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Friday, June 6, 2025

WooSox right fielder meets the “press” at Park Ave Elementary



Shawn Hetherman (Custodian) and Corey Rosier (Woo Sox right fielder) pausing for a brief picture before they entered the building.

Oxford rejects school and police overrides

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — After the May 20 town election, people watching town government will see a couple of changes on the town’s leading boards.

David Cornacchioli is moving from the School Committee to the Selectboard, taking a seat alongside governmental newcomer Joshua Boyda. The two of them bested Chris Everitt, 807 to 757 to 456, respectively. Matt Pearson also attracted 432 write-in votes.

Meanwhile, Cornacchioli’s school seat will now be occupied by Amanda Bourbeau, who defeated Jennifer Pearson, 760 to 598.

“I’m honored to have received the highest number of votes for Selectboard,” Cornacchioli said by email afterward. “It’s clear to me that residents value a strong voice, transparency, and accountability in local government—principles I am committed to upholding.”

The races, however, were probably not the primary draw for a lot of voters to the polls that day, since there were also two Proposition 2.5 override questions – one for the schools, one for the police. Both failed by large margins – the schools 452-1066,

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A10**

WEBSTER — On May 23, Corey Rosier, a prominent right field prospect for the Worcester Red Sox, visited Park Avenue

Elementary School’s graduating fourth graders for a little Q and A session. “Corey was awesome,”

said Matthew Aronian, the school’s Dean of Students. “He brought a fabulous message that hard work, persistence and dedication can pay off.”

Rosier walked into a press conference style venue with 125 4th graders cheering him on to ACDC’s Thunderstruck. “He was able to instantly connect with the 4th graders because of his relatability and humor,” exclaimed Matthew Aronian.

Rosier answered many of the fourth graders’ questions, including one that asked what his favorite animal was; many questions were geared around what it took to become an MLB player. The fourth graders were glued to his every word as he continually hammered home the message about being persistent and not to give up on your dream. He was lucky enough to face off against two of our Merit Award winning fourth grade students who challenged him to name as many fruits as he could in 15 seconds (hint: the two students won); Corey was a great sport and left with a signed ball from all of our fourth graders at Park Avenue Elementary School that was presented by The PAE 4th Grade Leadership team. Corey came to Polar Park in 2023 and has been compared to the likes of Luis Arraez and other greats of the present and past.

Courtesy

Dudley seeks path forward as voters reject waterline project funding

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Funding for the remediation and mitigation of PFAS continues to be one of the most contentious issues in Dudley, and was the focal point of two of the most debated articles on the May 19 annual town meeting warrant with mixed results.

While voters finally approved borrowing to continue with mitigation, an article seeking funds for “the final solution,” a water line extension into the Eagle Drive neighborhood, was the only article of the night to fail.

Residents approved the borrowing of \$349,284.51 which will allow the town to continue to mitigate PFAS contamination in the Eagle Drive neighborhood including purchase and maintenance of filtration systems, testing, and other requirements set forth by the Department of Environmental Protection. The money was previously rejected by voters at two prior town meetings putting the town at risk for legal ramification and fines as failure to fund the mitigation would not only prevent the town from meeting DEP mandates, but also put Dudley in violation of a contract with Gentex who has agreed to fund its own half of the mitigation as they have been deemed a responsible party alongside the town. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said he was glad that the voters finally saw the need for this investment.

“I’m satisfied that we were able to demonstrate that this funding is not optional, it is an ongoing legal requirement,” said Ruda, who acknowledged that the funding only temporarily satisfies what is a long-term expense without a final solution. “The vote only secured funding for money owed and projected for ongoing mitigation through the end of calendar year 2025. More funding will be

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A10**

A journey of faith and reflection



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School pilgrims were warmly greeted by second and third-grade students from Trinity Catholic Academy, who held up a huge, handmade welcome sign and greeted everyone with beaming smiles, creating a beautiful atmosphere of fellowship and community.

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL MAKES PILGRIMAGE TO NOTRE DAME CHURCH

WEBSTER — On Wednesday, May 21, students and faculty from Saint Joseph School embarked on a special pilgrimage as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope, a year-long celebration of faith and reflection, and the Diocese of

Worcester’s 75th Jubilee. Led by Headmaster and Pastor Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski and organized by Principal Beth Boudreau, the pilgrimage brought together 165 students and 15 faculty members for a meaningful journey of faith.

A pilgrimage is a sacred journey undertaken to deepen one’s connection to God and reflect on one’s faith. This pilgrimage to Notre Dame Church in Southbridge was especially significant as it allowed the Saint Joseph School commu-

nity to visit another pilgrimage church within the diocese, complementing their experiences at Saint Joseph Basilica. Visiting multiple pilgrimage sites during the Jubilee Year provides students with a broader understanding of the

importance of faith in our local Church and the universal Church. Notre Dame Church belongs to Saint John Paul II Parish in Southbridge. Saint John Paul II Parish was established by the Most Reverend Robert

Turn To **PILGRIMAGE** page **A16**

US Army Field Band & Soldiers’ Chorus brings free concert to Mechanics Hall

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall presents the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus in a free concert Monday, June 16, 2025. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Army, the Concert Band and the Soldiers’ Chorus will honor past, present, and future military service with a powerful and patriotic program in the Great Hall of Mechanics Hall.

Based in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Army Field Band is known as the “Musical ambassadors of

the Army.” Made up of active-duty soldiers, the elite musicians connect with communities across the country and around the world through live performances and digital outreach, inspiring patriotism and honoring those who have served with every note. The U.S. Army Field Band is considered by music critics to be one of the most versatile and inspiring musical organizations in the world.

The Concert Band is the oldest and largest of the Field Band’s four performing components. The

65-member instrumental ensemble have performed for over 100 million people since its founding in 1946, performing diverse and powerful programs that include marches, overtures, pop music, and patriotic selections. The group have performed in a wide variety of settings, from world-famous concert halls and presidential inaugurations to fairgrounds and school gymnasiums. Regardless of the venue, the pagantry and professionalism of the Band’s performance have entertained audiences for nearly 80

years, creating emotional experiences and instilling pride in American heritage.

The Band will be accompanied by the acclaimed Soldiers’ Chorus, a 24-member vocal ensemble with a rich performing history. The Chorus have performed internationally and throughout all 50 states, with top symphony orchestras including the Boston Pops, and at significant events including the Kennedy Center Honors, the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and State funerals of U.S. Presidents.

Registration and tickets are not required for this Mechanics Hall concert - entry is free and open to

the public. Cabaret-style seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 11:30am, and the performance will take place from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Attendees may bring their own lunch, and additional food and beverage options will be available for purchase.

Mechanics Hall is located at 321 Main St., Worcester. The Great Hall is on the 3rd floor, which is accessible by elevator from the Waldo Street entrance, or by stairs from both the Main Street and Waldo Street entrances.

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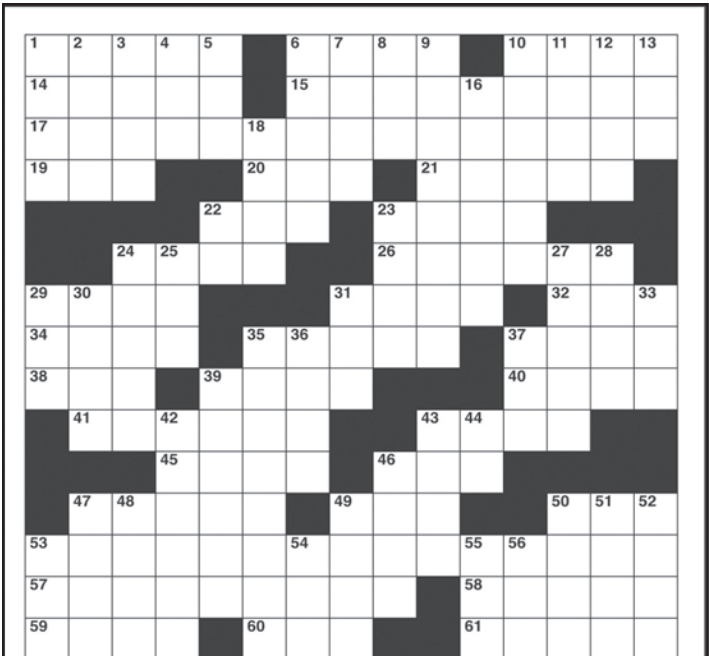
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- CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant

6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")

10. Fogginess

14. Home to Fools' Day

15. Absence of the sense of pain

17. Popular November holiday

19. Consume food

20. Buddy

21. Long-haired goat-antelope

22. Japanese honorific

23. Actor Malek

24. One point south of southeast

26. Illegal acts

29. As fast as can be done

31. Prevents harm to young

32. Exclamation of satisfaction

34. African nation

35. Slow-moving animal

37. Oh, goodness!

38. A team's best pitcher

39. Cleanser

40. Radioactivity units

41. Expectorated matter

43. Cover a wide range

45. The central area of a church

46. California capital (abbr.)

47. Dutch painter Klaver

49. 007's creator

50. Impression of dishonesty

53. Northeastern sports rivalry

57. Cloths

58. Stalin's police chief

59. Hostleries

60. Bitterly regret

61. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman
- CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfy

2. European health advocate

3. Expression of annoyance

4. Strong liquor

5. Large red deer

6. Holder of less common religious beliefs

7. West Indian shrub

8. Family of proteins

9. Wealthy, influential business leader

10. Low spirits

11. Approves food

12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman

13. Mary __, cosmetics

16. Expressed in pithy maxims

18. Relaxing spaces

22. The NFL's big game

23. Proof of payment (abbr.)

24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers

25. Indicates near

27. Minneapolis suburb

28. Herring-like fish

29. Doctors' group

30. Pouches

31. Bread dipping in sauce

33. Commercial

35. A reminder of past events

36. Affected by injury

37. Geological time

39. Stationary part of a motor

42. Brings together

43. Of sound mind

44. Personal computer

46. Without (French)

47. A bank might give you one

48. Agricultural testing organization

49. A small island

50. Type of gene

51. Murres

52. Card game

53. A measure of human health

54. Australian airline (abbr.)

55. One point south of due west

56. Affirmative

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Edgerly- Bixby — The Family Behind the Exhibit

BY HELEN POIRER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUBURN — One of the newest exhibits in the Auburn Historical Society Museum was donated by the descendants of M. Louise Edgerly. In the past, the museum has put on display vintage Valentines that were given to Louise when she was a teacher. The current exhibit has watches, jewelry, needlepoint footstools and rugs that were once owned by the Edgerly family.

Louise was born in 1893 in Worcester to John H. Edgerly and Harriet [Shelton] who migrated from Maine to Massachusetts around 1855, that's when they got married in Boston.

Harriet, also known as Hattie, was born in New Brunswick, Canada. Her parents immigrated to the United States in 1892 and lived in Worcester according to the 1900 census.

John H. Edgerly eventually opened a bakery at 203 Commercial St. in Worcester. His obituary stated that he was known as the Worcester “Cruller King.” He opened a second bakery in Springfield. When John died, his son, Howard, inherited both shops. He sold the Worcester shop and concentrated on the Springfield location until he died in 1940.

Louise was born in 1891 in Worcester, and lived there until about 1929, when the family moved to Adella St. in Auburn. Louise wanted to be a

teacher and started her career in Auburn in 1911 at the Elm Hill Primary School as an assistant. After two years she became a teacher at Maywood School from 1912-1914. The following year she seemed to have assignments at Maywood and Boyce STREET schools, according to the town report. Finally, in 1915, she was assigned to just the Boyce Street school where she taught until 1940. During the years 1924-1926, Louise was principal and teacher, which is not an easy way to teach. Through the years she taught grades 3-6. Louise retired from teaching in 1940 and according to a news article in the Worcester Gazette, Louise and her mother went on a tour of the West during the summer. Louise married Ezra Bixby, who was a mechanic, in 1941.

Louise was active in fundraising for the Red Cross and her church; the Lake View Congregational Church in Worcester. Louise died Sept. 12, 1973. Her husband died Jan. 11 of the same year.

The items on display give a sense of what the Edgerly family was like. There is an oval floral needle point rug with a matching foot stool that one can picture in the living room of the Edgerly home along with some China figurines and a candy dish. The pocket watches may go back to when Ezra Bixby worked on the railway in Worcester. Come to the museum and find out more about the exhibit and the family behind it.

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

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Reliant Foundation’s 27th Annual Drive for a Difference Golf Classic and Auction raises more than \$200,000 to support community grants



WORCESTER — It was another wonderful day on and off the golf course, as Reliant Foundation’s 27th annual Drive for a Difference Golf Classic and Auction took place at Pleasant Valley Country Club on May 19, raising more than \$200,000 in support of its Community Grants program. The proceeds raised will be added to the more than \$6.4 million raised through this event since its inception.

“This year’s Drive for a Difference once again demonstrated the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners as we work to raise funds for critical mental health and behavioral health-focused programs across the Central and MetroWest regions of Massachusetts,” said Kelsa Zereski, President of Reliant Foundation. “Due in large part to the success of last year’s event, Reliant Foundation was able to provide a record \$1 million in Community Grants last fall, and thanks to our supporters, we’re hoping to do it again this fall.”

Following the round, more than 175 guests enjoyed a social reception, dinner, auction, and awards program. The event’s auction offered supporters the opportunity to bid online throughout the day and featured exclusive get-aways, exciting concerts, exceptional dining experiences, great sporting events, and more.

Proceeds from Drive for a Difference will allow Reliant Foundation to continue supporting nonprofit organizations in the region that provide programs and services to address mental health and behavioral health (particularly for children and youth),

recovery programming for individuals battling substance use, and initiatives aimed at eliminating the stigma associated with these issues.

More than 30 local organizations and individuals provided sponsorship of the event, including lead sponsors: North Bridge Wealth Management (Gold Sponsor); Robert and Jane Klugman (Dinner Sponsor), Gene and Julianne DeFeudis (Lunch Sponsor), The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation (Golf Cart Sponsor), Mass General Brigham Health Plan (Snack Cart Sponsor), J. Michael Grenon, Grimes & Co. (Raffle Sponsor); Anna Maria College, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, FUJIFILM Healthcare Americas Corporation, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Imperial Distributors, F.W. Madigan Company, NAI Glickman, Kovago & Jacobs, SALMON VNA & Hospice, UMass Memorial Health, UniBank, Worcester State University (Deluxe Foursome Sponsors); Bay State Bank, Coghlin Companies, Cornerstone Bank, Kelleher & Sadowsky, and Stowe & Degen (Scoreboard Sponsors), among others.

Additional information about Drive for a Difference and lending support to Reliant Foundation can be found at ReliantFoundation.org.

About The Reliant Foundation
Established in 1988, Reliant Foundation is an independent public charity whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals of all ages in the Central and MetroWest regions of Massachusetts. As a 501(c)3 charity, the Foundation offers grants to non-profit organizations within its service area for the purpose of supporting programs that battle critical commu-

nity health issues like substance use disorder, and children’s mental health. Our charity partners work with thousands of individuals in our community to provide life-saving recovery coaching, mental health and behavioral health services, and impactful education and initiatives to reduce the stigma around these issues. For more information, please visit www.reliantfoundation.org.

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Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30 AM
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E.
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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.

Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings in
June at 8:15AM
Join Adult Services Librarian
Jess for a relaxing yoga nidr practice to
start your day on Wednesdays. Jess will
guide participants through a few simple
yoga asanas to release physical tension.
Participants will then settle into a
reclined position for a guided relaxation
(yoga nidr). If you have your own yoga
mat, please bring it and be sure to dress
in comfortable clothing. This program
takes place before the library officially
opens. Registration is required and Jess
will meet you at the program door.

Library for All – First Two Mondays;
Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or
Craft)
This program includes one
chair yoga class and one craft project
that will be held on first two Mondays
and the last two Fridays of the month.
Either join Jess for a one-hour relaxing
Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft
program. Check the online calendar to
see which event is scheduled. No expe-
rience necessary. This program is for
teens and adults of all abilities and their
caregivers. Please call ahead if special
accommodations or requirements are
needed. We are happy to accommodate!

Friends Spring Concert Series: Big
Jon Short on Thursday, June 12th at
6:30PM
Armed with foot percussion,
a National Reso-phonic Guitar and
Lowebow cigar-box reso-hillharp, Big
Jon Short’s high energy solo perfor-
mances bring a foot-stomping show that
taps into the heart of the songs, regional
styles, and folklore of the blues and its
importance to American music.

Adult Book Group – Monday, June
16th at 6:30PM
Join the Adult Book Group for
their discussion of A Woman of No
Importance by Sonia Purnell. Copies of
the book are available at the Circulation
Desk.

Cookbook Club – Tuesday, June 17th
at 6:00PM
Join us in celebrating one of
our own! Sarah Reed is a member of our
cookbook club AND she has a cookbook
coming out next year! She has loads
of recipes to choose from on her blog
(BestLittleMoments.com). Choose one
of her recipes to bring to our June meet-

ing.
Programming for All Ages
Historical Walking Tour of Downtown
Webster with the NPS – Saturday, June
14th at 10:00AM
Join Allison Horrocks from the
National Park Service for an histor-
ic walking tour of downtown Webster.
Whether you’re a lifelong resident, new
to the area, or just visiting for the day,
you’re sure to learn something new!
This event is for all ages and partici-
pants will meet in the lobby before their
guided tour.

Children’s and Young Adult
Programming
Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long
What’s more exciting than a
scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the
Children’s room to pick up a list of
things to find all around the library.
Once you’ve completed the scavenger
hunt, check in with the Children’s
Librarian to redeem a prize.

Take and Make Craft-- All month long
Take and Make craft kids are
available for pick up upstairs in the
Children’s Room. Each month will
feature a different craft to create and
instructions will be provided with the
supplies. New Take and Make kits will
be available for pick up on the 1st of
every month, while supplies last.

Maker Mondays – Mondays from 3:30-
4:30 PM
Feeling artistic? We will have a vari-
ety of craft materials available to put
your creativity to the test!

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays from
3:30-5:00PM
Play with magnets, wooden
blocks, and Legos.

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

Storytime for Littles – Wednesdays at
10AM
Join Andrew the Children’s
Librarian for a few of his favorite sto-
ries, felt story fun, and some free play.
This storytime is geared toward ages 0
to 3, but siblings are welcome.

Play-doh Storytime – Fridays at 10AM
Join Youth Services Librarian
Andrew for stories, play-doh, and fun!
This storytime is geared toward ages 2
to 5, but siblings are welcome.

Beginner Origami-Fridays at 3:45PM
Are you interested in making
origami, but you don’t know where to
start? You can start here. And if you do
know how to make some origami, feel
free to come make some as well. For kids
of all ages.

Music Together – Saturday, June 21st
at 11:15AM
A music and movement pro-
gram available to children from birth
to age 6 and their families based upon
on-going scientific research, and
designed to help nurture children’s
musical, cognitive, social, emotional,
and physical growth. Classes include
singing and dancing. The program
brings families together by providing a
rich musical environment in the class-
room and by promoting and facilitating
adult participation.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police
Department reported the following
arrests from May 11-31.
A 44-year-old male from Webster was
taken into protective custody on May
11 for Assault & Battery on a Family or
Household Member.
Angel Gomez, age 22, of Webster was
arrested on May 13 for Operating a Motor
Vehicle after suspension of license,
a Number Plate Violation to Conceal
ID, and operating an Unregistered and
Uninsured Motor Vehicle.
A 36-year-old female from Webster
was taken into protective custody on
May 13 for Nighttime Felony Breaking
& Entering into a Building or Boat and
Disturbing the Peace.
Tyler R. Auger, age 32, of Southbridge
was arrested on May 14 in connection
with a warrant.
Jai A. Hylton, age 27, of Webster was
arrested on May 16 in connection with
multiple warrants.
Benjamin Mulondo, age 43, of North
Billerica was arrested on May 18 for
Operating Under the Influence (Liquor),
a Marked Lanes Violation, Negligent
Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a
Number Plate Violation.
A 44-year-old male from Webster was
arrested on May 18 for Assault & Battery
on a Family or Household Member.
Jaider Jones, age 19, of Webster was
arrested on May 18 in connection with
multiple warrants.
Trevor A. Harris, age 37, of
Southbridge was arrested on May 19 in
connection with a warrant.
A 23-year-old female from Worcester
received a summons in lieu of arrest
on May 19 for Trafficking in More
Than 18 But Less Than 36 Grams of
Cocaine, Trafficking in More than 10
Grams of Fentanyl, and Conspiracy to
Violate Drug Law. Omar Cruz, age 23, of
Webster was arrested during the same
incident, also for Trafficking in More
than 18 But Less Than 36 Grams of
Cocaine, Trafficking in More Than 10
Grams of Fentanyl, and Conspiracy to
Violate Drug Law.
Joseph James Smith, Jr., age 46, of
Southbridge was arrested on May 20 for
Operating Under the Influence (Liquor –
second offense), Negligent Operation of
a Motor Vehicle, Assault & Battery on a

Police Officer, and Disorderly Conduct
(subsequent offense).
Pria E. Nesta, age 31, of Webster was
arrested on May 21 in connection with
a warrant. Nesta was subsequently
arrested again on May 23 in connection
with a Warrant of Apprehension.
Julia E. Demidowicz, age 65, of
Webster was arrested on May 21 for
Disorderly Conduct.
A 58-year-old male whose name has
been withheld from publication was
arrested on May 21 for Indecent Assault
& Battery on a Person age 14 or Over.
Alexander Valentin, age 46, of Webster
was arrested on May 23 for Assault.
Dylan Keith Mullin, age 23, of Webster
was arrested on May 24 in connection
with a warrant.
A 58-year-old male from Webster
received a summons in lieu of arrest
on May 25 for Assault & Battery on a
Police Officer and Interfering with a
Police Officer. A 24-year-old male whose
identity has been withheld from pub-
lication was arrested during the same
incident for Assault & Battery on a
Family or Household Member; Assault
with a Dangerous Weapon, and Assault
& Battery.
Izaias Rodrigues De Souza, age 30, of
Worcester was arrested on May 25 for
Operating Under the Influence (Liquor),
Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle,
and a Marked Lanes Violation.
Steven Allen Nickerson, Jr., age 24, of
Southbridge was arrested on May 26 in
connection with a warrant.
Dallas J. Sewall, age 30, of Webster
was arrested on May 27 in connection
with a warrant.
A 63-year-old male from Douglas
received a summons in lieu of arrest on
May 28 for Use of an Electronic Device
While Operating a Motor Vehicle (first
offense) and Operating a Motor Vehicle
after suspension of license.
A 33-year-old male from Webster was
arrested on May 28 for Assault & Battery
on a Family or Household Member.
Laurina Rachael Opatka, age 34, of
Webster was arrested on May 29 for
Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspen-
sion of license, Possession of a Class
B Drug, and Receiving a Stolen Motor
Vehicle.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.
gov
Senior Center hours are Monday-
Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with one Thursday
a month 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
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 partici-
pate in our activities and programs.
ALL Seniors are welcome!
Tri-Valley Lunches are served
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays,
and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Please call (508)
949-3845 at least two business days in
advance to reserve or cancel your meal.
A \$3 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for
55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include
milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This
week’s menu: Tuesday, 6/10, Spaghetti
and meatballs with marinara sauce,
green beans, peach crisp. Wednesday,
6/11, Braised beef, gemelli pasta, her-
bed carrots, fruited ambrosia. Thursday,
6/12, Chicken with broccoli, cheese, and
gravy, cornbread stuffing, roasted brus-
sels sprouts, carrot cake. Friday, 6/13,
Soup du Jour, turkey salad, bean salad,
grahams.
Need Transportation? Contact SCM
Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two
business days in advance to schedule
transportation. Elderbus is available
Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.
Come on down to the Bomba Beauty
Salon at the Webster Senior Center!
Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment.
Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in
appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00
am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays
and Fridays by appointment only from
10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-
8724 to schedule an appointment.
We are now offering MOVIE
MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00
pm! Popcorn is provided. No regis-

tration needed. June movies include
Moonstruck on June 11th, Premonition
on June 18th, and The Last Word on
June 25th.
Chair Dancing Exercise classes with
Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for
any fitness ability! The cost is a recom-
mended \$3.00 donation per class. A new
video class will be offered Thursday and
Friday mornings, free of charge.
Knitting/Crochet group meets on
Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.
Bingo is every Tuesday and starts
promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to
arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy
your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not
sold after 12:45 pm.
Do you like to play Cribbage? Our
weekly Cribbage group meets every
Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!
Calling card players or interested
persons to the Webster Senior Center!
Come join us for six-card or thir-
teen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on
Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card
pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.
Mahjongg group meets every Friday
at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!
Calling all bridge players! Are you
looking to spend an afternoon playing
Bridge? We’re looking to get a group
together! If you’re interested, please
leave your name and number with the
front desk. Once we have enough sign-
ups, we’ll see what day works best for
everyone!
The Worcester County Sheriff’s
Office House Numbering Program will
create a custom wooden sign with your
house number free of charge. One sign
per senior household. Please contact the
Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845.
if you are interested in having a house
number sign made for you.
Senior SAFE is a program that sup-
ports fire and life safety education for
seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do
a home visit to ensure that you have the
correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that
they are working properly. This is at no
cost to you! All you have to do is give
them a call at (508) 949-3875.

JUNE EVENTS AT THE DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER

June 5: the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating June birthdays. Cake and ice
cream will be served following the Tri Valley lunch.
No Memory Café for June, as Town Hall is closed Thursday, June 19, in obser-
vance of Juneteenth.
June 25: Potluck lunch with chicken, macaroni salad, watermelon, and root beer
floats. The cost for this event is \$5 per person. Please RSVP for this event by calling
508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.
Activities at Dudley Senior Center: 1 p.m. Tuesdays – Pitch League; 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays – The Dudley Senior Center Knitting group; 1 p.m. June 4 – Book Club:
“The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman, Mondays and Thursdays – Tri lunches.

It's time for the Dudley Grange Annual Strawberry Festival!

DUDLEY — Come out on June 19 and enjoy an “old-fashioned lawn party” on Dudley Hill. Dudley Grange is holding its 68th Annual Strawberry Festival starting at 4 p.m. “until the berries are gone.” The Strawberry Festival is a generational event in Dudley where friends, family and neighbors come out to enjoy live music, great food, children’s activities and so much more and not to forget, our famous strawberry shortcake!

The event is free to the public. Strawberry shortcake tickets are \$8, and are available on the day of the festival. Tickets can also be purchased ahead of time at the Dudley Town Hall Treasurer’s office at 71 West Main St. in Dudley. Also available at the Courtesy Booth at Dudley Park N’ Shop on Airport Road in Dudley and tickets will be sold on June 7 and June 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Park N’ Shop’s store lobby.

As you pick up your strawberry shortcake from the Dudley Grange building, experience some of Dudley’s history as you walk through to the serving area. The Grange Building was built in 1840 and used as the Center School for the town with a second floor added on by townspeople for a meeting place called Washington Hall. Dudley Grange members bought the building in 1892 and have been holding their meetings and events there since. The Dudley Grange Hall is an important historic Dudley landmark and part of the National Register of Historic Places - Dudley Hill Historic District.

So come on out on Thursday, June 19 and bring the family. Children will enjoy competing in the old-fashioned frog jumping contest on the common at 6:00 with registration starting at 5:30 p.m. (please bring your own frog and return it to where you originally found it). Children can learn what to do in case of a fire with the Dudley’s Fire Department Smoke House; they can enjoy the animals at the Records and Burpee Petting Zoo and have a photo taken with a horse provided by Whip-O-Will Stables and participate in other fun activities. The Dudley Police Department will display the equipment used to serve and protect our community. Randy Orwig will be performing as the “Living Statue,” delighting all ages, questioning is he real or not?? There will be live musical entertainment by the “Old Fiddlers Club of Rhode Island”. Don’t forget to get your delicious strawberry shortcake before “the berries are gone.” There will be chili and chowder provided by the Conant Memorial First Congregational Church and of course our delicious French fries will be available.

Dudley Grange #163 is a family oriented, community service organization with its roots in agriculture. The Grange membership is open to anyone interested in building strong community in Dudley, participating in community service and helping to preserve and restore this historic Grange building for future generations.

For more information on Dudley Grange visit our information table next to the Dudley Grange Scholarship table at the festival or check out our Web site, dudleyfarmers.com, or Facebook page, Dudley Grange #163.

MAPFRE CEO visits Parve Ave Elementary in support of Real Madrid Program



Courtesy
MAPFRE Executive Leadership Team with Webster Public Schools Athletic Director Tony Paranto, Park Ave Elementary School Principal Amy Puliatico, and coaches of the Real Madrid Foundation afterschool-program.

WEBSTER — MAPFRE USA President and CEO Jaime Tamayo and members of the MAPFRE USA Management Committee visited Park Ave Elementary School in Webster on May 21 in support of the Real Madrid Foundation Program. With support and funding from Fundación MAPFRE, the Real Madrid Foundation Program was first implemented at Webster Middle School in 2019 and has grown to include Park Ave Elementary and serve more than 70 students.

Tamayo spoke to students about the

important values that the Real Madrid Foundation aims to instill through its program—teamwork, determination and leadership—and how those skills can benefit them in everything they do. He also shared his pride in MAPFRE being a Webster-based company and the benefits of supporting local schools through Fundación MAPFRE.

Webster Public Schools Athletic Director Tony Paranto also expressed gratitude, noting that without support from Fundación MAPFRE, these students would not have access to an after-

school program. He shared that seeing the increased confidence and compassion of the students participating in this program has been rewarding and he is eager to see the program continue to grow in numbers and impact.

The event concluded with students showing off the skills they have learned through the program in soccer and basketball, including wonderful displays of sportsmanship.

With Fundación MAPFRE’s support, the schools are able to provide afterschool programming to students that

teach the fundamentals of soccer and basketball. Fundación MAPFRE provided close to \$25,000 in 2025, which has allowed the schools to purchase or upgrade the equipment needed to continue the program.

The Real Madrid Foundation Program was established in 1997 to promote the values of Real Madrid CF, one of the most celebrated football clubs in the world. The program is for children ages five to 18 and focuses on developing athletic skills and personal and social competencies.

Home Town Service,
BIG TIME RESULTS

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FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:

Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.

Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769

Devereux ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Courtesy

Dudley Middle School congratulates its latest Students of The Month: 5th Grade - Alayah Ruskin, Mia Fifield, Austin Cazeault & Mary Carmignani; 6th Grade - Ava Rosario, Giada Manzi, & Amarie Rosario; 7th Grade - Jolene Ndegwa, Celeina Collins, & Kolby Campbell; 8th Grade - Tyrone Giteru, Amilia Piarulli, & Dennis White.

13th Food Truck & Craft Beverage Festival Rolls into Worcester Commons June 7!

WORCESTER — Food Truck Festivals of America (FTFA) is thrilled to announce the return of the 13th Worcester Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, June 7 from noon to 5 p.m. (with an exclusive VIP/Beer Lovers Hour from 11 a.m. to noon).

Join us at Worcester Commons as 25 of Massachusetts’ favorite food trucks and the region’s top craft beverages come together for a day packed with flavor and fun. From street tacos and succulent lobster rolls to decadent whoopie pies and chocolate dipped strawberry skewers, there’s something to satisfy every craving. Pair your bites with a refreshing pour from a wide selection of local and national craft beverages.

But the fun doesn’t stop at food and drink! Enjoy music, lawn games, and henna art, as well as an artisan market featuring unique local vendors — making it the perfect outing for friends and families alike.

Tickets & Packages: Buy Early and Save!

General Admission: \$5 online in advance | \$10 at the gate

(Children 10 & under free)

Foodie VIP Package (\$20 online only): Early admission (11 a.m.) 1 free dessert from the VIP truck Unlimited bottled water (while supplies last)

Beer Lovers Package (\$41 online only): Early admission (11 a.m.) FTFA koozie 3 beer tickets Unlimited bottled water (while supplies last)

Beer 6 Pack-age (\$68 online only): Early admission (11 AM) 6 beer tickets FTFA koozie Unlimited bottled water (while supplies last)

Get your tickets today at: <https://www.foodtruckfestivalsofamerica.com/worcester>.

Stay connected for the latest updates: Follow @FTFofAmerica on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok!

Festival Location: Worcester Commons, 455 Main St., Worcester

Friday's Child


Emily
Age 10
Registration #8787

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21185047586>

Can I Adopt?

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

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



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Pride Month —
a celebration of
freedom, love,
and basic human
respect

Pride Month isn't about parades for the sake of spectacle, or some imagined political agenda. It's about something much deeper and far more American: the right to live freely, love openly, and exist without fear.

At its core, Pride is a celebration of freedom of expression, a reminder that all people are created equal, and a protest against the idea that anyone should feel ashamed of who they are or who they love.

It's wild, honestly, that in 2025 we still have to say this out loud: LGBTQ+ people have every right to exist, to love, and to thrive just like anyone else. But the hate, the violence, the bullying is still happening. Most of it comes from people who seem to be bothered by lives that have absolutely nothing to do with them.

What makes someone furious about two women holding hands? Or two men building a life together? Why do some people fixate on other people's relationships as if they were their business to approve or condemn? It's strange, and it's telling.

A big part of it comes down to representation. For so long, gay couples and anyone who isn't straight were invisible in media, ignored in history, and left out of the everyday story society tells about itself. And when something seems different or unfamiliar, some folks decide it's wrong. But different doesn't mean wrong. It just means different.

Pride Month is about countering that invisibility. It's about creating a world where LGBTQ+ people don't have to wonder if they'll be safe in public, or if their identity will cost them their job, their family, or their lives. It's about telling the kid in the small town, or the adult who's finally coming out later in life: you are not alone, and there is nothing wrong with you.

Pride isn't about sex. That's a tired excuse opponents use when they don't want to confront their own discomfort. Pride is about love, the right to love without shame, without silence, and without asking permission.

LGBTQ+ people are more than who they love. They are teachers, veterans, parents, artists, first responders, elected officials, neighbors, and friends. They contribute to society in every way imaginable. The idea that some people's lives matter less because of their identity is not just wrong, it's un-American.

Pride Month is a time to honor courage, community, and the hard-won right to live authentically. It's also a time to remind ourselves that no one's existence is more important than anyone else's. We're all just trying to live.

And for those who still feel the need to tear others down because of who they love, perhaps it is time to ask what that says about yourselves, not 'them.' Because live and let live isn't just good advice — it's one of the bedrock principles of a civil society.

VIEWPOINT

Choosing light over darkness

Imagine being blind. Living in utter physical darkness. Not seeing the beauty of nature, of colors, of another human face. In the Gospels, we hear one of the most remarkable miracles when Jesus gives sight to a man born blind. He, who is the Light of the world, brings light to one in darkness. Yet, this story is not simply one of physical healing. It is a story of spiritual awakening, of light shining in the midst of darkness, of sight restored not only to the eyes but to the soul. And sadly, it's also a story of those who choose to remain in darkness, in the darkness of their ego and arrogance, in the darkness of the world's deception and confusion.

Jesus encounters a man blind from birth, and His disciples express a belief typical of their age - "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Christ corrects this mistaken worldview by declaring, "It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him." What a powerful statement and reminder for us. Suffering is not a punishment from God or a sign that God has abandoned us. No, sometimes suffering is the very place where our hearts can be softened and molded so that we can reflect on what life is truly about. Sometimes suffering comes to us so that we can encounter God's glory, so that His light can shine most brightly in us!

We live in a world filled with darkness and blindness — not necessarily physical but more often spiritual blindness. And even though we may not be able to control the darkness that surrounds us in the world, our Risen Lord Jesus offers us Light and shows us a path to find healing from our blindness. Unfortunately, there are so many who see with their eyes but who remain blind in their hearts — blind to God's Divine and unconditional Love for all people, blind to His compassion and mercy, blind to the eternal hope He offers. And too often, we ourselves choose to ignore His Light and accept the darkness of the world as the only possible reality. We choose to remain blind.

Whenever we close our eyes to the needs of others, we choose darkness. Whenever we hate those who are different from ourselves, we choose darkness. Whenever we arrogantly judge and condemn others, we choose darkness. Whenever we don't see God's image in the least of our brothers and sisters, we choose darkness. Whenever we won't forgive another, we choose darkness. Whenever we allow our egocentric desires to control us, allowing our greed, our lust, our anger to rule over us, we choose darkness. Whenever we don't accept Christ's transformative and life-changing love as the primary guiding force in our lives, we choose darkness.



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

The message in this Gospel story, however, is that we have a choice! Will we choose to live in darkness, to remain blind, or will we choose Light? Will we choose to accept Christ's healing of our blindness, or will we stubbornly remain in the dark?

Just like the blind man, Christ says to each of us, "Go wash." Not in the pool of Siloam, but in the waters of our baptism, in the cleansing and healing that comes through our repentance in the Sacrament of Holy Confession, and in the refreshing grace of the Eucharist, Holy Communion.

We have a choice. How will we choose?

Let me share a story of another "blind" person who saw far more than most of us ever will — Sanit Matrona of Moscow. She was born blind in the 1880s. In her teenage years, Matrona became paralyzed from the waist down and would remain bedridden for the rest of her life — unable to walk, but never bitter or hopeless. She suffered in ways we can't imagine. And yet, from her youth, she possessed profound spiritual vision. She saw into people's hearts, read their sins, and guided thousands with words of healing and hope.

Despite her severe physical limitations, she lived with deep joy, peace, and prayerfulness. She would lie on her bed, praying ceaselessly, receiving visitors from all over Russia, and offering spiritual advice that penetrated their souls. Even during the Soviet era, when the authorities severely persecuted the religious life, Matrona continued to secretly live out her faith and became known as a holy woman across the city. People would come to her in secret to receive comfort, healing, and spiritual insight.

In the midst of her own physical darkness, she became a source of light for Russia during a very dark period. She died in 1952, and thousands have flocked to her grave since, seeking miracles and finding healing. She was canonized in 1992.

Like the man in the Gospel, her life showed that even in blindness, even in unimaginable suffering, the works and glory of God can shine forth.

This story challenges us to choose to see clearly - to see Jesus as the Light of the world, to receive His vision and see every neighbor as someone made in God's image, and to understand our calling to bring God's healing and light into a broken and darkened world.

"O Christ our God, who opened the eyes of the man born blind, open the eyes of our hearts to know You, to follow You, to glorify You, and to always choose to live in Your Divine Light."

The why and how
of deadheading



Corona Tools – Courtesy

A gardener using an Ergocut dead header in the garden.

Keep your flowers blooming longer and your garden a bit tidier with deadheading. Removing faded flowers can promote repeat bloom on some plants, encourage fuller, more compact growth, and tidy up the garden.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA
MYERS

Use a bypass hand pruner, garden snips or other dead-heading tool to remove faded flowers. Bypass tools have two sharp blades like scissors, resulting in a clean cut that closes quickly, leaving your plant looking its best. Corona Tool's Ergocut dead header (coronatools.com) has a finger loop that provides better control and an ergonomic design for less stress on your hands and wrist.

The type of flower will influence how and where to make the cut. In general, remove the stem of faded blooms back to the first set of healthy leaves or nearby flower buds.

Remove the flower stem of salvias, speedwells (Veronicas), and snapdragons as the blooms begin to fade. Cut below the spike of flowers just above the first set of leaves or the side shoots where the new flower buds are forming.

Encourage additional blossoms and improve Shasta daisy's appearance by removing faded flowers. Prune back just above a set of healthy leaves.

Cut the flowers of plants like Armeria and coral bells back to the base of the flower stems that arise from the foliage. This improves the appearance and encourages more blooms on some of this type of flowering perennial.

Plants like daylilies and balloon flowers require a bit different care. Remove the individual blooms as they fade if you don't like looking at the faded flowers. Once all the individual flowers have bloomed out, you can cut the flower stem back at the base.

Removing fading flowers of fuchsia and lantana will prevent the plants from going to seed and encourage more blooms. Remove any berries that do form to keep these plants flowering throughout the growing season.

Deadheading peonies is strictly for aesthetics and won't extend the bloom time. Remove the faded flowers or seedpods as they form. Cut just above a healthy set of leaves to keep the stems more upright and create a tidier appearance in your garden.

Prevent some flowers, like columbine, Amsonia, and Alliums from reseeding and spreading throughout the garden by removing the faded flowers. Even though it won't promote additional blooms, it will help eliminate unwanted seedlings in next year's garden.

Remove flowers as they appear on coleus, grown for its colorful foliage, to promote more compact growth. Late blooming, flowerless varieties and self-branching coleus hybrids reduce or eliminate time spent on this task.

Reduce time spent deadheading by including some self-cleaning, also called free-flowering plants, like impatiens, fibrous begonias, Calibrachoa, and moss rose. Lobelia, many of the newer petunias, and verbenas are also self-cleaning but may benefit from a bit of grooming. Prune back heat-stressed lobelia and verbenas that get leggy and petunia stems that need to be kept in bounds.

Allow seedheads to develop on cone-flowers, rudbeckias, and other plants that provide winter interest and food for the birds. And consider skipping the dead-heading of late blooming perennials. This allows them to prepare for winter and form seedpods for additional winter interest.

And while you are out in the garden deadheading, pick a few flowers at their peak to enjoy in a summer bouquet indoors.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video 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 Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

OUR GARDEN

The garden lay dormant a long cold winter has passed spring will bring a new awakening.

Small hints of green begin to appear. A glimpse of what the season has to offer.

The garden begins to awaken tulips, onions, and chives are the first to arrive.

We gather to discuss our garden plan.

Early cold crops: carrots, spinach, and beets are the first to be planted. In late May, tomatoes, peppers, peas and beans go in.

Tulips, lilies, daisies and coneflowers will add a blast of color throughout.

We will enjoy the shade of the pavilion, a peaceful spot to enjoy our lunch while admiring the flowers growing among the vegetables.

Editor's note: The preceding poem was composed collectively by the staff and participants at Accord Adult Day Center in Webster.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your gift is already making a difference

To the Editor:
To the people at the Janet Malser Humanities Trust, I want to thank you for presenting Dudley Middle School with new speakers. They have already

been used at our band concerts, and will be used at the upcoming chorus concerts.
As a music student, I see their use almost every day. They're an improvement on what they were.

Thank you again.
CALISTA LAWLESS
SEVENTH GRADE
DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dudley Grange #163 thanks Janet Malser Humanities Trust

To the Editor:
Dudley Grange #163 wishes to thank the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for the award of \$4,500.
This award helps Dudley Grange to continue its work in preserving the historical Dudley Grange Hall, located at 139 Center Rd., in the Dudley Hill Historical District.
Dudley Grange Hall is a landmark in Dudley. It was used as the Center School

with a second floor added by the townspeople as a meeting place which they named Washington Hall. Today, Dudley Grange #163 continues to meet in the Grange as it has for the past 137 years supporting Dudley farmers, local agriculture and providing community service to Dudley and the surrounding towns. It is also the site of the long running Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival which is held every third Thursday in June and

the Apple Festival held in October. The Grange Hall is also used for community events of interest which are open to the public. The Janet Malser Humanities Trust, through their grant awards, has enabled Dudley Grange #163's to continue its work in preserving this remarkable, historical landmark which is part of Dudley's agricultural character.
KAREN GILLON
DUDLEY GRANGE #163



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

When planting your garden this season, why not choose a few plants that contain natural mosquito repellent properties? From catnip to lavender, there are several easy to grow flowers and herbs that have proven to repel the pesky insects – with some proving to be as effective as chemical commercial offerings! Read on for a rundown of the most common garden favorites that keep the bugs at bay!

Mint: Mint is an easy to grow mosquito repellent. Thanks to the oils that the plant produce, mint does double duty: Not only does mint deter mosquitos, but dabbing the leaves it on a fresh mosquito bite can provide relief!

A popular mosquito spray recipe: Mix in a spray bottle, one cup

freshly picked mint leaves with two cups of distilled water. Add two tablespoons of Witch Hazel and shake.

FYI: Mint also deters flies and ants!

Marigolds: Marigolds are not only a bright spot in the garden and easy to grow, but their distinctive scent also repel mosquitos. The pompom flowers contain the natural chemical pyrethrum, which is an ingredient in some commercial mosquito sprays. (Last week, this column highlighted the health boosting properties of Marigolds.)

FYI: Plant marigolds in the garden as companion plants to deter common garden pests such as aphids and whiteflies.

Catnip: Catnip's secret weapon against mosquitoes is a natural compound, Nepetalactone. In fact, studies show that catnip is at least as powerful as the chemical DEET as deterring mosqui-

tos. One early study from the American Chemical Society revealed catnip is ten times more effective at deterring mosquitos as DEET!

FYI: Pick leaves and rub it between your palms to release compounds and wipe it on exposed skin. The effects last up to an hour at a time.

Bee Balm: Bee Balm is noted for its capacity to lure bees, but a bonus to planting this herb is that the plants contain thymol and carvacrol, and in addition to its naturally strong scent has the power to deter mosquitos.

How to: You can simply pick leaves and rub it on exposed skin. Or, concoct a simple infused oil by soaking leaves into coconut oil.

FYI: Native Americans discovered Bee Balm's anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties could bring down fevers, relieve coughs and congestion and fight infections.

Garden Plants that Deter Mosquitos

Basil: Basil is not only a favorite kitchen herb, but the plant also repels mosquitos (and flies)! According to Metode.org, basil contains several volatile compounds, including estragole (also known as tarragon), methyl-nonyl-ketone, geraniol, citronellal, and limonene.

Bentley Seed Company published this natural mosquito spray:

Pick six ounces of fresh basil leaves, clean them thoroughly and place them in a container such as a pitcher or glass jar.

Pour four ounces of boiling water over the leaves and let the mixture steep for several hours. Remove the leaves and squeeze their remaining juices into the liquid. Pour the liquid into a spray bottle. Add four ounces of vodka (it functions as a carrier) to the liquid and shake the mixture gently; your homemade insect repellent is ready to be sprayed on skin and clothing.

Take care to keep this “adult” DIY repellent out of the reach of children and don't get the spray in your eyes, nose or mouth.

FYI: As a bonus, basil is toxic to mosquito larvae too; plant basil where freestanding water collects.

Lavender: Lavender has many virtues, not the least of which is that it serves as a natural mosquito deterrent. This is due to the natural compounds, such as linalool and liminene, which have proven repellent properties.

To use, simply crush lavender (flowers and leaves) in your hand and rub on exposed skin.

FYI: Linalool is what gives lavender its calming properties.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered

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

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

Venting!

We've all done it. Something goes wrong—a bad day at work, a fight with a friend—and the words come pouring out. Complaining can feel like a relief. But what if science says it's not helping at all?

Your brain is like a hiking trail. Every time you walk the same path, it gets easier to find—and harder to avoid. Venting carves that path deeper. The more you fixate on what went wrong, the more your brain learns to return to that place.

Your brain can learn both positive and negative habits. And the more you replay either one, the more your mind is trained

to stay in that state. So when you constantly focus on the negative—by venting, complaining, or reliving what went wrong—you're teaching your brain to live there. To expect it. To look for it. Constantly hiking that trail, so to speak.

When you vent without seeking a solution, your brain starts to believe the problem is bigger—and that you're smaller. Over time, you're not just describing the struggle; you're training your mind to feel powerless in the face of it. Complaining becomes less about release and more about rehearsal. Conditioning yourself for failure.

Contrary to popular belief, expressing anger without resolution doesn't release emotion—it amplifies it. It's like turning up the volume without changing the song. Each time you vent, your brain thinks the threat is still happening, flooding your body with stress and keeping your nervous system in a state of fight-or-flight. The more you relive the stress, the more your system stays on high alert. Not because of what happened but because you won't stop replaying it.

It's hurting your relationships. It turns conversations into dumping grounds, leaving listeners feeling drained or help-

less—especially when they feel unable to make a difference. In trying to release stress, we end up spreading it. When grumbling becomes the main event, connection takes a back seat. Instead of a conversation, it's a monologue. The listener can't help, and you both walk away less happy.

Conventional wisdom taught us that voicing our struggles helps us “get it all out,” but research suggests otherwise. Studies show that it doesn't create clarity—it creates confusion. Instead of moving toward resolution, we circle around blame, frustration, and helplessness. This kind of repetitive negativity dampens our brain's ability to plan, prioritize, and think creatively. Complaining aimlessly doesn't unlock solutions—it shuts them down. The mind can't design solutions while it's stuck in survival mode.

Emotions are contagious! When we grumble, we're not just expressing—we're transmitting. Cortisol (your body's stress hormone) doesn't just stay in your blood-

stream; it causes others to produce stress hormones, too! Dysregulating not just your nervous system but everyone else's as well. What feels like a release at the moment can leave others feeling anxious, irritable, or exhausted—and you even more out of sync.

Sadly, every time you vent, voice your pain, your wounds, your “stuckness”—you strengthen the story that you are those things. Instead of helping your brain process the experience and move forward, constantly venting blends your identity with the version of you that's still hurting. Over time, that repeated focus doesn't lead to healing—it leads to entanglement. You stop being someone who had a challenging experience and starts becoming someone who is the experience.

Sure, complaining can feel good—for a second, like a steam valve hissing open. But long-term relief doesn't come from circling the same complaints. It comes from breaking the loop. From

reflection. From pattern interruption. From choosing to move forward, even when your feelings are still catching up.

So, the next time you feel the urge to vent, pause. Breathe. Ask yourself what you want—relief or repetition. The answer might change everything. The truth is that your brain is always listening.

Every word you speak shapes the path ahead. So talk like someone who's going somewhere. Use words that push you forward, not hold you back. You're not powerless—you're learning, growing, becoming. You don't need more drama. You need direction. You don't need everything figured out—you need to stop looking back and start moving forward.

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

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who are we?

To the Editor:

Humans are a unique breed. We are incredible creators, and also ruthless destroyers. As Miley Cyrus says, “Built a home and watched it burn.” Sometimes, we have to experience what is totally rotten to understand what is good.

I appreciate the various letters to the Editor I've had the opportunity to read. Both sides of the current political conundrum are being voiced. Being able to voice our opinion is one of our rights that is coming under attack as of late. I am happy to see the independence of the Webster Times! I have come to realize I must appreciate this freedom while I still have it!

I know debating politics often seems useless; however, there are issues greater than the current political conundrum that I believe are more important to all of us. What about love, compassion, humanity, dignity? If you watched the body cams of the recent incident of an ICE raid in Worcester, then I think you may feel deep down that this is not just, not humane and not right. (If you haven't, I would ask that you google it.) This is not what America stands for. What happened to “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?” Does this sound familiar? It is a quote from one of our founding documents.

Immigrants are humans. They bleed just like citizens. They are normal people trying to make a better life. They deserve due process. They do not deserve the cruel and unusual punishment of being sent to some foreign prison or country merely because they are here.

Christians, how can you stand for this? This is really astonishing to me. There will be many false prophets. Beware! Does your heart sing with joy at the thought of Donald Trump? Do you think a liar, a cheat, a sex offender, a felon is what this country needs? Do you think Donald Trump is the one because he is a good businessman? Are you of the belief that all that has happened to Donald Trump is a lie? If that is your thought, then you must have no faith in the law of our land. You feel the government has been hijacked already and Mr. Trump is the Savior of our country? What was so different when America was great? Was it when only one person needed to work to support a family? Was it when only white men with property could vote?

Trump supporters are my friends, my family, educated people, smart people, white people, black people, men and women. Trump supporters run the gamut, and though some people generalize and call them stupid, ignorant, hateful, etc., I find for most of them, the things they have in common are the TV

channels and internet social media platforms they watch.

I feel people are aligning with political parties based upon which TV station they watch, which pod casts entertain them. Discussions of politics, if they can be discussed at all, are akin to arguing if the glass is half empty or half full! The answer is nothing more than perspective. The same event or fact sounds very different on Fox News than it does on PBS or BBC. The facts even change depending on the station or article.

It is time for all of us to really think critically about what is happening in our country now. Unless you truly believe no federal government is the best alternative, how can you possibly believe what is happening is good for our country?

We must uphold the rule of law. Without law and order, we have chaos, riots, rebellion. We must believe in the laws of the land and uphold the system. We must change the laws that have led us to where we are today. We can't pardon convicted criminals, fraudsters and crooked politicians. We can't let millionaires avoid the law. We can't allow the president of this great country to be above the law. We must change the laws that allow Presidential pardons, Presidential immunity and big money in politics. That will be a good start in making America great again!

Lies and misinformation are everywhere. How do we find the truth? Seek and you shall find. Always consider your sources, watch both sides of the political new outlets. Ask yourself what brings joy and happiness to you and yours. Are you acting and thinking out of love or fear? Are you making someone happy? Are you creating feelings of joy and contentment or are you creating sadness, anxiety, pain and suffering? Ask yourself these questions each and every time you make a choice, perform an action, speak a word. This will lead you to the truth. We can create a better world, think it, speak it, and make it so.

The world is looking at us and does not like what it sees. Recent elections are going to pro-democracy candidates and away from “MAGA” mentalities. Why is that?

We are humans, we are always making mistakes, we create, we destroy, we learn, then we often repeat the cycle. We can and will do better! We have the knowledge. We know now what we do not want, let's head toward unity, compassion, love. Treating each other with dignity and respect. This will lead us all to a better world for our children. Believe it can happen and you are on your way to making it so!

Thank you all for sharing your opinions. Thank you for the freedom for me to express mine!

LINDA CANDELA
WEBSTER



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Webster hosts Memorial Day Parade

WEBSTER — Webster and Dudley came together for their annual Memorial Day parade celebration on May 26, bringing together two communities to honor those who fought and died to protect the freedoms of the United States. Locals lined the streets as parade floats, veterans, local school and community groups, and more filed through Webster towards the town hall where an emotional post-parade ceremony recognized those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Cub Scout Pack 274 of Dudley marches down the parade route honoring veterans of today and yesterday.



The Webster Fire Department's famed antique Engine 2 led a procession of emergency vehicles to conclude the parade.



This massive truck from Leo Crane in Webster was one of many military vehicles to join Webster's annual Memorial Day parade.



Anne Kleya-Vojcovek, a World War II Navy nurse seen in the front passenger seat, was Webster's Memorial Day parade Grand Marshal.



The Shepherd Hill Marching Band of Dudley makes it way through the streets as the drummers provide the beat for a variety of patriotic anthems.



Jason Bleau

Scout Troop 273 of Dudley marches through Webster with American flags in hand to celebrate pride in their country.

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OBITUARIES

Joseph R. Poplawski, 81



N O R T H
GROSVENORDALE, CT – Joseph R. “Joe P” Poplawski, 81, died Saturday, May 24, 2025, in Webster Manor after an illness. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Gloria J. (Anderson) Poplawski, 3 sons, David J. “Joe P” and his wife Karen Poplawski of Thompson, Keith M. Poplawski of Webster and, Kenneth S. Poplawski and his wife Beth of North Grosvenordale; 7 grandchildren, Joseph Poplawski, Jonathan Poplawski, Jordyn Poplawski, Elizabeth Poplawski, Nina Poplawski, McKenna Coderre and Kyle Wilson; 2 brothers, Richard P. Poplawski, and John J. Poplawski, both of Webster; several nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his beloved dogs Junior and Tasha. He was born in Webster on June 14, 1943, a son of Joseph and Phyllis (Grocki) Poplawski and was a 1961 graduate of Bartlett Vocational High School. Mr. Poplawski was a United States Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. He served aboard the USS Enterprise CVN 65, the world’s first nuclear powered aircraft carrier. Joe P was a flight deck crewman for fighter jets. He first worked as an auto mechanic at Bayer Motors in Dudley, MA, then as a heavy equipment operator for the Town of Webster, MA Highway Department for 37 years. While living in Florida Joe P worked at Walt Disney World as a monorail pilot, a greeter and as a character attendant for 11 years. Joe and Gloria returned to Massachusetts as snowbirds each summer, which led to seasonal camping at Indian Ranch. It was there that Joe P was a parking attendant and met countless music acts over his 10 years. From Charlie Daniels to David Allen Coe each knew Joe P and could not wait to catch up with them each year when the tour came back to Webster. Mr. Poplawski was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica graduating from grammar school there. In his youth he was a member of the Jericho Wanderer’s Car Club in Webster and Dudley. Joe P enjoyed cooking, working outdoors and collecting old cars including his 32’ 3 window Ford, his 48’ Ford Super Deluxe, and finally his 53’ Ford

Sunliner convertible. On the outside Joe P was tough as the construction equipment he operated. On the inside he was kind, compassionate and dedicated. If you asked him what he was proud of, he would tell you it was his family. He stood by Mom through many medical and physical challenges. He always worried that she would be taken care of and be safe. Dad, we got her, don’t worry! Joe P loved to tell stories of his boys and what they were doing for work or building. His greatest joy and most treasured moments were to be found in the time he spent working on projects with them. As the family expanded, Joe P loved attending baseball games, dance recitals, and horse shows of his grandchildren. Dad made friends wherever he went and could not wait to tell us who they were and what they were all about. The terrible disease we know as dementia tried to take all of Dad’s memory, but in the end, he could still share and recall a few good times. Unfortunately, his body could not keep up the fight, and the person who in November it took 3 EMT’s to hold down, four short months later could not swallow or eat and ultimately went on to see our Lord and Savior. The family would like to thank the dedicated nurses from Webster Manor 3rd Floor as well as Katrina and Danielle. Dad could be challenging because of his disease, but they stood by him and provided him with care and compassion right up until 5-24. A funeral Mass was held on Monday, June 2, at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA (please meet at church). The burial with military honors was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace Cemetery, Webster, MA.

The family requests donations in Joe P’s memory be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com



Julie L. Pearson, 66



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of died on March 22, 2025, following a very short illness. She is predeceased by her husband, Bruce Pearson who died in 1979. She leaves 2 beloved children: Angela Pearson of Dudley, MA and Andrew Rust of CA; Two sisters: Judith Rust of CA and Ann Menzone and her husband Vincent of Dudley, MA; one brother John Seibold and his wife Diane of Charlton, MA. She was the proud grandmother of 4 grandchildren including Jalen Raheb and Alexa Erickson of MA, and Khloie and Noah Rust of CA. She also leaves 10 nieces and nephews. She was born in Miami, FL. Julie lived in Florida, MA,

North Dakota and Georgia, then back to Florida where she loved her time at Pass -A-Grille Beach collecting seashells, sea glass and watching the sunsets. Julie traveled extensively during her life and was a fearless adventurer. She was never afraid to speak her mind and was “Tiny, but mighty”. Julie worked as a Certified Nurse Assistant in Florida. Julie is now with her faithful travel companion, Ginger, her beloved Pomeranian. Memorial services will be held on Saturday; June 14th at 11:00 am. At the First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Road, Dudley, MA. Service will be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@firstcongregationalchurchu582> In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Worcester Animal League, She will be missed, “Always, Forever and Eternity!”

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

required based on projected costs in October of 2025 and will continue until there is a solution to the problem, which is a waterline.”

That waterline, which would extend town water into Eagle Drive, was the subject of a second separate article and vote to borrow \$14.2 million for the project, only half of which would be paid by the town with Gentex funding the other half. A positive vote would have allowed Dudley the chance to procure loan principal forgiveness and zero percent financing for the project. The article failed to reach the two-thirds required majority by only a handful of votes leaving what Ruda called “the only solution” to the problem in limbo. Without the funding, Dudley cannot proceed with the waterline and must continue to fund mitigation indefinitely, an investment that the project’s designers, Tighe and Bond, indicated would be far more costly in the long run.

However, the vote is not the end for the waterline. Ruda said they received come constructive feed-

back from the voters and plan to continue their push for approval.

“We will certainly provide answers in the weeks to come but unfortunately, those conversations would have been more productive at the three public meetings thereby giving us an opportunity to provide a meaningful response,” said Ruda. “We forfeit the favorable funding for the waterline project as a result of failing to achieve a 2/3 majority to authorize the borrowing but paying for home filtration systems forever is neither practical nor financially viable. The answer is to put in a waterline and provide the ability for residents with contaminated wells to tie-in. We will be discussing next steps.”

Ruda said he wished more residents of the impacted neighborhood, comprised of Eagle Drive and Fairview Avenue, attended town meetings and public hearings concerning the project. The most recent hearing on the project on April 28, where Tighe & Bond presented the finer details of the design, was sparsely attended. The Town Administrator noted that many citizens present at the annual town meeting

have opposed the project from the start and he would like to see more involvement from residents of the neighborhood whether they’re for or against the project.

“Every household was notified by mail, yet turnout was low and dominated by opposition,” said Ruda. “At this point, it comes down to engagement. Residents—especially those with contaminated wells—need to decide whether they will let a small group speak and vote on their behalf. The town will keep sharing facts, but people have to show up, hear all the facts, and decide what’s best for their own health and the town’s future.”

Ruda said regardless of the next steps it will be difficult to find funding options to match the forgiveness and zero interest opportunity that presented itself with this vote. He also stressed that while Dudley is required to borrow the full amount for the project it’s important that taxpayers understand that Gentex will be paying its fair share, but all funding needs to go through Dudley for a loan which Ruda said is “pretty standard” and required for towns across the commonwealth.

OXFORD

continued from page A1

the police 535-981.

To School Committee Chair Corey Burke, “Obviously, we were disappointed the override didn’t pass, but believe in the process and respect the voters’ decision. Just from the conversations I’ve had I believe people were concerned that, although the money would be earmarked for the schools this coming year, it may not be the following year.”

He noted several question opponents he spoke to were also concerned about raising taxes “during a difficult economic time. Others voiced the opinion that they will never support an override for any reason.”

“As for the effects on the schools, the biggest concern is not only the immediate loss of positions, but as anyone who is in the field can tell you, once those positions are lost it is incredibly difficult to build them back,” Burke added. “It’s not a matter of one good economic year and we can bring them all back. It

takes many years and the losses for students in the meantime are difficult to swallow. We have an amazing staff and I know they will continue to push themselves for our students, but I know their job will get more difficult as a result of this loss.”

For the police, the concern was similar:

“The outcome of this vote doesn’t change the fact our staffing remains thin, our demands are growing, and the need for a School Resource Officer and additional patrol coverage is legitimate,” Police Chief Mike Daniels said by email. “Our officers will continue doing what they’ve always done, showing up, stepping up, and giving this town everything they’ve got. But we can’t ignore the reality, something has to give, and I will return when the time is right.”

Daniels said he doesn’t “fault anyone for voting the way they did” and understands why it failed. “People are feeling the squeeze from rising government costs, health insurance premiums, and inflation,” he observed, adding, “Folks are just

trying to live comfortably and take care of their families, as we do as a Police Department, stretching every resource we have to serve the community as best we can.”

Cornacchioli also noted he wasn’t surprised both failed, but was “deeply disappointed that it even came to that point” of needing to put the school one on the ballot. “Asking the Schools to absorb a 0 percent budget increase for FY26—and then expecting them to absorb an additional \$380,000 cut on top of that—was, in my view, an incredibly irresponsible decision by the Town Manager.”

He said he thinks Bourbeau will “do an excellent job filling my seat on the School Committee.”

Carole Steina was also elected as Library Trustee, as was Mary Wells to the Housing Authority. Both had no opposition.

In total, 1539 ballots were cast, or 14 percent of the town’s 11,234 registered voters.

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

Singer continues call for action by School Committee

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

C H A R L T O N — Charlton Selectman David Singer has continued his pursuit of a public statement against hate from the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee months after addressing controversial material promoted by the Massachusetts Teachers Association to educate students about the Israel-Hamas War.

Singer has called for an official statement from the School Committee on two prior occasions appearing as a private citizen before both the School Committee itself and the Board of Selectmen respectively. He once again spoke as a citizen during the public comment segment of the Board of Selectmen’s May 27 meeting renewing his request for the board to seek an official statement from the School Committee which he feels is justified due to specific incidents of hate among the student body.

“It is needed. While I cannot give you names, I can tell you personally that I do know of an instance in the Charlton Middle School where students were goose-stepping behind a Jewish student,” Singer revealed. “I do know an instance in Shepard Hill where a penny was thrown down the hallway at a Jewish student, and I do know of an instance on our Dudley Charlton Regional School System busses where threats were made against a Jewish resident’s home.

I’m sorry if I’m not going to sit here and take it, that we don’t need to stand up to this. I expect more from every leader, not only on this board but the School Committee.”

In the past, Singer had also expressed concerns about content posted on School Committee members’ personal social media accounts without mentioning specific individuals by name. On May 27, he made a direct accusation against School Committee Vice Chair Jeanne Costello sharing printouts of posts from her personal Facebook page that Singer called “hate speech” and “propaganda lies.” Singer submitted copies of the posts to the Town Administrator hoping they will be sent to the School Committee and that the town will ask them to act and respond.

Our correspondent reached out to Jeanne Costello, who issued an emailed statement calling Singer’s accusations defamatory, “untrue” and “hurtful,” portraying her as promoting hate an antisemitism.

“I want to be clear: I do not promote hate of any kind, nor do I support antisemitism. I fully condemn all forms of hate, violence, and discrimination,” Costello wrote. “Mr. Singer’s comments appear to conflate my personal beliefs and online activity with my role as an elected official. While I serve on the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, I did not, and do not, speak on behalf of the committee or the school district on

my personal social media. Like any private citizen, I have the right to express myself personally and thoughtfully, and I do so responsibly.”

In her capacity as School Committee Vice Chair, Costello did acknowledge that the district includes policies in the staff handbook and student handbook regarding nondiscrimination, civil rights grievance procedures, and bully prevention. These policies have been made available on the district’s website.

Singer’s demands stem from a controversy involving material posted on a members-only page on the MTA’s website meant to help educators teach their students about the Israel-Hamas War, also colloquially referred to as the Gaza War. The content received widespread criticism and spurred Singer to approach the local School Committee in March who ensured that no educator had begun utilizing the material but stopped short of issuing any official written statement despite Singer’s repeated requests. Singer also said he was “discouraged” after selectmen had voted down a prior request to send a letter to the school committee asking that they consider issuing an official statement.

The Board of Selectmen provided few comments on the matter as it was not an official item on the May 27 agenda. Board Chair Karen Spiewak asked that any future discussion be saved for another Board of Selectmen meeting.

Explore “Death and the Presidency in 19th Century America” at Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — When the Founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution in 1787, they were concerned about many things, but what might happen if the Presidency should become vacant was not a high priority. A clause in Article II simply stated that if the President should die, resign, or become disabled, the Vice President would assume the position.

For the first five decades of the Nation under this new system of government, the issue of presidential vacancy did not enter the public consciousness because it never became a problem. Only when President William Henry Harrison died on April 4, 1841, after a mere thirty days in office, did America have to grapple with the issue

of succession.

Paul Lambert Sr., Instructor of History and Political Science and Library Archivist at Nichols College, will talk about this fascinating time in American history at the Samuel Slater Experience on Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m.

His presentation will look at how America dealt with the issue of presidential death and succession during the 19th century. Four vice presidents – John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, and Chester Arthur – would be touched by unforeseen circumstances and find themselves suddenly thrust into the Presidency. None of these men ever expected to sit in the White House, yet a combination of circumstances

moved them from obscurity into prominence.

All four took actions that would be controversial and end up being detrimental to their political careers, yet they would have an indelible impact on 19th-century America and our current understanding of the American presidency.

The free one-hour presentation is supported by the Webster Cultural Council. To register, go to <https://samuelslaterexperience.org>, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org, or call 508-461-2955. Attendees will receive a coupon for discounted admission to the museum.

The Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray St., Webster.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN
\$545,000, 79 Shore Dr, Ward Janice R Est, and Ward Jr; James F, to Yusef, Doaa, and Yusef, Ahmed.
\$365,000, 198 West St, Mccuen, Shane, and Mccuen, Amy, to Graham, Michelle L.
\$340,000, 19 Otis St, Norberg, Bror W, and Norberg, Denise M, to De Oliveira, Nivaldo.
\$180,000, 5 Friedel St, Thomas Wanett E Est, and Seidler, Melissa, to Bay State Prop Dev LLC.

DUDLEY
\$492,000, 30 Dresser Hill Rd, Dallorto, Bernardo C, and Dallorto, Jorge S, to Connors, Greg.
\$425,000, 27 Marshall Ter #1, Katz, Robin A, to Dexter, Lori A.
\$345,000, 99 Center Rd, Durkee, Lynnell L, to Nichols, College.
\$335,000, 9 Susan Dr, Warner, Scott, to Marzeotti Group Rlty Inc.
\$275,000, 56 Farley Rd, Degnan, Daniel J, to Cusson, Cheyenne.

OXFORD
\$615,000, 7 Minuteman Ln, Perveiler, John M, to Laub, Noah, and Laub, Julie L.
\$380,000, 23 Thayer Pond Dr #4, Puzio, Peter D, to Baril, Julie, and Disla, Jeffrey.
\$290,000, 14 Bartlett St, Duffy, Michelle R, to Juskavitch Rt, and Juskavitch, Preston.

WEBSTER
\$460,000, 37 Aldrich St, Guenther Jr Louis R Est, and Guenther-Smith, Lu E, to Twiss, Joanne M.
\$412,000, 11 Negus St, Morgan, Mehat, to Crespo, Alba G.
\$375,000, 22 Stoughton Ave, Dion, Karen, and Canty, Colleen, to Telpiz, Nadejda.

Local residents receive degrees at WPI

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated its 2025 Commencement with a series of ceremonies honoring the achievements of graduates across all degree levels. For the second year, commencement exercises were held at the DCU Center, where WPI conferred 1,298 bachelor's degrees representing a diverse range of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 156th Commencement exercises on Friday, May 16.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams, and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

“Outside these walls today is a world that needs you,” Wang said. “Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI.”

Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass '90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she's often asked how a chemical engineering graduate from WPI became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

“I’ve realized that to the extent I’ve been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself and my family, it’s largely because I learned how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively, while keeping real people in mind at all times,” Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dhespina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included struggle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

“WPI has given us more than an education,” Zhidro said. “It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it.”

The following graduates earned BS degrees:

Audrey Johnson from Auburn majored in Mechanical Engineering
Chloe Hatstat from Oxford majored in Chemical Engineering
Christian Consiglio from Oxford majored in Computer Science
Juliana Fox from Oxford majored in Industrial Engineering
Logan Gervais from Dudley majored in Mechanical Engineering

Morgan Polinski from Webster majored in Biomedical Engineering
Parker Glispin from Oxford majored in Computer Science
Samuel Wing from Oxford majored in Aerospace Engineering
Sarah Fenton from Dudley majored in Chemical Engineering

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.



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QCC students recognized at all-state academic team ceremony

WORCESTER — Two students from Quinsigamond Community College were recognized earlier this month by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MACC) for their induction to the 2025 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-State Academic Team. QCC students Deanna Kelsaw and Vijay Kesavan joined 31 students from other community colleges throughout the state at the ceremony.

“It is an honor to have two of our outstanding PTK students, Deanna and Vijay recognized as members of the state’s All-Academic Team. Their achievements are a testament to what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication, and determination,” said QCC President Luis Pedraja, Ph.D.

PTK International Honor Society recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students. Students nominated to the national

All-USA Academic Team are automatically named to the All-State Academic Teams. To be eligible for nomination, students must have earned a minimum cumulative college-level grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale

Kelsaw, who recently received a certificate in medical assisting, recognized PTK as a support system that contributed to her success at QCC, in addition to her own strength and perseverance.

“At first, when I thought about a career, I was not sure what I wanted to do because I have cochlear implants and limitations,” Kelsaw shared, explaining that support from PTK staff and other students helped her embrace both her strengths and weaknesses while guiding her academic and professional journey in healthcare.

“Once you become a Phi Theta Kappa member, you

are never truly alone,” Kelsaw added.

Kelsaw plans on continuing her studies to become a registered nurse, so she can pursue her passion for helping others.

Kesavan, who will be transferring to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall, has been involved in many extracurricular and academic pursuits at QCC.

“I was very happy to have been recognized. I had never been to the State House before, so getting to go there for an event like the recognition ceremony was an amazing experience,” Kesavan said.

QCC’s PTK Alpha Zeta Theta chapter offers students opportunities for growth through leadership and service programming and has won several regional and national awards.

For more information visit www.QCC.edu/PTK.

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. WO25P1902EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Michael Edward Cahill
Date of Death: : 02/28/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael L. Cahill of Springfield 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:
Michael L. Cahill of Springfield 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 06/24/2025.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 28, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 6, 2025

pearance 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: May 28, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 6, 2025

Docket No. WO25E0065
Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court
To Dennis Basins and to all other interested persons.
A petition has been presented to said Court by Jeffrey P. Greenberg, Esq. on behalf of Amy Basins-Jones of Worcester in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Webster in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:
See Attached setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than three hundred and fifty thousand (\$350,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 10th day of June the return date of this citation.
Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 8th day of May 2025.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
May 23, 2025
May 30, 2025
June 6, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 399 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Wayne H. Taylor to Navy Federal Credit Union, and now held by **Navy Federal Credit Union**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57806, Page 139, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on July 3, 2025 at 03:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the central part of Oxford, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southeasterly corner of the tract to be conveyed at an iron pipe on the westerly line of Main Street and also being the northeasterly corner of land now

or formerly of Eugene Davidson; THENCE by land of said Davidson, N. 86° 15’ W., one hundred seventy-seven and fifty-four hundredths (177.54) feet to an iron pipe at edge of hard land at land now formerly of Marian Hawes; THENCE by said Hawes land, N. 86° 15’ W., one hundred fifty-two and forty-six hundredth (152.46) feet to a point in a swamp; THENCE N. 2° 38’ E., about eighty-seven (87) feet to an iron pipe on the easterly edge of hard land at land now or formerly of Carrie H. Bloomquist; THENCE by said land of said Bloomquist, S. 86° 15’ E., two hundred fifty-four (254) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE S. 8° 03’ E., six (6) feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE S. 77° 23’ E., forty-four (44) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE S. 54° 53’, forty-five (45) feet to an iron pipe on the westerly line of Main Street; THENCE by the westerly line of Main Street, S. 8° 20’ W., forty-eight (48) feet to the place of beginning. Containing 27,198 square feet, more or less (.624 acres) Being the same premises conveyed by deed recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 55610, Page 274. See also deed recorded herewith.
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 September 7, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57806, Page 136.
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 Navy Federal Credit Union
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
May 30, 2025
June 6, 2025
June 13, 2025

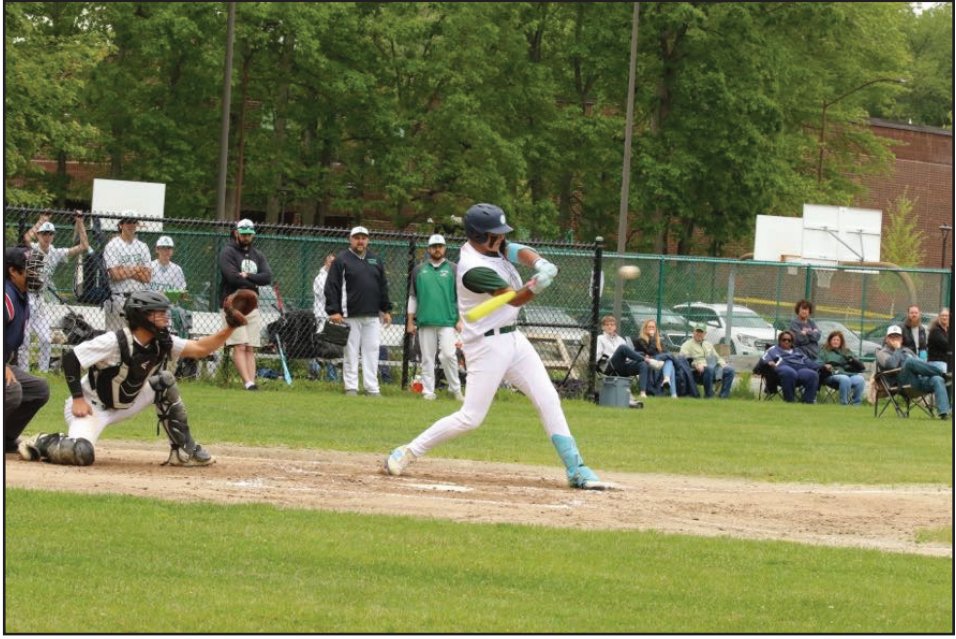
(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 25 SM 001423
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Karyn Borowy
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*)
Nationstar Mortgage LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 8 New Street, given by **Karyn Borowy to “MERS”, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, “Lender”; and its successors and assigns**, dated March 9, 2022, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67258, Page 21, and now held by 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 06/30/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 5/13/2025
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
June 5, 2025

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO. 25 SM 001437
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Heather Carlson
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):
US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Webster, numbered 50 Harris Street**, given by **Heather Carlson to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated July 31, 2019, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60803, Page 226, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated October 28, 2022, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 69104, Page 63**, 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 06/30/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 5/13/2025
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
June 5, 2025

Town of Dudley
Notice of Public Hearing
Order for Joint or Identical Pole Locations
National Grid and Verizon New England In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 166, § 22, a Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, June 23, 2025 beginning at 6:35pm** at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA in Room 321A. The Purpose of this Hearing: To Act on a National Grid Pole Petition No. 31072054
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England requests permission to located poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along with across the following public way: West Dudley Road – National Grid to relocated 1 JO pole on West Dudley Road beginning at a point approximately 365 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Southbridge Road and continuing approximately 15 feet in a Easterly direction. National Drive to relocated P3 approximately 15’ West in order to provide services to 4 West Dudley Road., Dudley, MA
Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the date and times specified or forward concerns in writing.
Dudley Board of Selectmen
June 6, 2025

Bartlett comes back to defeat Sutton 6-5 in D5 State Tourney Round of 32



WEBSTER — Bartlett trailed by four early, but came back to top the Sammies on Sunday at Bartlett High School.

Sutton Sammies got on the board first in the top of the third inning after starting pitcher Jack Patraitis tripled with the bases loaded, scoring three runs and Jason Walsh hit a sacrifice fly, scoring Patraitis. Bartlett

Indians answered in the bottom half of the inning with 3 runs after Jeremy Morillo scored on a Urato hit up the middle, a sac fly by Mason Sebastyanski to score Brayden Greene and an RBI double by Luigi Villegas to score Urato. Bartlett later tied it up at 4 in the bottom of the fifth inning after Urato took home on a

wild pitch. In the next at bat Adam Phillips broke for home, taking advantage of the pitcher being in the wind up, and Kole Sebastyanski executed a perfect suicide squeeze bunt on a high and outside ball as Phillips crossed the plate to take the lead. Kenny Arpin added the necessary insurance run with a sacrifice fly in the next at bat

to make it 6-4. Andrew Cloutier drove in Jackson Kehowski on a single in the top of the 7th to make it a one run game but Bartlett was able to hold on for the victory. Mason Sebastyanski earned the win for Bartlett allowing two hits and five runs over seven innings, striking out eight and walking six. Patraitis took the loss for Sutton despite a

solid performance. The righty went four innings, surrendering five runs on two hits, striking out seven and walking four. Luigi Villegas drove the middle of the lineup for the Indians, leading with two runs batted in. Bartlett played flawless defense and didn't commit a single error in the field. Patraitis and Cloutier were solid

together in the lineup for Sutton as they combined for the two Sutton hits. Patraitis provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led the Sammies with 3 RBIs. Up next for Bartlett in the round of 16 is the winner of Greenfield vs. Ayer Shirley. Game time TBD.

Five OHS students earn Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy

OXFORD — Five students at Oxford High School earned the prestigious Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy this spring. The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to high school students, upon their graduation, who demonstrate proficiency in English and one other world language. Students must have received a minimum score of 472 on their ELA MCAS and pass the World Language Advanced Placement Exam with a score of 3 or higher.

The Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and college admissions. Less than 4,000 students received the Seal of Biliteracy across the Commonwealth in 2024. Earning the distinction enhances a student's qualifications for college and

career and prepares them for a global world; currently, 13 public institutions of higher education within the state also offer credits and/or advanced course placement to Seal earners.

Mr. Kevin Bell, OHS Spanish teacher, helped bring this opportunity to students and facilitated the testing and qualifications for students. This is the first year that students at Oxford High School have taken the World Language Advanced Placement Exam in pursuit of the award. Juniors Thalyta Souza and Sarah Fonseca both earned the Seal in Portuguese and will be recognized at their graduation in 2026. Seniors Naomi Laboy (Spanish), Nicole Brzozowska (Polish) and Sarah Parker (Spanish) will all be recognized at this spring's June 6 Commencement exercises.

W O R C E S T E R — Almost 1,200 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) completed a senior capstone thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience. Known as Major Qualifying Projects (MQP), these are professional-level research experiences in the students' fields of study that challenge students to solve the kind of problem they would typically encounter in their professional discipline.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these hands-on projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research," says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers."

WPI's innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that requires students to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. During their time at WPI, all students complete two significant research projects that produce tangible results and often affect the quality of people's lives. These projects change both the student and their world.

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students' work. In addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in

peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

The following students completed an MQP:

Alysha Creelman from Auburn, majoring in Data Science, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Forecasting Seasonal User Traffic for DraftKings."

Audrey Johnson from Auburn, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Design of Getter System for Metal Powder Heat Treatment."

Samuel Wing from Oxford, majoring in Aerospace Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Conceptual Mission Design for Titan Sample Return."

Christian Consiglio from Oxford, majoring in Computer Science, class of 2025, completed a project titled "PC Pets: Interactive Productivity and Mental Health."

Parker Glispin from Oxford, majoring in Computer Science, class of 2025, completed a project titled "PC Pets: Interactive Productivity and Mental Health."

Juliana Fox from Oxford, majoring in Industrial Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Digitization-Driven Process Improvement in the Acoustic Java."

William Tyrrell from Dudley, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "AI-Powered 3D Facial Generation for Robotic Interfaces."

Sarah Fenton from Dudley, majoring in Chemical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Magnesium Production and Recycling for Clean Energy."

Chloe Hatstat from Oxford, majoring in Chemical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Characterization and Post-Processing of Quantum Dots."

Morgan Polinski from Webster, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Mammary Cell Microfluidic Thermal Device."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.



Pictured: Nicole Brzozowska, Sarah Parker, Sarah Fonseca, Thalyta Souza, Naomi Laboy, and Mr. Kevin Bell.

Clara Barton Chapter No. 63, Order of the Eastern Star remembers Clara Barton on Memorial Day



OXFORD — This past Memorial Day, Worthy Matron Sarah E. Sams, P.M., and Worthy Patron, Gary S. Clifford, P.P., traveled to North Cemetery in Oxford to place the OES Star on Clara Barton's grave in honor of her service as a nurse during the American Civil War and for her founding of the

American Red Cross. The chapter itself is named after Clara Barton since its formation on March 29, 1898. Ms. Barton herself became a member of the chapter on June 29th, 1906. Members of the chapter have been placing a memorial every year at Ms. Barton's grave since her passing in 1912.

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men can belong and is part of the Masonic Family. It was conceived by the poet-laureate of Masonry, Dr. Robert Morris in 1850. The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated men and women who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good by giving their time to meaningful projects that benefit mankind. The Order is open to women eighteen years of age or older that are related to a Master Mason, are a majority member of the Order of Rainbow or Job's Daughters, or more recently, are sponsored by an active member of the Order or Masons. Any Mason in good standing may also join. While the order is based on the teachings of the Judeo-Christian Bible, people of all faiths are welcome into the Order.

For more information, interview, or to inquire about membership, please contact Megan Carey, PM, Secretary at secretaryoes63@gmail.com or Sarah E. Sams, Worthy Matron at sarisams@gmail.com.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy celebrates 10th Annual National Technical Honor Society induction

DOUGLAS — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy proudly inducted fifteen students and one alum into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) during a scenic outdoor ceremony held on Sunday, May 11 at Douglas Orchard and Farms. Surrounded by blooming apple blossoms, the event marked the Academy's tenth annual induction and the sixth consecutive year it has been hosted at the orchard's picturesque pavilion.

The ceremony honors practical nursing students who demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership, service, and character. Eligibility for NTHS is based on grade point average, faculty recommendation, and involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteer service. The recognized qualities align with NTHS's core values: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

"Making it through nursing school and earning NTHS induction is a true feather in our students' caps," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN



Courtesy

Pictured here is the PN Class of 2025 NTHS Inductees are as follows: Elizabeth Achayo of Worcester (UNICEF Club Officer), Cynthia Agyeman of Worcester, Rachel Anane of Worcester (MassHire Grant Recipient, UNICEF Club Officer), Emily Bamberger of Wales, Sandra Celestin of Taunton (DDS Scholar), Maria DeAmorim Hentschke of Worcester, Chali Desrosiers of Oxford, Jason Houatchanthara of Fiskdale, Flory Muleka of Worcester, Loise Ngigi of South Grafton (MassHire Grant Recipient, P.E.O. Chapter N, UNICEF Club Officer), Grant Peterson of Millbury (MassHire Grant Recipient, MassAbility Grant Recipient), Natasha Rovon of Worcester (MassHire Grant Recipient), Gorret Rusoke of Springfield, Delene Sarsfield of Charlton (MassHire Grant Recipient, P.E.O. Chapter AA, UNICEF Club Officer), and Bobbiejo Smith of North Brookfield (DDS Scholar). The PN Class of 2024 Honorary NTHS Inductee was John Martin Wanjiru, LPN of South Grafton.

Area students receive BS/MS degrees at WPI's 156th Commencement

WORCESTER — On Friday, May 16, Alysha Creelman of Auburn, who majored in Data Science, and William Tyrrell of Dudley, an Electrical and Computer Engineering major, bestowed a BS/MS degree at WPI's 156th Commencement. Nearly 1,300 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the exercises.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams, and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

"Outside these walls today is a world that needs you," Wang said. "Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI."

Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass '90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she's often asked how a chemical engineering graduate from WPI became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

"I've realized that to the extent I've been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself and my family, it's largely because I learned how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively, while keeping real people in mind at all times," Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dhespina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included struggle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

"WPI has given us more than an education," Zhidro said. "It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute
WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. "These students balance rigorous coursework with work and family responsibilities—it's a remarkable achievement. We are incredibly proud of their resilience and dedication."

Bolandrina has organized the NTHS induction ceremony each year

since its inception and emphasized the importance of the tradition.

"What started during the COVID-19 pandemic has grown into a meaningful annual event. Our students and their families look forward to celebrating in such a beautiful and welcoming environment," she said.

Aaron Socrat, owner, architect, and builder of Douglas Orchard and Farms, expressed pride in hosting the event.

"I envisioned this pavilion with the orchard as the backdrop for moments just like this," said Socrat. "It's an honor to support the next generation of nurses in such a

memorable setting."

The Academy expressed its gratitude to Douglas Orchard and Farms for its continued hospitality and support.

"We are thankful for this partnership that allows us to celebrate our students' accomplishments in such a special way," said Bolandrina.

WPI students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — A total of 707 of undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) completed research-driven, professional-level projects that apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQPs at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture—from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students were part of a team that completed an intensive project:

Nicholas Palumbo from Auburn, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Robotics Engineering, completed a professional-level research-driven project titled "Supporting Boricua's Network with Improved Data Systems."

Jessica Peets from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Engaging Families at the Kempton Steam Museum."

Matthew Arndt from North Oxford, class of 2026,

majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Climate and Environmental Oral History."

Marlee Donohoe from Dudley, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Creating a Guidebook for Underserved Populations in Cuenca."

Amanda Warchal from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology, completed a project titled "Preparing the Mini Sapin Decorative Tree for Product Launch."

Catherine Sauter from Oxford, class of 2026, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, completed a project titled "Evaluating Tiaki: An Educational Board Game on Pest Control."

Elijah Gray from Oxford, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled "Evaluating QoE Factors in Cloud Gaming through a FPS game."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute
WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

Investing in tomorrow: Fueling youth growth, leadership and resilience

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$25,000 to YMCA of Central Massachusetts for the fifth year straight. The money will support programs that build academic skills and help kids develop as future leaders.

"The YMCA is a place where children form lasting positive relationships with peers and mentors," said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. "We've seen how powerful that can be."

Thousands of teenagers attend the YMCA of Central Massachusetts' many programs every year, including summer camp, after-school activities, internships, food assistance, education, mental health assistance

and programs for support survivors. Cornerstone Bank's donation will help ensure that children continue to have access to these life-changing programs regardless of their financial means.

"The Y gives children the tools they need to develop into healthy and socially responsible leaders," said Tallman. "We're proud to have a small part in uplifting that important mission."

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to

deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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PILGRIMAGE

continued from page A1

McManus, Bishop of Worcester, on July 1, 2011, from the four pre-existing Catholic parishes of Southbridge. Notre Dame Church is one of two churches that is used for divine worship in Southbridge. In addition to Saint Paul Cathedral, Notre Dame Church, and Saint Joseph Basilica, eight other Churches around the Diocese of Worcester were designated by Bishop McManus as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims.

The Saint Joseph School pilgrimage to Notre Dame Church began early in the morning, with three school buses departing from the school at 8:30 a.m., filled with excited students eager for the day's spiritual journey. Upon arrival at Notre Dame Church, the Saint Joseph School pilgrims were warmly greeted by second and third-grade students from Trinity Catholic Academy, who held up a huge, handmade welcome sign and greeted everyone with beaming smiles, creating a beautiful atmosphere of fellowship and community.

Notre Dame Church, a historic French heritage church, offered students the chance to experience its stunning architectural design and breathtaking artwork. Mrs. Marilyn Berthiaume, a member of the Saint Joseph Paul II Jubilee Committee, gave an insightful presentation about the Church, highlighting its rich history and French influence. She pointed out the beautiful painting of Mary entering Heaven, which serves as the focal point in the ceiling of the Church. This magnificent artwork beautifully captures the majesty of Mary's Assumption, inviting all who enter the Church to reflect on her divine role in our faith.



Saint Joseph School Kindergarten Instructor Mrs. Alicia Maurer and her students pose in front of one of the beautiful paintings of the Stations of the Cross created by Gonippo Raggi.

In addition to the painting of Mary, students had the opportunity to admire the beautiful Stations of the Cross paintings that adorn the Church's walls. These remarkable paintings, which guide the faithful in their reflection on Christ's passion, were created by Gonippo Raggi, the interior designer of the Church, whose work continues to inspire those who visit the Church. Students were also fascinated by the story of how marble tombstones left over from

the Spanish-American War were repurposed and used in the construction of the Church's walls, adding a unique and historical touch to the Church's architecture.

Mrs. Berthiaume also highlighted the portrait of Pope Pius X, who famously lowered the age for children to receive their First Communion to seven years old. This significant change in the Church made the sacrament more accessible to young children, marking a pivotal moment in the

Church's history.

Students were also in awe of the Church's grand organ – the Casavant Organ, built in 1916, and the special lighting that illuminated the space, usually reserved for Christmas and Easter.

Following their visit to Notre Dame Church, the pilgrimage continued with a journey to Saint Anne Shrine in Sturbridge, where the students participated in Adoration and sang songs led by Fr. Gregory. The day concluded with a peaceful lunch in the Shrine's outdoor pavilion, where the students had the opportunity to reflect on the experience.

The students particularly enjoyed visiting the Saint Anne Shrine Gift Shop, where they found a variety of special mementos that added a touch of joy and fulfillment to their spiritual journey.

Despite the grey and chilly weather, the pilgrimage was a beautiful day of fellowship, reflection, and spiritual growth for everyone involved. The students' faith was deepened, and they gained a broader understanding of the Church's history and significance. We are especially grateful to Rev. Carlos Ardila and the Jubilee Staff at Notre Dame, as well as Rev. Luc Martel and the staff at

Saint Anne Shrine, for their hospitality and guidance throughout the day. This memorable journey served as a reminder of the importance of faith, community, and the rich history of the Church that connects us all.

Saint Joseph School is grateful to everyone who made this pilgrimage possible, especially Marilyn Berthiaume, Lori Morrill, and Maureen Gullekson – members of the Saint John Paul II Jubilee Committee. We look forward to future opportunities to strengthen our faith together.

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South County Pediatrics celebrates Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy nurses



Pictured, from left, are Welcome, Arsenault, and McFadden.

WEBSTER — Each year, from May 6 through May 12, the healthcare community formally observes National Nurses

Week—an occasion dedicated to honoring nurses for their exemplary service and unwavering commitment to all dimensions of the profession, including patient care, education, and research.

In celebration of this year's observance, Nurse Supervisor Kelly J. Arsenault, LPN, of South County Pediatrics, shared a special message with Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN, RD, RN, CRRN, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton. Arsenault wrote, "It would be fun to share that all three of the nurses at South County Pediatrics graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy!"

In response, Dr. Bolandrina expressed her pride and appreciation: "We are truly proud to learn that all three nurses at South County Pediatrics are graduates of our program. I congratulate Kelly on her supervisory position and commend her leadership. Please also extend our sincere congratulations to Alicia McFadden and Tianna Welcome for their professional achievements and ongoing commitment to pediatric care. As pediatric nurses, they embody a deep understanding of child growth and development, pediatric-specific illnesses, and the unique challenges associated with caring for young patients. We salute their service."

Tianna Welcome, LPN of Oxford and a graduate of the PN Class of 2021, holds certifications in Mental Health First Aid and Dementia Care. She has completed professional development courses such as COVID-19 Contact Tracing (Johns Hopkins University) and Vital Signs: What the Body is Telling Us (University of Pennsylvania). During her time at Bay Path, she was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and received several honors, including the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. Scholarship, Random Act of Kindness Award, MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League of Nursing) Scholarship, and the Hannah Harwood Fund Scholarship. Tianna was also an active member of the Admissions Panel, the Mock Code Team, and the UNICEF Club.

Alicia McFadden, LPN of Webster and a graduate of the PN Class of 2017, distinguished herself as a SkillsUSA District Bronze Medalist in Medical Math. She was an engaged member of the UNICEF Club and served as the UNICEF Representative for the UNICEF USA Boston Children's Champion Award Dinner.

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