WCSO Special Services Department and for CEMLEC as an FCC-licensed drone pilot. He is also an active member of the WCSO Honor Guard. Bennett will now take on additional oversight and responsibility within the Special Services Department.

With the rank of lieutenant, the recently promoted individuals will be responsible for commanding and supervising sergeants, officers, and staff under their charge. In addition, the lieutenants will be responsible for monitoring the care, custody, and control of inmate activity, ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates.

“At the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, promotions are granted to those who have earned them through exceptional merit, unwavering work ethic, and steadfast dedication to duty,” commented Evangelidis. “This group has proven themselves as leaders during their tenure with the sheriff’s office. I look forward to seeing the lieutenants settle into their roles, mentor newer staff, and execute the mission of the sheriff’s office for the residents of Worcester County.”

The Worcester County Jail and House of Correction is responsible for pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to two and a half years or less. The facility can house more than 1,000 inmates and is in West Boylston. The sheriff’s office also operates community centers in Fitchburg, Worcester, and Webster.

Oxford School Committee approves collaborative fund, eyes budget again

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The School Committee became the first of 15 districts participating in the SWCEC to approve establishing a capital reserve fund.

According to Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative (SWCEC) director Arnold Lundwall, the plan aims to set aside up to \$2 million in budgets surpluses as a “safety net” to cover equipment, space and other needs “slowly over time.” One of the latter might include the ability to fund their “first refusal” rights to buy their two campuses if their present landlords decide to go out of business or otherwise sell. Another might be to “bring our students together” in one location, he said.

The collaborative now runs out of a former bowling alley in Southbridge and a former farmhouse in Dudley. Lundwall noted both landlords have been “good partners with us” for more than 15 years, noting as an example that one donated a playground.

The key issue, he said, is that collaboratives don’t have access to state MSBA school renovation funding for projects. Any spending would have to be approved by the board of directors, which is a committee of the superintendents of participating districts, so it will have “no risk to the districts.” To create this fund, they need approval from two-thirds of those districts.

Chair Corey Burke said he’s happy with the collaborative’s services, but visited it and agreed their campuses need some work. Member David Cornacchioli agreed, noting he started his teaching career in a Worcester collaborative.

Lundwall said SWCEC tries to return students to their home districts “if the students are ready,” he

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A15**

Shepherd Hill's Drama Club presents "Clue: High School Edition"

WEBSTER — On Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Drama Club will present "Clue: High School Edition." The play is based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, which was inspired by the Hasbro board game, Clue, and was written by Sandy Ruskin. The show also features original music by Michael Holland.

Published by Dramatist's Play Service, the comedic whodunnit is set in the late 1950's,

when Joseph McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee was waging war on communists and Barbie had just made her official debut in American toy stores. On a stormy night, six strangers have been invited to a dinner party by a mysterious "Mr. Boddy." Before the night is over, all of the guests have colorful aliases, they have received murderous "party favors," and their host is dead before dessert.

So who is the murderer? Join Colonel

Mustard, Mrs. White, Mrs. Peacock, Miss Scarlet, Professor Plum, and Mr. Green as they, along with overly helpful butler, Wadsworth, race around Boddy Mansion trying to find the killer before it's too late. Was it Colonel Mustard in the study with the lead pipe? How about Miss Scarlet in the conservatory with the revolver? Come see the show and see if your suspicions are correct!

The SHRHS Drama Club has been delighting local audiences since 2010 under the direction of

Performing Arts Director, Kristin Griffiths, and Assistant Performing Arts Director, James Foley. The SHRHS Drama Club strives to give students the opportunity to explore the world of theatre and to strengthen their skills in acting and theatre tech, as well as set and costume design. Past performances include this past January's "Tim for Mayor," a student-written production by current senior, Harry Kennan, and last spring's "Just Another High School Play." This

spring's performance of Clue: High School Edition features immensely talented student actors, as well as a skilled stage and tech crew.

There are two performances of "Clue: High School Edition": Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 at 7 p.m. in the Connie Vanco Galli Auditorium at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students (with valid ID) and seniors. Children five and under are free. Tickets can be purchased

in advance at <https://our.show/cluehsedition> or at the door for an additional \$2 walk up fee.

Due to the sound of gunshots and artistic representations of murder, parental discretion is advised.

For more information, contact Performing Arts Director, Kristin Griffiths, at kgriffiths@dcrsd.org or Assistant Performing Arts Director, James Foley, at jfoley@dcrsd.org.

Ralph Crowley, Jr. to deliver Nichols College Commencement address

DUDLEY — Nichols College has announced that Ralph Crowley, Jr., president and chief executive officer of Polar Beverages, will give the Commencement Address at the 2024 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 4.

Crowley has led Polar, founded in 1882 and the largest privately owned sparkling beverage bottler in the country, since 1992. Under his leadership, Polar has grown from an \$18 million to a \$1 billion enterprise. Polar made several key acquisitions of manufacturing facilities that accelerated the growth of the company, including Adirondack Beverages in Scotia, New

York, Polar South of Fitzgerald, Georgia and Polar Texas Bottling in Temple, Texas. Polar also gained significant market share through the distribution of seasonal Polar Seltzer flavors while concurrently embracing heritage recipes, such as Polar Orange Dry and Birch Beer, that reflect the company's roots.

Crowley was instrumental in bringing the Worcester Red Sox to Central Massachusetts and serves on the organization's Board of Directors. The Woo Sox play their home games in Polar Park. He and his siblings also own Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in Princeton. He

is widely known for his philanthropic leadership in Worcester and beyond and serves on numerous nonprofit boards and advisory councils.

Crowley received a BA from Bowdoin College and an MBA from Clark University. He will receive an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration, as will Amy Pitter, former chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Pitter led MassCPAs from 2015 until her retirement in December 2023. The organization represents 11,000 accounting professionals across the Commonwealth, including those serving in public accounting, business, government, nonprofit and education. As CEO, Ms. Pitter developed programs to help accounting professionals prosper, while building the pipeline of accountants and increasing diversity in the profession.

Prior to her stint as CEO, Pitter served as commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. She boasts more than

25 years of experience helping government agencies transform their businesses. She earned a BA from Connecticut College, an MA in accounting from Northeastern University, and a JD from New England School of Law.

About Nichols

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to

Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's lead-

ers through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Country Bank appoints Thomas Dufault as Senior VP, Retail Lending

WORCESTER — Country Bank, a leading financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the appointment of Thomas Dufault as the Senior Vice President of the Retail Lending Department. With an impressive 35 years in the mortgage industry and an entrepreneurial and construction background, he brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to his new role.

Dufault has gained extensive experience in construction standards, business acumen, and process improvements throughout his career. His diverse background, including being a previous business owner, makes him the ideal candidate to lead Country Bank's Retail Lending team.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dufault is also committed to community service. He has served on the Board of Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts for ten years, with the past four years as the Board President. He supports various charitable initiatives, including the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, the American Cancer Society, Heifer Project International, and the Alzheimer's Association. He has also served on various committees and boards in the town of Rutland where he lived for twenty-six years with his wife and two daughters.

"I am excited to join Country Bank and contribute to its continued success in helping customers obtain their dreams of homeownership," said Dufault. "I will focus on offering innovative products to help meet our customers' needs with

a simple application and approval process while offering a superior customer experience. I am eager to make a difference for the retail lending team and for our customers."

"We are incredibly pleased to welcome Tom to our leadership team; his extensive background in Retail Lending brings an exciting level of strategic insight and direction to the Country Bank brand of Community Banking. His commitment to strategic and empathetic leadership, community support, and entrepreneurial spirit align with our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. We are proud that Tom has chosen Country Bank as his Employer of Choice," stated Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President and Chief Culture & Development Officer.

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Sheryl Faye profiles women in history at Clara Barton Elementary School



OXFORD — In a whirlwind of captivating per-

formances, Sheryl Faye transported students at

Clara Barton Elementary School on an unforgettable journey through the lives of three remarkable women in history. With her incredible talent and passion for storytelling, Sheryl Faye assumed the roles of Clara Barton, Helen Keller, and Abigail Adams, igniting a spark of curiosity and fascination among the young audience. A wonderful way to wrap up

Women's History Month!

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Oxford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The Oxford Cultural Council played a vital role in providing the resources needed to bring this enriching experience to the students of Clara Barton Elementary School. Their commitment to fostering cultural appreciation within the community shines through initiatives like these, demonstrating the power of collaboration in education and the arts.

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Friday's Child



Hi! Our names are Giavanna and Xander and we are so excited to meet our forever family!

Giavanna (Gia) and Xander are sweet, soft-spoken siblings. Gia loves to read, write, and try new things, such as taking piano lessons! She is described as very smart, happy, funny, and often offers help when she sees someone who needs it. Gia gets along well with all her peers, and her teacher says she is an excellent student and a "joy in class."

Gia's younger brother Xander loves to play video games, board games, and Legos. He also likes basketball and takes drum lessons. Once you get to know him, Xander is very funny and witty and comes up with great one-liner jokes!

Gia and Xander would do well in a loving, two-parent household. A family for Gia and Xander would support their relationships with their three younger siblings, who they see monthly. Both Gia and Xander do well in the family setting and enjoy activities such as watching movies, playing games, and going out together.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/8342-8343>

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

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



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Oxford selectmen promote two officers, honor dispatcher

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The last selectmen's meeting focused largely on honoring the police in various ways.

The first form came as the board voted to promote Jeromy Grniet to lieutenant and Kenneth Meade to sergeant after Chief Mike Daniels described his process for recommending them.

He said he purposely waited six months after starting to see how people in the department worked together, what process to sue, who'd test well and "who can show the skills." That was more than just for these promotions, he noted; he's in general looking for officers "who have the potential to move up."

Daniels said these two specifically shined as part of a two-day process. Day one featured the written testing featuring "things you'd probably see at the executive or administrative level." Day two was a formal assessment center for practical skills, so he could see "where their strengths and weaknesses are."

"This gave me a lot of information," the chief said. "That was awesome because now I know the direction of the department and who's going to help us get there."

Regarding Grniet, Daniels said "everyday since I started here, he's been very helpful. ... He's been my sidekick and most valued team member." Grniet has been on the force since 1999 and served as acting chief during last year's search for Daniels, who replaced retiring Tony Saad. Regarding Meade, he said Meade was "very surprised" to see Daniels come in to ride with him on an overnight shift; he's served since 2002.

John Eul also praised them, noting the Auburn police commended their actions during a March 9 shooting.

"That says a lot when your peers recognize your professionalism," he said.

Daniels added he was "impressed how much they care about this commu-

nity." He dubbed his first six months as chief "a dream" because the collaboration within the department "has been awesome."

Later, the department and board honored dispatcher Stephanie Dvareckas with "the Stork Award" for her "compassionate support [that] rose above the daily challenges" during a 911 call Feb 25 from the husband of a woman in labor.

Sgt. Joseph Conlin, who recommended her to the chief, said the father to be called "frantic" and there was no time for EMS to get there, so Dvareckas "gave articulate directions to dad" on how to help. By the time the ambulance got there, baby Austin had been born. He noted it's rare for a dispatcher to get a Stork Award.

Chair Dennis Lamarche briefly summarized three legal cases. One, known as the "59 Quaboag Ave case" (Casey Fleming et al vs the Zoning Board), was heard in December and "all three judges ruled in favor of the town," and "affirmed the town was not arbitrary" in issuing a cease and desist order to stop breeding bearded dragons there, he said. One of the appellants in that case was selectman Robert King, but the issue began before his election.

The other two are still ongoing, both in Land Court. One, the "Oxford Logistics Center case" (Michael Evans et al vs the Planning Board) is a residents' appeal of that board's approval of the project, which saw significant neighbor opposition during the lengthy public hearing process last year. The other is a developer's appeal of the Zoning Board's rejection of a proposed 40B project at 722 Main St. Lamarche said he expects the court to hear them sometime this summer.

In other business, the board extended the application deadline for the town's Hannah Harwood scholarship to May 20. Usually, it's awarded about now, but nobody has applied so far this year.

Anyone getting money gets in in two chunks – one before college begins and the second after providing documentation they've completed their first semester.

In her report, Town Manager Jen Callahan announced Oxford was approved for participation in the state's Vacant Storefront Program, which gives small businesses a tax break for filling vacant storefronts downtown. She also noted the March 22 and 28 housing plan forums drew good turnout, with 344 survey responses. One point they highlighted is that "49 percent of Oxford population would qualify for affordable housing based on income," she said, noting there will be future forums.

Additionally, Callahan noted the town's seeking small businesses to participate in another forum at 9 a.m. June 5 at Carbuncle Beachhouse on how to help economic development. For more general residents, she added the transfer station will host bulk days April 27 (north half of town) and May 4 (south half). Kids are being invited to acting classes on Mondays from April 22-May 20 as part of the Oxford Community Theater Program; those do have a tuition cost.

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

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Personal finance at the Gladys E. Kelly Library



WEBSTER — Money is usually a very personal and sensitive topic. Not so at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library! Recently, parents from Webster Head Start were invited to participate in a five-part course focused on personal finance. This series of workshops were hosted by the Library with the support of Webster Five Bank, MAPFRE Insurance, Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, and Webster Head Start.

Webster Five's Brenda Sullivan, Assistant Vice President and Marketing Manager, and Worcester Community Action Council's Melissa Trinidad, Lead Financial Empowerment Coach, each highlighted one element of personal finance per session. Topics included: savings, banking, borrowing, credit reports, and housing. These complex subjects were made manageable because of the expertise of the presenters.

Recognizing the busy schedules that

most young families keep, Webster Five sponsored an evening meal before each session so that the families could enjoy each other's company. After dinner, the children were treated to a storytime and activities, led by Head Start Staff, while their parents participated in the seminar. Adults were asked to complete a pre-assessment sheet, to privately assess their understanding of the topic being discussed. At the close of each information session, the same assessment was used to gauge their level of understanding.

An indicator of success was not only the level of attendance (the majority of participants attended all five sessions), but their level of active participation and engagement. In all cases, the parents indicated that the sessions were very helpful and that they appreciated the opportunity to support each other and learn about area resources and contacts.

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

Spice Club Each month will feature a new spice, recipes, and cookbooks. Stop by the lobby to grab a sample of that month's spice, then take it home and cook! March's Spice is Garlic Powder

Are you spring cleaning your crafting materials? Bring in any yarn, fabric and other crafting materials. Then on May 6th come in and find new supplies to take home.

Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturday April 13th, 20th, and 27th at 9:30 AM

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical

class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— April 22nd at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmmars.org for inquiries. *Save the Date Geraldine Brooks will be coming June 6th at 6:30 PM for a FREE author talk.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT— April 29th at 6:00 PM

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

COOKBOOK CLUB— May 14th at 6:00 PM

Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share.

Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and our least favorite things of the cooking adventure. You can pick up your copy from behind the circulation desk.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: BLACKSTONE VALLEY MUSIC AN EAGLES TRIBUTE --- April 11th at 6:30 PM

Returning once again after last year's successful run of Meet The Beatles, Blackstone Valley Music presents its second of a now annual tribute concert series An Eagles Tribute, performing the band's greatest hits and fan favorites as recorded on their iconic albums. Comprised of teachers, staff and former students from our neighborhood music school located in the heart of downtown Uxbridge, this series has been inspired by the hard work and dedication of former BVM Rock Band Camp students Vito Caccavelli and James Briand, who have since high

school succeeded in producing quality tribute concerts including The Beatles Abbey Road, Fleetwood Mac Rumors and two sold out concerts for Pink Floyd's The Wall.

TASTING CLASS-- HERB BUTTER MAKING--- April 23rd at 6:00 PM

This short tasting class will show you how to spice up your butter! We will be making different types of herb butter by using fresh herbs, spices and garlic. Registration for this event opens Tuesday, April 9 at 9:00 AM.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

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

MAKER MONDAYS -

Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

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

LEGO CLUB--- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM

Come play with the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display! No registration Required

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

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

STORYTIME--- April 23rd, and 30th at 10:00 AM

Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME --- April 24th at 10:00 AM

Join Library Director Sondra Murphy for stories, songs, and

fun with our plush pals! This story time is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

MUSIC TOGETHER--- Saturdays April 13th, and 27th at 11:00 AM

Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! For ages 0 to 6 and their families. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION--- April 22nd and 29th at 10:00 AM

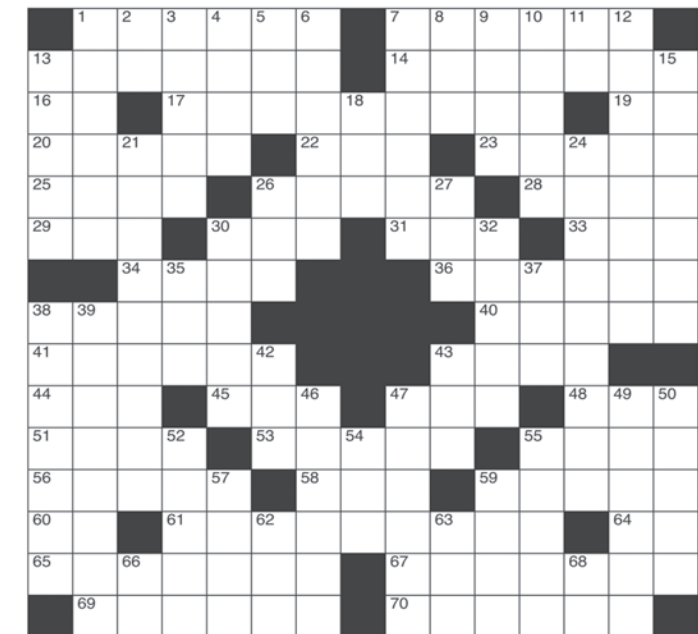
Join us for open sensory bin exploration. Bins will be filled up with sand, rice, dirt, dry pasta, and more! This program is geared towards ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY PARTY --- April 16th at 10:00 AM

Help us celebrate National Library Day by dressing up like a librarian (cardigans and glasses encouraged). We will have a library-themed story time and book craft. Every child will leave with a book.

HORSE 101 --- April 20th at 12:00 PM

Lindsay from Winterberry homestead will be here teaching us about horses. Safety working around horses, learn how horses think, along with nutrition and shelter needs. This program is supplemental to our author talk with Geraldine Brooks coming June 6th at 6:00 PM.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
- 7. Platforms
- 13. Project plan
- 14. French fishing port
- 16. South Dakota
- 17. Oakland's baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Ornamental stone
- 22. Garland
- 23. Process that produces ammonia
- 25. Mousses
- 26. Music notation "dal ___"
- 28. Fail to win
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Not near
- 31. Some cars still need it
- 33. Lizard genus
- 34. An idiot (Brit.)
- 36. Postponed
- 38. African country
- 40. Gazes unpleasantly
- 41. In a way, traveled
- 43. Ukraine's capital
- 44. Appropriate
- 45. Dash
- 47. Twitch
- 48. Swiss river
- 51. Data file with computer animations
- 53. City in S. Korea
- 55. Particular region
- 56. They have eyes and noses
- 58. Tear
- 59. Large Madagascar lemur
- 60. Not out
- 61. Ornamental saddle covering
- 64. A driver's license is one
- 65. Latin term for charity
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Objects from an earlier time
- 70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to scratch
- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 15. Ranches
- 18. Electroencephalograph
- 21. A type of compound
- 24. Avenue
- 26. High schoolers' test
- 27. A type of meal
- 30. Gradually disappeared
- 32. Ancient Frankish law code
- 35. Popular pickup truck
- 37. Buzzing insect
- 38. Deal illegally
- 39. Lying in the same plane
- 42. Obstruct
- 43. Related
- 46. Challenge aggressively
- 47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 49. Bird's nests
- 50. Forays
- 52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. One-time name of Vietnam
- 57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 59. Private school in New York
- 62. Political action committee
- 63. A way to fashion
- 66. Email reply
- 68. "The Great Lake State"



Booklovers Gourmet celebrates Independent Bookstores Day

WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet is happy to announce our participation in the 11th Anniversary of Independent Bookstore Day!

Booklovers' Gourmet will have a variety of exclusive items for sale and as giveaways, from specialized tote bags, to banned books puzzles and water bottles. There will be special sweet treats and raffle prizes too. This year, we are excited to be one of the chosen indie bookstores nationwide to participate in the Golden Ticket scavenger hunt offered through Libro.fm. The lucky winner of the Golden Ticket, hidden somewhere on the store's shelves, will win 12 Free Audiobooks!

"We are thrilled to be part of celebrating and showcasing all that indie bookstores have to offer our communities and, after being in business for 29 years, it's a perfect time to show our gratitude for the loyal support & local love we feel each and every day, too," Deb Horan, owner of the store, said.

Independent Bookstore Day (Indie Bookstore Day) was established in 2013 to promote, celebrate, and highlight the value of the Independent bookstore community. The day has been observed on the last Saturday of April every year since 2013. This year there are over 900 stores participating across the country.

Independent Bookstore Day is organized by the American Booksellers Association, a national not-for-profit trade organization, that works with booksellers and industry partners to ensure the success and profitability of independently owned book retailers, and to assist in expanding the community of the book.

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Masonic Open House is back!



Quinebaug Masonic Lodge located at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge invites you to come and see the history and mystic of Freemasonry. We are looking for a "Few Good Men"; is there greatness in you?

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — This Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge located at 339 Ashland Ave, Southbridge will be hosting an Open House. All lodges located throughout Massachusetts will

also be hosting this Open House. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1859 and has been around for an astounding 165 years. The Lodge is thriving due to the strong bond of Freemasonry and family-oriented men in this community.

If you like history and tradition, come down and visit the Lodge. During this Open House period you will be able to see

the mysterious Lodge meeting room along with ancient symbols. Additionally, our walls of photos represent previous Lodge Past Masters, dating back more than 100 years. We will give you a tour and explain what Freemasonry is to men and their families in our community. In its 165 years the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Freemasons has

continued to make good men better. One of our famous founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, once said "Is there greatness in you." Ask this question to yourself and if so, come to this open house and talk to our brothers. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

Bartlett High School Athletic Hall of Fame announces 2024 inductees

WEBSTER — The 11th induction ceremony for the Bartlett High School Athletic Hall of Fame will be held on Oct. 26 at the Richard A. Nowak Gymnasium, St. Joseph School, 50 Lincoln St., Webster; at 6 p.m.

The new class includes 11 individual athletes, one contributor; and a team: Paul Love, Class of 1928; David Oleszewski, Class of 1965; Charles Satti, Class of 1967; James "Jamie" Hetherman, Class of 1979; Mark Begreen, Class of 1980; Joanne Starosta Grzembki, Class of 1988; Heather Mortell Gustafson, Class of 2007; Shawn Gatto, Class of 2015; Alexander Givins Perry, Class of 2015; Tyler Davern, Class of 2017; Anthony Grzembki, Class of 2017; John Bialy, Contributor; 1993 Boys' Track Team.

A detailed listing of the sports played and accomplishments will follow at a later date.

The Committee will be hosting a Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 22 at the Harrisville Golf course, 125 Harrisville Rd., Woodstock, Conn. at 1 p.m. For information regarding induction or the golf tournament, please contact Athletic Director Anthony Paranto at (508) 943-8552, ext. 34028.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Open Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

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

The Webster Senior Center will be closed on Monday, April 15th in observance of Patriot's Day.

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated.

All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday 4/16 Chicken Pot Pie, mashed potatoes, corn niblets. Wednesday 4/17 Salmon Primavera, rice pilaf, peas & onions. Thursday 4/18 Spaghetti & Meatballs, marinara sauce green beans. 4/19 Garlic Herbed Chicken, cornbread stuffing, roasted brussels sprouts.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least 2 business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays – Fridays 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

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

Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

NEW! Genealogy Workshops by Seema Kenney will start in April! First workshop will be "Starting Your Family History Research" on Friday, April 12th at 9:30 am. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk or by calling (508) 949-3845.

Don't miss our April Ice Cream Social on Thursday, April 18th at 12:00 pm. Sponsored by Webster Manor. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

Koffee Klatch - get together and chat with us as we watch mini-series on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be served - come join us! Our March series will be the Netflix series, "The Keepers", Who killed Sister Cathy, a docu-series about the nearly five decades old unsolved murder of nun Catherine Cesnik. We will be show-

ing this series every Thursday from March 7th through April 18th.

The REC Farmer's Market is now setting up in the Webster Senior Center on Thursdays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

Join us for movie matinees! We will be showing "Oppenheimer" in two 90-minute segments. Part One on Monday, April 22nd at 1:00 pm and Part Two on Monday, April 29th at 1:00 pm. Popcorn and refreshments will be served. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

Free Blood Pressure Screening at the Webster Senior Center on Friday, April 26th from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Please sign in when you arrive.

Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00

pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. 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 6-card or 13-card pitch! Six card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

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

Webster Senior Center Trips are back! Trip 1: Ricky Nelson Remembered, performed by Matthew & Gunnar Nelson at Lake Pearl, Wrentham, MA on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Cost: \$131.00 per person includes transportation, plated luncheon, meal tax & gratuity, and show ticket. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. Trip 2: Jimmy

Buffett Tribute & Maine Lobster Bake at Foster's on Monday, July 15th. Cost: \$137.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

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

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



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The allure of outer space and eclipses

Humanity's fascination with outer space and celestial events like eclipses stretches back to the dawn of our existence. From ancient civilizations to modern-day space agencies, the allure of the cosmos has captured our imaginations and sparked a colossal sense of wonder and curiosity. But what is it about outer space and eclipses that continues to captivate us?

One of the most undeniable reasons is the utter scale and mystery of the universe. Outer space represents the ultimate frontier, a vast expanse of uncharted territory waiting to be explored. The unfathomable distances between stars and galaxies, the enigmatic nature of black holes, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life all contribute to a sense of awe and intrigue. The exploration of outer space offers us the chance to push the boundaries of our knowledge and understanding, to uncover the secrets of the cosmos, and to answer some of humanity's most weighty questions about our place in the universe.

Eclipses, in particular, hold a special place because they offer a tangible connection to the cosmos. These rare celestial events, where the sun, moon, and Earth align in perfect harmony, produce breathtaking displays of light and shadow that captivate millions of people around the world. Whether it's a solar eclipse, where the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting a temporary shadow on our planet, or a lunar eclipse, where Earth's shadow falls across the surface of the moon, eclipses remind us of the beauty and grandeur of the universe.

Moreover, eclipses have played a significant role in shaping human history and culture. Ancient civilizations viewed eclipses as omens or portents, often interpreting them as signs from the gods. Today, eclipses continue to inspire awe and wonder, bringing people together to witness these rare cosmic events firsthand. Whether it's through scientific expeditions to observe and study eclipses or community gatherings to marvel at their beauty, eclipses have a way of uniting us in our shared sense of wonder and appreciation for the cosmos.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, outer space and eclipses also hold immense scientific value. Studying the cosmos allows us to better understand the fundamental laws of nature, from the forces that govern the motion of celestial bodies to the origins of the universe itself. Eclipses provide scientists with unique opportunities to conduct experiments and observations that would be impossible under normal circumstances, offering valuable insights into everything from solar physics to the dynamics of Earth's atmosphere.

Furthermore, our fascination with outer space and eclipses speaks to something deeper within us – a primal instinct to explore, to seek out new frontiers, and to push the boundaries of what is possible.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

Jesus is alive

Two weeks ago, my wife and I went to Notre Dame Academy to watch a musical production of "Godspell." Just like "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Godspell" is a 1970s production trying to present the life of Jesus Christ to the Hippie generation. Watching a bunch of high school girls re-enact the life and teachings of Christ was special.

Except I was taken aback when "Godspell" ended with the Crucifixion of Christ. Just like "Jesus Christ Superstar," both of these modern renditions of the life of Jesus Christ end with his death. Nothing after the crucifixion! How can that be? How can someone tell the story of Jesus without His victorious end of resurrecting from the dead? That is like telling a story but leaving the most central part of the story out. It doesn't make much sense.

Jesus was dead, and is now alive. Think about the consequences of this reality! He was betrayed, arrested, beaten, tortured, killed and buried, yet, somehow, He came back to life. This is not a mirage. It is not simply a dream.

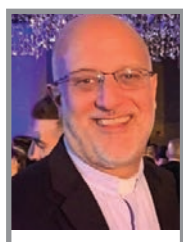
No! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is fundamentally different! Jesus the man was killed and buried on Friday. His friends mourned in despair thinking all their dreams came to an end. He was dead in the tomb all day Saturday. Then on the third day, which we call the Day of the Lord, Sunday, He came back to life. He rose from the dead and presented Himself alive. And He revealed Himself to numerous people – first to Mary Magdalene, to Peter and the ten disciples, to Cleopas and Luke on the road to Emmaus, to Thomas and the eleven disciples a week later, to his followers on the beach where he ate with them (something a ghost wouldn't do), to 500 followers all at once, and to others. The Risen Lord Jesus showed Himself alive for 40 days following His Resurrection.

It all sounds quite outrageous. And it is! Who has ever heard of anyone else coming back to life and appearing to many people over a six week period. This is the reason why skeptics today try to dismiss this story as a fairy tale, a pie-in-the-sky dream of wishful thinking about someone rising from the dead. It just seems impossible. Because it is, humanly speaking.

Even two thousand years ago, such skepticism was just as adamant. As NT Wright, the famous New Testament scholar, notes, "Early Christianity was born into a world where everybody knew that the central claim of its faith was ridiculous, and the early Christians knew it themselves... This claim seemed absolutely crazy. Ordinary, sober people knew perfectly well that dead people don't rise back to life."

No other major world religion claims that their central figure came back to life after death and is still alive today! Muslims would never claim that Mohammed is still alive. Buddhists know that the Buddha died and didn't physically come back to life. Jews never claim that Abraham or Moses or David is still alive. Hindus claim that souls can be reincarnated but they don't believe that a person who is dead comes back to life as the same person. The Christian claim to Jesus Risen from the dead is unique and revolutionary!

The idea is so absurd, in fact, that even some liberal Christians and churches have tried to soften this scandalous idea by turning the reality of the Resurrection into some spiritual metaphor, some psychological rebirth of hope or a "spiritual but not religious" beginning of a new life. Of course, the New Testament offers a witness to the radical new life that Jesus Christ offers all His followers – we do become a new creation in Christ through our Baptism and life in Him - but that is something that comes as a result of the transforming power we receive from the Risen Lord Jesus Himself. The spiritual metaphor doesn't replace what truly



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

happened. The dead, crucified man, Jesus, rose from the tomb and came back to life! He conquered death! He opened the gates of eternal life, paradise, and humanity no longer needs to fear death if they live with the Risen Christ!

If we embrace this reality as true, if we believe that Jesus overcame and conquered death and all the injustice and suffering He endured by rising from the dead, then it changes our entire perspective on life. If we truly accept the fact that Jesus is alive and victorious, we can then commit our lives to follow this Risen Lord, and our life will never be the same. Death is not the end of our story! All the darkness and evil we see in our world – the violence and wickedness, any suffering and tragedy, the greed and ego-centric desires, the lust and impurity, the utter confusion and deception we see all around us – is not the end of the story!

Always remember how God became a man who lived on this same earth and experienced the greatest evil and darkness of this world. He was betrayed by his own friend. He was abandoned by his closest followers. He was rejected by His own people. He was unjustly arrested, beaten, tortured and killed. We have a God who understands the evil and darkness of this world! He voluntarily experienced and endured it all for a purpose. To expose its temporary character. Evil and darkness, even suffering and death did not have the final say in the life of Christ, and will not have the final say in our story of life if we walk with the Risen Christ!

The Risen Lord Jesus is the Victor over evil, darkness, and death! And this is where we come into the story. If we choose to not only believe in the Risen Christ in an intellectual manner, but if we choose to commune with Him every day, to walk with Him and to walk as He walked, to allow His Spirit to dwell richly in us, and if we choose to form our entire world view around "Jesus Risen From the Dead," then our life will change!

When we walk with the Risen Jesus and live in the light of Christ's Resurrection, we walk in the spirit of the Beatitudes. We imitate the life of Jesus as a servant of others. We sacrifice for others out of our love for them. And ultimately, we fear nothing! Death is but a doorway into an eternal embrace in God's love. Suffering is but a temporary experience which is transformed when I accept the unconditional nature of God's love. Tragic events and affairs may seem to be overwhelming from a limited perspective, yet from the view of our Risen Lord Jesus, we find courage and discover hope because we know He is victorious over all, and we will be victorious with Him.

When we walk with the Living Christ, our lives radiate with an eternal joy, hope, peace, gratitude and wonder!

Let me conclude with the words of Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, who noted, "With Christ's Resurrection everything was made new again; everything was restored! From that point on, the question posed for every human being has been whether or not to participate in this restoration."

Christ is Risen and good prevails over evil. Christ is Risen and hope prevails over despair! Christ is Risen and light prevails over darkness. Christ is Risen and joy prevails over sadness. Christ is Risen and life prevails over death!

This is why, if we choose to participate in this resurrection, we enter into a new beginning and a victorious life! Remember, never let anything in life ever allow you to forget the joy and new life we have in the Resurrection!"

Freshwater fishing heats up

Wachusett Reservoir was hot last week for numerous anglers, as this week's pictures show. Trout fishing was not bad either, if you could stand the cold wind that was blowing all week.

Wallum Lake opens this Saturday, and should be a great day outdoors. The lake was stocked two times by Massachusetts, and the trout should provide some great fishing. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will also open their trout pond to fishing for members only.

Eastman Party boats had some slow fishing last week with spotty fishing for haddock and pollock. There were plenty of Cusks being caught. Mass. saltwater fishing regulations have changed very



Courtesy

Pet is shown here with some nice large lake trout taken from Wachusett Reservoir last week.

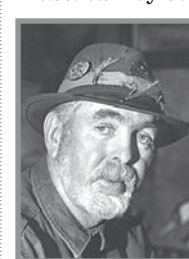


A possible catch & release record lake trout caught at Wachusett Reservoir last week.

little from last year, with scaup increasing another inch.

Tautog fishing in both Mass. & Rhode Island should start to improve in the next two weeks. Although a three fish daily bag limit is still in effect, catching a few of these hard fighting fish are all worth the effort. Eating one of these fish can provide a meal like no other ocean fish.

Turkeys are starting to become more active in the last few days. Sightings by local hunters have increased also. The Mass. turkey season opens on April 29.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

Striper migration is slowly heading our way, and anglers are only a day

away from catching them. The one fish daily limit is the same as last year, with a slot limit still in effect.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The unsustainable path

To the Editor:
Many analysts project a bleak economic future for the United States due to the growing national debt currently at \$34.6 trillion. The current spending rate will increase this debt to \$54 trillion in 10 years. The current interest paid on this debt is \$475 billion per year. This indebtedness will eventually create hyperinflation and an economic collapse like what occurred in Germany in 1923.

The current ruling class makes no attempt to reduce spending or to lower this debt. A Civil Society is dependent upon the ruling generation to preserve and protect our culture and successful economic policies for future generations. We are ignoring our responsibility to make sacrifices to reduce this debt. Can we love our children and grandchil-

dren but simultaneously betray them and jeopardize their future?

Appropriations are constantly created in the form of assistance programs, grants, pay raises and welfare programs. Massachusetts taxpayers are now required to pay \$75 million every month to provide everything needed to thousands of non-citizens. The current government is concerned with finding more funding to expand this migrant program. Much higher taxes are coming and the debt to be paid by our children will continue to explode. We know what is happening, we just don't care.

ERIC SPAHL
DUDLEY

Mount Everest (and your retirement)

Climbing Mt. Everest is a challenge that captures the imagination of adventurers worldwide. It is a daunting feat that pushes ones physical and mental endurance, resiliency, and technical skills to the limit. Standing at a staggering 29,032 feet above sea level, Everest's summit is the highest point on earth. To put that height in perspective, commercial airplanes fly around 31,000 feet.

Climbers daring enough to attempt this challenge will often spend years physically training, planning, and preparing. When they finally arrive at base camp, a successful expedition can still take anywhere between six and 10 weeks — the average being two months. Often, extreme weather conditions can make

summitting impossible. Climbers must contend with unpredictably high winds, blizzards, and sub-zero temperatures, even during the “climbing season”. Sudden changes can turn a promising bid into a perilous situation, forcing climbers to retreat or seek emergency shelter.

The mountain is notorious for its steep ice slopes, deep crevasses, and rocky ridges. It requires the use of ropes, shaky ladders, sherpas, and fixed lines to ascend safely. The Khumbu Icefall, a particularly hazardous section near Everest's base camp, is well known for its unstable ice towers and seemingly bottomless crevasses.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

As climbers ascend, the air becomes progressively thinner, leading to reduced oxygen levels. This can cause altitude sickness, characterized by headaches, nausea, and fatigue. Taking just a few steps in these conditions can be utterly exhausting. But for those individuals fortunate enough to reach the top, it is worth the effort to achieve a lifelong goal.

Since 1953 approximately 6,664 different people have successfully

summitted Mt. Everest. Sadly, the mountain has also claimed many lives (approximately 305). What might be surprising to learn is that 80 percent of those deaths occurred on the way down — after they successfully reached the summit.

When it comes to financial planning, it may seem your “climb” is done once you've reached retirement. But in reality, a new set of challenges and decisions will present themselves. How long will your portfolio last? Are you withdrawing too much or too little? Do you have a spending plan? How should you adjust your asset allocation? Is your portfolio protected? When should you take Social Security? What about taxes and inflation? Successfully reaching

retirement is a fantastic accomplishment. But there is still plenty of work to be done. A knowledgeable financial planner can help guide you through the vast array of retirement pitfalls.

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, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group

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An Array of Random Tips & Tricks

Spring is here and it seems the perfect season to start a home project and/or prep for planning that backyard garden. From painting to gardening tips (and a few home remedies), read on for some “semi random” tips that seem especially appropriate to share this time of year!

**

Spring is spruce-up season, and if for you, that includes painting, try these painting pointers from the pros:

Flat Out Frugal Paint: The higher the gloss of the finish, the easier the paint is to clean. However high gloss shows imperfections, that's why flat is used. How do you get a flat finish with “washability”? Just mix a pint of gloss finish paint into each gallon of flat finish.

**

Timing the Job: Choose warm dry mornings to paint. Cold weather retards drying of paint and the dampness will spoil the gloss. And avoid



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

using paint directly from the can as this may cause contamination and prematurely age the paint. Pour the amount you expect to use in 30 minutes into a separate container.

**
Backyard gardeners are prepping for planting this month. Read on for some helpful hacks:

Beautiful Blooms: Planning a spring flower garden? For an interesting mix, plan to merge short plants with tall specimens for variety and depth, and differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Plan a pathway of flowers with strong floral scents to welcome visitors up to your door!

**
See the Light: Starting indoor seedlings and don't have greenhouse light? No worries! It is possible to achieve satisfactory results by utilizing your ordinary LED white shop lights. Gary Pilarchik of therustedgarden.com recommends 5,000 lumens or higher. Hang the lights about two feet above the seedlings.

**
An old fashioned lore worth repeating: Long ago farmers used to use the cricket's chirp to estimate the temperature, and you can too! Just count how many chirps you hear in 15 seconds, then add 40. This will give the approximate temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

*
H2O2 for Plants: Hydrogen peroxide. It does much more than sooth a sore throat or clean a cut! Even your plants can benefit from H2O2. Just water or mist plants with an ounce of hydrogen peroxide in one quart water.

**

Produce Wash for Pennies: 'Tis the season of fresh produce - and pesticides. If you're buying a commercial produce wash, your hard earned cash may be literally going down the drain! Instead, in a spray bottle, mix two tablespoons of baking soda with one cup of water. If you want add a tablespoon of lemon juice. Spray veggies, let sit for a few minutes and rinse!

**
Garden Therapy: Here's a stat worth repeating: If you're planning a garden, you may be reaping more than healthy plants! The Horticultural Therapy Association claims simply looking at trees and vegetation reduces stress, lowers blood pressure and relieves muscle tension. Gardening can produce endorphin highs similar to those experienced when jogging or cycling!

**
Skip the medicine cabinet and open the kitchen cabinet to try these pantry cures:

It's well know that if you're drinking tea, you are boosting your immune system. But did you know studies show tea reduces the risk of some cancers? Actual tea, as opposed to herbal tea, is rich in powerful antioxidants. The National Foundation for Cancer Research reports green tea is 100 times more potent than vitamin C and 25 times more potent than vitamin E at protecting cells from cancer.

**

Have a headache? Mix two tablespoons of apple cider vinegar with two teaspoons of honey in a glass of water; drink it slowly, and get results within a half-hour. Or eat ten to twelve almonds. Experts say the almonds are equal to taking two aspirins but won't irritate your stomach.

**

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the 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 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Webster Fire and Rescue!

To the Editor:

I want to give a shout out to Webster Fire and Rescue! First, thank you for all you do to keep us safe.

Second, I want you to know how much joy you have brought to our parishioners on Easter. Normally, we at the Episcopal Church of the Reconciliation buy our Easter plants from a wholesaler an hour away from here. Seeing the lovely offerings you had last year for your fundraiser, we decided to shop locally and you did not disappoint. Know that your lilies lined the aisle of our lovely 154 year old church, your tulips graced the stained glass windows, and a combination of hydrangeas, tulips, and lilies joined other spring cut flowers to enhance the front of our altar. The colors were vivid, the quality excellent — my colleagues on the Washington National Cathedral Flower Guild would refer to

them as “luscious”.

Special thanks to Lt. Blair for his help. But the most thanks should go to those who stood in the bad weather for a couple of days selling—with good humor and offers of help to carry. I took the opportunity to stop by a couple more times to buy my own home embellishments—I could not pass on those incredible blue/purple and bright pink hydrangeas. Websterites, if you missed the sale this year, mark your calendar for next Easter. Other churches, check them out. I, for one, will be there again!

Thank you, Webster Fire and Rescue!

Sincerely,

ELAINE F. DAVIES
ALTAR GUILD
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
RECONCILIATION
WEBSTER

Biden chose the path to a border crisis

To the Editor:

I would like to refer the reader to the Web site address “federal register.gov” and then bring up executive orders. There, you can find President Trump's E O 13768 on Jan. 25, 2017 (Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States), which basically protected our country from illegal immigration. Then scroll forward to President Biden's EO 13993 on Jan. 20, 2021 (Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement and Priorities), which completely reversed Trump's executive order.

With Biden's signature, our southern border flew open for millions of unvetted migrants and enough drugs to kill thousands of Americans. We all should be extremely concerned about the hundreds of thousands of “got-a-ways.”

These are migrants who do not report to the border patrol and start receiving all the free stuff (food, lodging, medical, debit cards, etc.) at taxpayers' expense but rather secretly cross the border and go dark. They are a danger to our country and they just walk in. Democrats, including Gov. Healey, want congress to “fix” this chaos with more money (our money!) to care for her “new arrivals.”

They (Pelosi— Schumer, for example) say we need more workers in our country. Why not raise the quotas/caps for friendly countries on existing immigration laws. We do not need terrorists from Iran, China, Iraq, and others just walking in. Biden did not have to make this crisis. He chose to!

Remember in November.

CARL W. WILSON
OXFORD

Stuff I wonder about

To the Editor:

In Massachusetts, do we have taxation without representation? I don't remember voting for \$2 billion (that we know of) support for illegals. What are they doing here? I didn't vote for them, and why is taxpayer money being used to support them? My ancestors didn't have support when they immigrated legally. Just think of what the towns could do with that money. Our taxes, water, schools, permits going up — I don't hear any protests from our alleged reps. Wonder why? Seems to me after two terms, they don't represent us, just the party (doesn't matter what party), and later on pension, or no show job in state government, state colleges. Voters passed term limits 30 years ago, why hasn't the state constitution been changed? We all know why.

New Hampshire pays their reps \$300 for two year terms, two or three sessions, and go home. What is so special

about MA reps to be in Boston 365 days a year? MA is loaded with tax money, but what do they do with it?

My friends complain, complain, but what do we do, nothing. If voters don't vote these alleged reps out of office, or protest, write, email, X (Twitter), nothing will change. I keep hearing democracy, democracy, but do these reps know what it means? Democracy is government by the people, not by the party.

I see for once, the state auditor wants to audit the state house, do you think it might be time, hasn't been done since 1922? Why is the state auditor having a problem doing this? MA Pike bond has been paid off since 1989, why is there still a toll? It will go on, and on, unless we speak up, vote. Don't matter what party, if in love with one; at least make a change. Two terms, that's it.

JIM ALLISON
WEBSTER

Dudley Grows Together Plant Hop scheduled

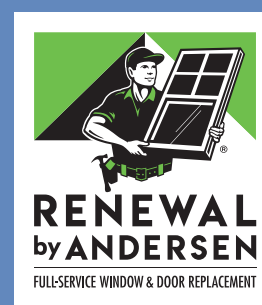
DUDLEY — The Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission will host the third annual “Dudley Grows Together” Plant Hop on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. - noon. This is a rain or shine event.

Confirmed participants at this time include Armstrong Acres (heirloom tomato seedlings, herbs, and perennials), Farmer Tim's (herb, vegetable, and flower seedlings), Walnut Lane Farm (compost and meat/eggs), The Leo Family Homestead (herbs), Pleasant View Farm (honey, hay), Partridge Hill Gardens (daylilies and perennials), The Dudley Conservation Land Trust, The Dudley Grange, and of course the Dudley Agricultural Commission, who will have free seeds available thanks to the generosity of Ocean State Job Lot and the CT Master Gardeners.

Lanette Lepper, member of the Commission, had this to say: “The Plant Hop is a great way for the community to support our local growers while filling their gardens with plants that are already acclimated to our area. Many of these varieties simply are not available at big-box stores. We encourage gardeners to save the date and visit each location, ask questions, learn about new plants, and meet fellow gardeners who are excited to get their hands in the dirt! It's always a fun day for everyone, but bring some cash because not all of our growers accept cards.”

Maps will be available online at dudleyfarmers.com and on the Common day of the event. You can also search for «Dudley Grows Together» on Facebook. Many growers have a social media presence, so you are encouraged to ‘like and follow’ for more information on what they will be offering.

Windows & Doors Triple Savings Event



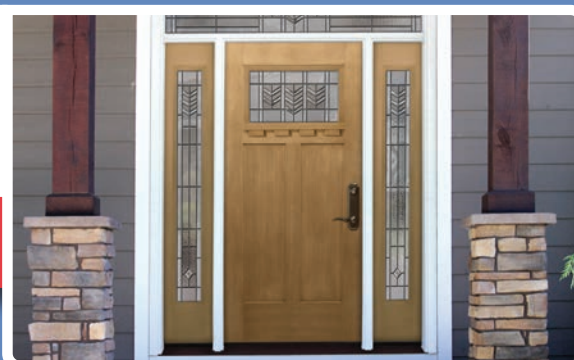
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 4/30/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$400 off each window and \$850 off each entry/patio door and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 4/1/2024 and 4/30/2024. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ²2022 Andersen brand surveys of U.S. contractors, builders, architects & homeowners. ³See Renewal by Andersen® Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge presents service awards

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBUAG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday night, April 1, the upper and lower parking lots at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge were packed full of Master Masons from the 24th Masonic District and from throughout the State of Massachusetts. There were special guests from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston. The surprising and special guests from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston were 2 Past Grand Masters of Massachusetts Brother Albert T. Ames and Brother Richard Maggio along with 5 Past Junior Grand Wardens and other dignitaries.

Two local men, Brother Bob St. Cyr, of Charlton and Brother Larry Burbridge of Union, Conn., were the recipients of the Robert Johnston Service Award. This award is the third highest service award given to Master Mason in Massachusetts. The service award is granted and presented once a year by the Master of the Lodge and is signed and presented by the District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District. The service award is given to



Special guests from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston Past Grand Master Brother Albert T. Ames, recipient Bro. Bob St. Cyr, District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District Bro. Jonathan Neitz, recipient Bro. Larry Burbridge and special guest from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston Past Grand Master Brother Richard Maggio.

Courtesy

the unsung Brother of the lodge working behind the scenes who goes above and beyond the call of duty of what's expected of a Freemason.

Let me tell you a little bit about these two "Worthy Men" who received this Distinguished Service Award. Brother Bob St.

Cyr has been a Master Mason for 16 years. During his years as a Master Mason, he has been the 24th Masonic District communication

officer, Chairman of the Lodges MYChips committee, Grand Lodge Officer, Grand Lodge Education and Training Committee -Membership Chairman,

President of the Masonic Secretaries Association, works at many fund-raising events and for the past 10 years still is the Quinebaug Lodge secretary just to name a few.

Brother Larry Burbridge has been a Master Mason for 42 years. This man has pretty much done it all, volunteered and helped at every event the Lodge has. Educating and new candidates as they become members. He helps with whatever the needs are for the Lodge, big or small. He is the Veterans Service Officer for the Grand Lodge, Veterans Affairs Officer for the Grand Lodge, and the Veterans Liaison Officer for the Grand Lodge and the 24th Masonic District. His commitment to his Lodge and Freemasonry is exemplary. The members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge are very proud of these two Brethren who received the 3rd highest service awards presented to Master Masons in Massachusetts. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to massfreemasonry.org to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the month of March.

Ryan Nicholas Livernois, age 37, of Webster was arrested on March 1 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Karen Ann Siegmund, age 58, of Dudley was arrested on March 2 for Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

John Charles Mazeski III, age 44, no known address, was arrested on March 3 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Brady S. Bolduc, age 21, of Brookfield was arrested on March 3 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Stephanie Ann Merceri, age 36, of Kissimmee, Fla. was arrested on March 7 for Felony Breaking & Entering into a Building at Nighttime, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

Arthur Tolman Christian, age 38, of Dudley was arrested on March 13 in connection with a warrant. Michael T. McIntire, age 37, of North Oxford was arrested during the same incident for Possession of a Class B Drug.

Ronald E. Zarzecki, age 52, of Dudley was arrested on March 13 for Furnishing Law Enforcement with a False ID and in connection with multiple out of agency warrants.

Adam Wierbik, age 49, of Dudley was arrested on March 24 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Samantha Rock, age 32, of Plainfield was arrested on March 25 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation, and multiple counts of drug possession.

Deborah Ann Pecore, age 57, of Charlton was arrested on March 28 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Community yard sale spaces available

AUBURN — Spring cleaning? Don't throw that good "stuff" away. Recycle it by selling it to someone who needs it! Do you have an accumulation of things that are too good to throw away but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale? Join us on the lawn of the First Congregational Church, 128 Central St. in Auburn, on Saturday, June 8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for our annual Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale. Spaces are available for a \$25 fee, a limited number of tables may be rented for \$5 each. Don't delay, reserve your space now by calling the church office at 508-832-2845.

We also will be having our Plant Sale. There will be a large selection of annuals and perennials. Those who have been buying plants from us return year after year and see how each year we have more and more to offer. This year should be no different.

We'll do all the advertising, and we'll post plenty of signs the day of the event at key locations in town. Due to our central location and previous yard sales (29), we expect our usual large turnout. This is a rain or shine event.

Auburn Historical Society hosting talk on Wachusett Dam and Aqueduct

AUBURN — The April 18 meeting of the Auburn Historical Society and Museum will feature Paul Marrone, who will present the pictorial history of the Wachusett Dam and Aqueduct.

The Wachusett Aqueduct was built to carry the newly collected waters of the Nashua River overland to the Sudbury Reservoir in Southborough. The aqueduct is largely invisible today and has since been replaced by the Cosgrove Intake. Mr. Marrone has compiled this history from the archives at Digital Commonwealth and will be taking a closer look at each of the four sections.

This event will take place at the Auburn Sportsman's Club, 50 Elm St., on Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public with plenty of parking.

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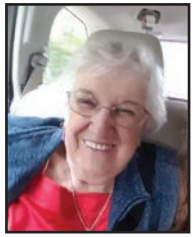
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OBITUARIES

Virginia Mae Fowler, 86



Virginia Mae (Mason) Fowler, 86, passed away on March 29, 2024, at Brookside Healthcare Center in Webster. Born on April 22, 1937, in Worcester, Virginia's life was marked by her unwavering dedication to helping others and her vibrant personality. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Robert R. Fowler in 1994. Virginia was employed as an assembler for Keeney Manufacturing Company in CT for many years. Throughout her life, Virginia found joy in the simple pleasures. An avid reader with a love for traveling, she explored every state, with Hawaii holding a special place in her heart. Her adventures took her to numerous countries, and she particularly cherished the experience of cruising the open seas. Virginia's "lunch dates" with her daughter and friends were treasured moments filled with laughter and camaraderie. She delighted in socializing and nurturing relationships through these gatherings. She found great joy and excitement watching seagulls and butterflies in their own

environment. Virginia's generous spirit extended beyond leisure activities. She actively supported the Girl Scouts, eventually becoming a member herself. In her final moments, Virginia was surrounded by her loving family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and parents Hazel (Ewings) and John Mason but leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness. Virginia is survived by her daughter Kathy Fowler and significant other, Dan Kirby, of Webster; son John Fowler and his wife, Mary Anne, of NY; grandchildren Jeremy Ducharme of Quebec, Melanie Barton and her husband, Christopher, of VT, Pascal Tremblay and his wife, Marie-Pierre of Quebec, and Christopher Fowler of CT; great-grandchildren Mason, Matthieu, and Felix; as well as several dear friends whose lives she touched with warmth and compassion. Family and friends celebrated Virginia's life at Callahan, Fay & Caswell Life Celebration Home, 61 Myrtle St. in Worcester. Burial will be in Hope Cemetery at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Virginia's name to the Danny Thomas St. Jude's Children Hospital Fund at www.stjude.org.

Roland W. Mallas, Jr., 82



Roland W. Mallas, Jr., 82, PADUCAH, KY – Roland W. Mallas, Jr., 82, formerly of Webster, MA died Monday, April 1, 2024 at Southgate Nursing Rehab in Metropolis, IL.

He leaves 4 children: Dawn Willette and her husband Todd, James Mallas, Tim Mallas, Sr. and his wife Kimberly, and Christina Mallas; 9 grandchildren, Desaray Mallas, Timothy Mallas, Jr., Ashley Mallas, Zachariah Mallas, Julia Mallas, Lilianna Mallas, Elijah Strickland, Caleb Mallas, and Amelia Mallas; a great-grandson, Jacob Smith; a great-granddaughter Roselyn Williams; 2 sisters, Claire Plasse and Patricia Mallas; nephews and nieces.

He was born in Chicago and raised in Webster, MA, a son of Roland W. Mallas, Sr. and Audrey (Dow) Mallas. He

moved to Kentucky in the 1990's.

He was a United States Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Mallas was a retired truck driver for Roadmax.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 3, in the Lindsay Funeral Home, Paducah.

A second service was held at 11:00 AM Monday, April 8, in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, MA. Burial will be in Mount Zion Cemetery, Webster, with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. A time of visitation will be held from 9:30 until 11:00 AM Monday morning in the funeral home, prior to the service.

www.websterfunerals.com



Keep smiling

I waited tables for quite a while in my early acting days. It's a common choice for actors because you can work at night. That leaves your days free for auditions and acting gigs.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

yet I had to act as if they were?

It didn't matter. Showing annoyance and anger towards a customer, no matter how much they might deserve it, wasn't an option. I was forced to choose.

After many nights of soul-searching, tossing, and turning, with thoughts racing through my head, I reached a decision. No matter what happened during my shifts, I had to keep smiling.

No matter how tempting it was to snap back, showing annoyance or anger towards a customer was off-limits. I had to make a choice, which was definitely challenging.

I found myself smiling at customers who sent back their meals because the soup was "too hot" or complained their ice cream was "too cold." It seemed absurd, but as I kept my cool and flashed a smile—even when everything in me wanted to do the opposite—something unexpected began to happen. The stress that used to weigh me down started to lift.

As I made smiling a practice, I realized it wasn't about giving in or pretending the stress didn't exist; it was about choosing how I reacted to it.

I realized that my smile wasn't just a courtesy; it was my shield, a powerful defense against the relentless negativity and chaos that threatened to engulf me. No matter how unreasonable the customers were, how baseless the complaints were, or how chaotic the kitchen became, I found something interesting.

I found that smiling, keeping calm, and not reacting to the negativity wasn't me being a fake person. It was changing how I felt on the inside. I started to feel happy and soon enough I didn't have to force it.

I also noticed that the customers found it hard to continue their negativity when confronted with unwavering positivity.

Next time you find yourself about to lose your cool, take a breath and force a smile. It might feel unnatural at first, but give it a moment. That smile will start to work wonders, not just on those around you, but on you as well.

Even after I landed a lead role in Showtime's "A Separate Peace," a film produced by Oscar winners Dustin Hoffman & Michael Sugar and directed by Oscar nominee Peter Yates, I was back at the restaurant working shifts before and after filming.

It surprised a lot of folks. They thought a movie role meant you made it big, but acting jobs can be few and far between. Keeping a steady job, like waiting tables, helped me pay the bills.

Being a waiter is straightforward but challenging. You're always on your feet, rushing around. Customers are only sometimes lovely; some can be downright rude or impatient. And when you're juggling several tables, plus dealing with kitchen mix-ups, guess who customers blame? Yep, the waiter.

Waiting tables is a job packed with stress. There were days when it was written all over my face, days when anyone walking by the kitchen could hear me grumbling under my breath. I was short with the kitchen staff, snappy with my managers, and could have done better at keeping my cool.

Quitting crossed my mind more often than I'd like to admit. I fantasized about making a grand exit, throwing my apron down and shouting, "I QUIT!" for everyone to hear, then striding out the door with my head held high.

Then came the day my managers decided it was time for a chat. They understood that the job was stressful, but they also made it clear that stress comes with the territory in the restaurant world. They told me straight: no matter how tough things got, losing my cool wasn't an option. I was expected to handle it all with a smile, no exceptions.

I remember thinking, How am I supposed to keep smiling? What if a customer yells at me for their steak being overcooked when they asked for it well-done? It seemed impossible at the time. How could I grin and bear it when things were so obviously not my fault,

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



LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 2C John William Drive #2C, Pond View II Condominium, Auburn, MA 01501

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Nancy Nichols to RBS Citizens, N.A., and now held by Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A., said mortgage dated May 23, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50961, Page 326, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on May 21, 2024 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, directly in front of the building in which the unit is located, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The unit ("Unit") known as Unit 2-C John William Drive, Auburn, Massachusetts in the POND VIEW II CONDOMINIUM, a condominium "Condominium" established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, by Master Deed dated September 17, 1985, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Book 8937, Page 84 (the "Master Deed") which Unit is shown on the floor plans ("Plans") recorded in Plan Book 541, Plan 34 with the Master Deed. The Unit is conveyed together with:

1. An undivided interest of .04762% of the common areas and facilities ("Common Elements") of the Condominium described in the Master Deed, attributable to the Unit.
2. An exclusive right and easement to use any shed, steps, bulkhead or chimney extending from the exterior of the Unit as provided in the Master Deed.
3. An exclusive right to use two parking spaces.
4. The exclusive right and easement to use the deck or patio adjacent to such Unit, if any, and to which there is direct access from the interior of such Unit.
5. The exclusive right and ease-

ment to use the attic space, if any, above and accessible from such unit. 6. An easement for the continuances of all encroachments by the Unit of any adjoining Units or Common Elements existing as a result of construction of the Condominium, or which may come into existence hereafter as result of settling or shifting of the buildings or of the Unit after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after a taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Trustees of Pond View Condominium Trust (the "Trustees") 7. The easement in common with the owners of other Units to use any pipes, wires, ducts flues, cables, conduits, public utility lines, and other common elements located in any of the other Units or elsewhere in the condominium serving the Unit. 8. Rights and easements in common with other Unit Owners as described in the Master Deed. Same premises as Book 20656 Page 359

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 October 28, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20656, Page 359.

Said Unit will be conveyed together with an undivided percentage interest in the Common Elements of said Condominium appurtenant to said Unit and together with all rights, easements, covenants and agreements as contained and referred to in the Declaration of Condominium, as amended.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
April 5, 2024
April 12, 2024
April 19, 2024

Warrant Article #22 (General) of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 22, 2023, has received approval from the Attorney General's Office on September 5, 2023. The Massachusetts Environmental Police have granted approval of Warrant Article 22 on March 29, 2024. The entire text of this by-law is posted in the following five places in accordance with G.L. c. 40 § 32: Dudley Municipal Complex, Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Mason Road School, Dudley District Court House and Shepherd Hill High School.

Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk
April 12, 2024
April 19, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P0831EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Robert B. Gillies
Date of Death: 04/01/2016

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Sharron L Gillies of Oxford MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as 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 04/23/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 12, 2024

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P1113EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Shirley D. Munroe
Also known as:
Shirley Munroe
Date of Death: 02/11/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jeffrey Ferraro** of **Thompson CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Jeffrey Ferraro** of **Thompson CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/30/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: April 03, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 12, 2024

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
24 SM 001328
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:
Marco Pacheco; Renee N Pacheco a/k/a Renee Pacheco and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 10 Sutton Avenue, given by Marco Pacheco and Renee Pacheco to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for First Eastern Mortgage Corporation, dated October 8, 2010, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46452, Page 308, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before May 20, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on April 3, 2024. Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

April 12, 2024

DUDLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A **Public Hearing** will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley at 6:15 PM on 4/17/2024, to consider a Notice of Intent of Robert Couture for the property located at: 128 Old Southbridge Rd Lot 2 Dudley for new common driveway.

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Dudley Conservation office on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:30-4:30 PM. For more information, call 508-949-8011 April 12, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P1005EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Alan Gene Broden
Also known as:
Alan Broden, Alan G Broden
Date of Death: 02/10/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Robert L Broden of Sturbridge 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:

Robert L Broden of Sturbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/23/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: March 28, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 12, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing Dudley Planning Board Proposed Zoning Amendment

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Dudley Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Dudley Municipal Complex, Room 321-A, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571, on a proposed zoning amendment:

To amend the Dudley Zoning Bylaw, Section 7.01, Driveway / Curb Cut Permit, Subsection IV.F by adding design standards for the construction of shared driveways, and to change the special permit granting authority when more than two houses will use the same driveway from the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Planning Board.

The proposed amendment is on the Town web site and on file in the offices of the Planning Board and Town Clerk, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA during the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday and 8:00 am to noon on Fridays. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the zoning amendment should appear at the time and place designated.

Guy Horne, Chairman
Dudley Planning Board

April 5, 2024

April 12, 2024

DUDLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Dudley Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on April 17, 2024, at 6 PM on the application of William H Webb for Webb Construction Co. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal of old concrete patio and stairs and asphalt boat ramp and replace with permeable pavers. The project location is: 166 Klondike Rd. Dudley, MA. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Dudley Conservation Commission will be conducted in person. Copies of the RDA may be examined at

the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

April 12, 2024

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Alice L. Chmura and Jan T. Mathieu to Springfield Institution For Savings, dated October 15, 1993 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 15662, Page 11, subsequently assigned to Bank United by First Massachusetts Bank, NA as successor in interest to Family Bank, NA (FKA Family Bank, FSB) successor by merger to Springfield Institution For Savings by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 22710, Page 376, subsequently assigned to Bank United by First Massachusetts Bank, NA as successor in interest to Family Bank, NA (FKA Family Bank, FSB) successor by merger to Springfield Institution For Savings by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 68364, Page 152, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, FA by Washington Mutual Bank f/k/a Washington Mutual Bank, FA successor by merger to Bank United by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 47321, Page 77, subsequently assigned to The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as received of Washington Mutual Bank formerly known as Washington Mutual Bank, FA successor by merger to Bank United by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 63588, Page 229, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, FA by The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as receiver of Washington Mutual Bank formerly known as Washington Mutual Bank, FA successor by merger to Bank United by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 48211, Page 190, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by Wells Fargo Bank, NA by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 55766, Page 107, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 63011, Page 279, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 56300, Page 48, subsequently assigned to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 64368, Page 393, subsequently assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2019-RPL10 Trust by DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 68261, Page 72 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on April 26, 2024 at 26 Hall Road, Webster, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land on the easterly side of Hall Road, Webster, MA shown as Lot No. 990 on Plan entitled "Revised Subdivision of Plans No. 3 and No. 4 of Lots at Lakeside" owned by Helmi M. Hall dated July 5, 1966 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 305, Plan 74, and further bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING: at a point on the easterly side of Hall Road, said point being the northwest corner of the lot herein conveyed;

THENCE: , easterly by Lot #989, a distance of 293.86 feet;

THENCE: southeasterly, a distance of 100.97 feet;

THENCE: westerly, by Lot #991, a distance of 307.86 feet to Hall Road;

THENCE: northerly by Hall Road, a distance of 100 feet to the point of beginning.

SUBJECT to the restrictions set forth in Book 12594, Page 352.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will

be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2019-RPL10 Trust

Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,

ORLANS PC

PO Box 540540

Waltham, MA 02454

Phone: (781) 790-7800

22-000857

April 5, 2024

April 12, 2024

April 19, 2024

The Dudley Board of Health will hold a public hearing on April 16th at 5:30pm to discuss and take public comment relative to a proposed local housing regulation, that will require all non-owner -occupied rental properties of two (2) units or more to register the property with the board of health, and will require a housing inspection to verify that each apartment meets the current Massachusetts Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation 105 CMR 410.00: (State sanitary code, chapter II) before occupancy. The local regulation will also require an inspection each fall and spring as well. The proposed fees are Registration; \$100.00, Fall inspection; \$100.00, Spring inspection; \$100.00. The draft regulation is available online at dudleyma.gov and at the board of health office.

April 5, 2024

April 12, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

**Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court**

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608**

(508) 831-2200

**Docket No. WO24P0999EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate of:

Michael John Russell

Date of Death:

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Paul J Russell** of **Wiscasset ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Paul J Russell of Wiscasset ME be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/14/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: March 26, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 12, 2024

Kathryn James of Webster named to Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Kathryn James of Webster was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. James is currently enrolled in the Computer Science and Innovation program. Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate

them on this great accomplishment and honor. Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher education

embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain ranks in multiple categories of U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges;" is included in The Princeton Review's 2024 list of "The Best 389 Colleges;" was named a 2023-2024 College of Distinction for Education, Business and Career Development; and was awarded one of America's Best Colleges by Money for combining quality and affordability. www.champlain.edu

Dudley Grows Together Plant Hop scheduled

DUDLEY — The Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission will host the third annual "Dudley Grows Together" Plant Hop on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. - noon. This is a rain or shine event.

Confirmed participants at this time include Armstrong Acres (heirloom tomato seedlings, herbs, and perennials), Farmer Tim's (herb, vegetable, and flower seedlings), Walnut Lane Farm (compost and meat/eggs), The Leo Family Homestead (herbs), Pleasant View Farm (honey, hay), Partridge Hill Gardens (daylilies and perennials), The Dudley Conservation Land Trust, The Dudley Grange, and of course the Dudley Agricultural Commission, who will have free seeds available thanks to the generosity of Ocean State Job Lot and the CT Master Gardeners.

Lanette Lepper, member of the Commission, had this to say: "The Plant Hop is a great way for the community to support our local growers while filling their gardens with plants that are already acclimated to our area. Many

of these varieties simply are not available at big-box stores. We encourage gardeners to save the date and visit each location, ask questions, learn about new plants, and meet fellow gardeners who are excited to get their hands in the dirt! It's always a fun day for everyone, but bring some cash because not all of our growers accept cards."

Maps will be available online at dudleyfarmers.com and on the Common day of the event. You can also search for «Dudley Grows Together» on Facebook. Many growers have a social media presence, so you are encouraged to 'like and follow' for more information on what they will be offering.

Oxford Woman's Club offers scholarships

OXFORD — The Oxford Woman's Club will be awarding three \$750 scholarships to graduating seniors who reside in the town of Oxford.

Applications are available at the Guidance Department or by emailing Anne Marie at simplyannie14@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$515,000, 1 Washburn Rd, Marois, Nicholas, and Marois, Molly, to Byczko, Jacob P, and Byczko, Peter.

\$416,000, 10 Buttonwood Ln, Forziati, Adam L, and Ott, Shannon, to Eldridge 3rd, Robert.

\$332,500, 20 Harrison Ave, Geddes Ft, and Geddes, Beverly F, to Mcnamara, Michael L, and Mcnamara, Doyle J.

\$275,000, 5 Kimball Rd, Duguay Richard C Est, and Murphy, Constance, to Halliday, Christopher.

DUDLEY

\$125,000, 5 Sophies Way, Sawmill Road LLC, to Surowaniec, Pawel.

OXFORD

\$620,000, 10 Sullivan Blvd, Pkjkeka LLC, to Mackintosh, Evan, and Mackintosh, Cortney.

\$15,000, Pine Hill Rd, Guerard, Ronald F, to Roulet, Charles V.

WEBSTER

\$555,000, 11 June Ave, Raymond C Rohr T, and Weiss, Tammy, to Bratica, Anthony J.

\$400,000, 100 Thompson Rd, Lebel Realty Invs LLC, to Sorto, Jose S.

\$399,999, 6 James St, Tcphomes Inc, to Alkuheli, Aamer, and Kokaz, Rana.

\$380,000, 202 Beacon Park #202, Raucci, Michael A, and Raucci, Marie K, to Sciabica, Karen A, and Hayes, Douglas P.

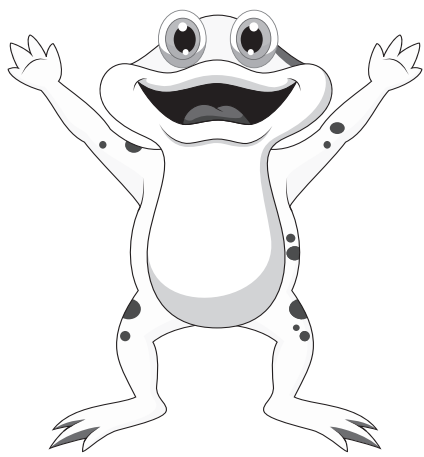
\$355,000, 805 Beacon Park #805, Townsend, Gary L, and Townsend, Kathleen, to Bonin, Alyssa.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

M J P U

O R F G

S K E L A

D P T E O L A

 C C H

Y

Answers: Jump, Frog, Lakes, Tadpole. Frog catches a fly.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

APR 12

- 1606: THE UNION FLAG IS ADOPTED AS THE FLAG OF ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH SHIPS.
- 1900: PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY SIGNS THE FORAKER ACT INTO LAW, GRANTING PUERTO RICO LIMITED SELF-RULE.
- 1980: CANADIAN RUNNER AND ATHLETE TERRY FOX BEGINS HIS MARATHON OF HOPE RUN IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

New Word

TOAD
a tailless amphibian with a stout body and short legs

ANIMAL FACT!

FROGS HAVE A BACKBONE AND ARE COLD-BLOODED VERTEBRATES. THEY LIVE ON BOTH LAND AND IN WATER, MAKING THEM THIS TYPE OF ANIMAL.

ANSWER: AMPHIBIAN

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Frog
SPANISH: Rana
ITALIAN: Rana
FRENCH: Grenouille
GERMAN: Frosch

Did you know?

A FROG COMPLETELY SHEDS ITS SKIN ABOUT ONCE A WEEK. AFTER IT SHEDS THE DEAD SKIN, IT USUALLY EATS IT.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FROG

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Lyme disease. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 8 = L)

A. 16 22 13 24 9 25
Clue: Biting insect or organism

B. 5 8 8 23 22 26 26
Clue: Causes one to be sick

C. 6 8 9 9 11
Clue: Flows through the body

D. 6 12 13 24 22 25 5 12
Clue: Microorganisms that can cause disease

Answers: A. vector B. illness C. blood D. bacteria

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

Level: Beginner

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

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

ANSWER:

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MOHEGAN BOWL WINTER LEAGUES WEEK ENDING MARCH 31

<p>Monday Business Single – Dan Labay 160, Josh Antos 130, Duncan MacDougall 128 Series – Dan Labay 393, Duncan MacDougall 339, Nate Assanov & Josh Antos 337 Series over average – Dan Labay +72</p> <p>Women's Ten Pin City Single – Division 1 – Natalie Wood 201, Nicole Shepard 142</p> <p>Division 2 – Bernie Stackpole 156, Jessica Jacques 131 Series – Division 1 – Donna Dziadula 543, Edna Miranda 424</p> <p>Division</p>	<p>Men's 2 – Charlene Hebert 417, Sharon Daniels 351</p> <p>Tuesday Chet's Social Single – Ryan Pelletier 138, Tom Smith 123, Richard Girouard 118, Courtney Boulay 107, June Carpenter 106, Dawn Gleason & Diane Levesque 103 Series – Ryan Pelletier 390, Richard Girouard 311, Tom Smith 308, June Carpenter 288, Diane Levesque 280, Erin Van Dam 275 Series over average – Ryan Pelletier & June Carpenter +39</p> <p>Summit Tenpin Single – Division 1 –</p>	<p>Derek Reynolds 224 Division 2 – Donny Altiery 191 Series – Division 1 – Eric Apher 619</p> <p>Division 2 – Brett Mattson 524</p> <p>Thursday Morning Coffee Single – Sue Kolodziejczak 98, Jackie Arpin 97, Carol Kondratowicz, Donna Lewandowski, Kirsten Nicholas, and Lorraine Biadasz 96 Series – Barbara Penniman 269, Lorraine Biadasz 258, Donna Lewandowski 257 Series over average – Barbara Gomes +31</p>	<p>Week ending April 7</p> <p>Monday Business Single – Mike Nardone 143, Ryan Pelletier 136, Tim Labay 133 Series – Mike Nardone 370, Ryan Pelletier 363, Michael Kustak 345 Series over average – AJ Gagner +49</p> <p>Women's Ten Pin City Single – Division 1 – Joanne LaBonte & Donna Dziadula 172, Marie Piegorsch 169</p> <p>Division 2 – Sharon Daniels 154, Jessica Jacques 137 Series – Division 1 –</p>	<p>Natalie Wood 561, Claudia Allen 472</p> <p>Division 2 – Kelly Apher 395, Bernie Stackpole 365</p> <p>Tuesday Chet's Social Single – Tom Smith 124, John Dupuis 120, Richard Girouard 114, Trish Shead 111, Courtney Boulay 107, Erin Van Dam 106 Series – Tom Smith 340, Ryan Pelletier 331, John Dupuis 318, Erin Van Dam 295, Courtney Boulay 289, Diane Levesque 287 Series over average – John Dupuis & Adam Levie +24, Courtney Boulay +37</p>	<p>Summit Tenpin Single – Division 1 – Eric Apher 213</p> <p>Division 2 – Edna Miranda 200 Series – Division 1 – Bob Hanville 651</p> <p>Division 2 – Kerry Clark 495</p> <p>Thursday Morning Coffee Single – Pat Blake 99, Nancy Cutler 96, Maribeth Marzeotti 95 Series – Joan Wentworth 266, Pat Blake 264, Donna Lewandowski 259 Series over average – Joan Wentworth +35</p>
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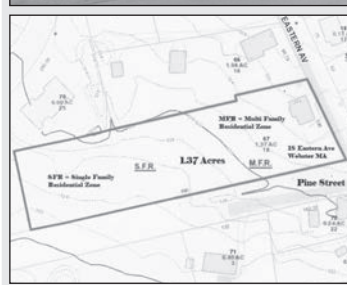
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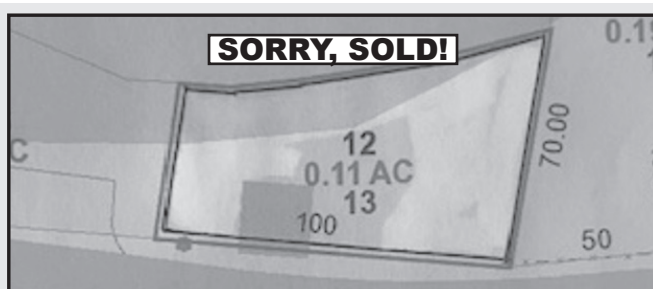


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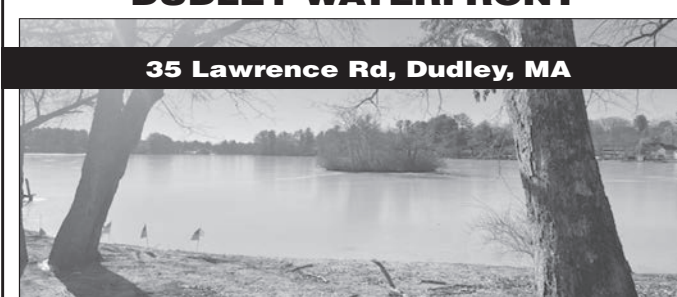
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Enjoy and protect hydrangeas from hungry deer



Melinda Myers

Hydrangeas are a favorite of hungry deer making them susceptible to severe damage so strategies to protect these plants are recommended.

Low maintenance, beautiful flowers, and plenty of varieties have made hydrangeas a favorite landscape plant. It seems you can't visit a garden center or nursery without being tempted by one of the traditional favorites or newer hydrangea varieties.

Despite their easy-care nature, hungry deer can make it difficult to fully enjoy these plants. Rutgers University rates landscape plants based on their susceptibility to deer damage. According to Rutgers, hydrangeas are occasionally severely damaged by deer, meaning they are a plant preferred by deer and protection is advised. Your experience may be different and can vary from year to year, but it is always wise to be prepared to protect key plants in your landscape.

Deer like to browse leaves, tender shoots, flower buds, and blossoms. Damage is worse when populations are high, food is scarce, and when environmental stresses like cold and deep snow are present. Once deer find a place to dine, they tend to return. Their damage has a rough or torn appearance as opposed to a clean cut like that made by a pruner. Preventing damage is always the best way to maximize your enjoyment. Even if your plants have escaped damage in the past, continue to watch for deer tracks, droppings, and plant damage.

Fencing is one option but not always the most attractive or practical. An eight-foot fence is the recommended height



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

for protecting large areas. The University of Minnesota found deer can be kept out of small gardens that are 8 x 16 feet or smaller with much shorter fences. Sturdy decorative posts and somewhat invisible deer fencing tend to make a less obtrusive fence. Always check with your local municipality for any fencing restrictions.

Many gardeners report success using high-test fishing line. Create a barrier using strong five-foot posts with the fishing line spaced at two-foot intervals.

Scare tactics may provide some short-term help. Motion-sensitive sprinklers, noise makers, and smells are often used. Several gardeners reported success placing colorful wine bottles inverted over rebar posts. The rattling helped discourage deer browsing and added an ornamental element to the garden. Change scare tactics to increase success.

Place key plants closer to your home, in the back of large beds, or surrounded by less susceptible plants. Making it hard to reach the plants can help discourage damage to hydrangeas.

Repellents are another option. Treat

susceptible plants before the deer start browsing for the best results. Look for a rain and snow-resistant product, like organic Plantskydd (plantskydd.com), which does not need to be reapplied as often. That means you'll save time applying and spend less money.

Maximize results by treating new growth according to the label directions. Most liquid repellents need time to dry and can only be applied when temperatures are above freezing. Always check the label for the product being applied and follow the directions for the best results.

Continue to monitor the landscape for signs of deer presence and damage and adjust your management strategies as needed. Be persistent so you can increase your success.

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

OXFORD

continued from page A1

specifically noted four who went back to his previous town, Grafton, and graduated with honors. The collaborative is only seeking a 2 percent tuition hike this year "versus that 14 percent you're seeing from private schools."

Afterward, the board took its fourth look at the budget, specifically asking Superintendent Mike Lucas to compare it to Town Manager Jen Callahan's proposal. The biggest concern they had was about wanting the town to send all of the state's Chapter 70 funding to the schools, with members arguing it's intended for education aid. He noted the state increased it by \$1.27 million this year specifically because of the district's increased needs and additional students, but decried what he said was the town's share being cut by \$1 million.

Lucas said the committee's plan calls for \$21.86 million, while Callahan's is \$20.85 million. Of it, the town's share is \$9.64 million; the rest comes from state aid. He said that while the total increase the board is seeking is 8.8 percent, just 5.5 percent (\$501,521) is coming from

local taxes.

"These are not wishes and dreams," he said. "... This is our opportunity to give our kids the best education possible."

Burke said he's concerned friends in other town departments are "being misled we're trying to harm those departments. ... We are in no way trying to take money from those departments." He noted he'd welcome more detailed discussions with the Finance Committee and selectmen over the district's goals and needs.

Todd Proctor said he's especially concerned that their requested \$300,000 in "circuit breaker" money be included in the special ed budget. Since it's hard to predict when new students will need out-of-district services, he noted the district is only a couple students away from having to cut teachers to cover that cost without this money.

Leah Filipkowski said she believes the plan to replace kindergarten Chromebooks and keep three posts (a middle school interventionist, reading specialist and tech person previously federal ESSER grant funded) are "really important." The kids use those computers not to play games but to devel-

op skills they need for later schooling, and those posts ensure the scholols can prepare the kids for high school and later because "the pandemic really hurt those grade levels," she said.

Palmina Griffin said she wants to see the

covering "schedule 19 indirect costs," which should exist documenting the district/town hall understanding of how to share the various services the town provides the schools. She said she recalled a memo covering the DPW maintenance

such arrangements "just kind of evolved" over time without documentation that she could find. In some cases, the School Committee managed assets the town side now manages, and she wants to "avoid redundancy."

"The town does a lot of

us with all these indirect costs. That's much appreciated," she said.

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

written agreements of school fields, but most lifting for us and helping



Dudley Selectman and State Rep. John Maris presents former Police Chief Steve Wojnar with a resolution from the House and

WOJNAR

continued from page A1

the Grange - it's good, down to earth people doing really good work to

promote agriculture and things in the community, so I can't really thank them enough for this. It's a tremendous honor," said Wojnar.

Before closing the ceremony, Wojnar was also honored with a special resolution recognizing the Grange award by Dudley Selectman and

newly elected State Rep. John Marsi, who noted it was among his first official presentations since taking office.

SUBWAY

continued from page A1

of reuse of liners for the food heating systems, and evidence of reuse of a meatball container without proper cleaning just to name a few violations. Hannon said some of the photos were shared with Subway's corporate office and that company representatives were concerned about the conditions. Hannon posted an emergency order temporarily closing the business until the hearing was held.

The hearing featured input from both Town Counsel and a legal representative of Seema Sub Shop LLC who cross-examined both Hannon and Lauren Dobson while presenting their cases. The defense for Seema Sub Shop LLC argued that there had been no complaints of customers getting sick from the food and noted that a photo contained in a text message between the owner and Dobson about expired cucumbers had not actually reached the owner who instructed Dobson to use fresh cucumbers instead. The attorney felt that his client had made sufficient efforts to improve following the orders of the Health Agent and had invited Hannon back to inspect the store again with no response. The owners also acknowledged the lack of training with intent to correct those issues. The defense also noted that the restaurant's temperature logs were in line with Subway's corporate requirements.

The defense was not enough to convince the Board of Health to allow Subway another chance to improve. Board members argued that it took the restaurant being closed for them to address issues in the first place. They also explained that while Subway may have its own corporate requirements, local Board of Health orders supersede those standards and were not followed by the business. Board of Health member Jennifer Cournoyer felt that the restaurant's multiple violations gave her pause in allowing them to continue to operate in Dudley. "When we get violation after violation after violation and then it takes shutting somebody down to hear from them, it's an insult to us, like you didn't take us seriously," said Cournoyer.

The board acknowledged that the decision was difficult as they were caught between risking public safety or hurting local business. After nearly an hour and a half the board determined that Subway was too big of a risk to reopen and voted to revoke the license for Seema Sub Shop LLC for serious and repeated violations of the food code. The business owners will have the opportunity to appeal the decision in Superior Court if they choose, but for now the business will remain closed.

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Friday, April 26 from 4 to 6PM

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Courtesy

On April 2, the Park Avenue Play Ensemble put on their first rendition of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" for the entire Park Avenue Elementary Community. "This was just like going to the Hanover Theatre," said one Park Avenue Elementary employee. The Park Avenue Ensemble has been practicing profusely for the past three months and the hard work has paid off. Deb Casatellani and Kerri Williams were the masterminds behind the curtains with some help from several other staff members. The show included costumes, lights, music and sound effects that left a lasting image to the Park Avenue Community. "I have to say, it was the real deal," Mr. Aronian whispered to a neighboring staff member. "The performers were excellent," he concluded. There will be a live show for the parents later in the week and this is something the school plans to build upon in the years to come. "Having something like this is special," said Mr. Aronian. "This is how you build a strong, lasting community."



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