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Friday, August 14, 2020

# **Dudley recovers from Isaias**

#### BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - Hurricane turned Tropical Storm Isaias became the first major storm of 2020 to push through New England on Tuesday, Aug. 4, leaving more than 200,000 without power in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including more than 990 customers in Dudley.

Most if not all residents had power restored by Sunday, Aug. 8, accord-ing to Dudley Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Dean Kochanowski, who said the storm caused downed trees and power lines, as well as at least one local house fire after winds reached anywhere from 40 to 80 miles per hour in different parts of the state. The storm is one of several wind-related weather events to strike the region over the last ten years harkening back to the EF-3 torna-



A large pine tree was knocked down by the heavy winds in Dudley.

do that tore through the Sturbridge area in 2011 and an EF-1 tornado that struck the Webster and Dudley area almost two years ago to the day.

With these storms occurring more and more, Chief Kochanowski said that his department works diligently to be prepared for any weather event, but he admits they were a little surprised by the strength and impact of Isaias.

"We have a good emermanagement gency department and we have all our policies and operation plans in place for natural disasters when they strike. We're in pretty good shape to deal with these types of situations and I think we do pretty well with that over-all," Chief Kochanowski said. "We were a little surprised by (the storm). They weren't predicting that it was going to be as bad as it was. The

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# Webster schools to open Sept. 15

#### BY GUS STEEVES

WEBSTER - In a special meeting of just 20 minutes last Thursday, the School Committee approved further chang-

Education Jeff Riley to grant a waiver for the time on learning requirements (which have already been reduced from 900 hours a year).

The change affects dif-

document the committee discussed at its previous meeting. Among other things, it projects needing additional buses and staff (but doesn't yet know how many of each),

# Selectmen get '500-foot view' of schooling during COVID

#### **BY GUS STEEVES** CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD - Selectmen got a "500-foot view of what schooling may look like this coming fall" from Superintedent

administration will take stock to see if a "hybrid" system would work. If that happens, it will center on each student alternating weeks at home and at school, so that about half of the student body is on campus at once. (Special needs, integrated preschool and English Language Learners will all go to school in person both weeks, and some parents can elect to have their kids be 100-percent remote students.) Before Sept 16, the district will bring groups of students in to show them how things have changed in a long list of areas. One of the most notable will be the schedule itself. The elementary school will start an hour later, high school will switch from a seven-period day to four class blocks to minimize movement, and the middle school will go from seven classes to six. The year as a whole is also shorter; Nash noted DESE agreed to cut it to 170 days and reduce the

number of in-class hours. Nash said students won't have access to lockers and will eat lunch in class. Buses will be limited to 32-percent capacity and a "zig-zag" seating plan, with all kids in masks and monitors to check it. Chorus, band and similar performance-based classes and groups (if they happen) will meet outdoors. Athletics, recess, and after-school clubs are still in limbo, awaiting state guidelines. Other changes might also come from union negotiations. Making all this possible will require quite a few new hires - four custodians, four remote learning supervisors, 10-11 bus monitors, and up to 20 "safety and health monitors" inside the buildings. Nash said the money is coming from about \$720,000 in Covid funds Oxford has already received, but that won't cover the costs to change

es to the upcoming school year.

Schools will now begin Sept. 15 for grades 1-12, with pre-school and kindergarten pushed back to Sept. 21 and introductory online open houses rescheduled to Sept. 22, 23, and 24. Additionally, students will get Dec. 21-23 and March 18-19 off as teacher development days.

Superintendent Goguen's Ruthann plan still requires state approval, particularly the ability to have all Fridays be half-days to allow for more teacher planning. To do so, she said, she needs Commissioner of

ferent grades differently: grades 1-6 now have an 850-hour mandate, but higher grades require 935 hours. Park Ave School meets the lower figure, but grades 5 and 6 fall 11 hours short. Grades 7 and 8 are 37 hours short, and the high school is 60 hours short, she said.

"[The Commissioner] has led superintendents to believe he'd be very lenient with waivers this year," she observed.

The committee unanimously approved requesting that waiver, as well as formally submitting the reopening plan, which is on the district Web site. That plan is a 50-page

designates Covid testing and quarantine criteria for staff and students; eliminates ride sharing with other districts, field trips, group fundraisers, assemblies and other forms of congregation; breaks down the elementary school daily schedule in detail; and breaks the student population into three groups for "hybrid" learning. Group A will go to school Mondays and Tuesdays, and attend remotely Wednesdays and Thursdays; Group B does just the opposite. Both do remote learning half-day Fridays. Group C

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### Dudley sets election schedule

#### **BY JASON BLEAU** CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - The town of Dudley has set its upcoming election and town meeting schedule for the fall, with the state primaries, fall annual town meeting and the presidential election swiftly approaching.

During a meeting on Aug. 3, Town Clerk Lori Smith confirmed that over the next few months Dudley will be implementing a variety of voting formats including mail-in voting and early in-person voting to help offset the expected crowds for what is expected to be an active election season. As a result of legislation passed by Gov. Charlie Baker in July, residents will be allowed to vote both in-person or by mail for the upcoming primary or the presidential election. There will also be opportunities to vote in person early on election day.

For those wanting to avoid the expected crowds or remain safely distanced as the COVID-19 pandemic continues the mail-in option will allow you to vote without having to make the trip to the polls in a similar manner to an absentee ballot which is meant more for those who won't be present for election day such a military personnel. The state has begun mailing all voters postcards that are to be returned to the town to receive a mail in ballot for either of the upcoming election votes.

"On the post cards that people receive, it will have their name and address and then it will state what party that they are enrolled in. It seems the confusion is if you're an unenrolled voter. That used to be what was referred to as the Independent Party. That means you have options as far as what ballot that you want to select for a primary," Smith said.

"On the post cards, it has at the bottom people can check off whether they want a ballot sent to them for the Sept. 1 election, which is the primary, or the Nov. 3 election or both. What we're finding is people are checking off for all of them even if they're unenrolled and they're not choosing a party. If people have not sent their card back in and you're unenrolled. please select a party. We cannot process it without that."

The first vote where mail-in voting will be utilized is the September primary where Massachusetts residents will decide which of the remaining Republican and Democratic candidates they want to run for the nation's top office. The deadline for mail-in voting applications for the primary is Aug. 26, while the absentee deadline is Aug. 31. The pri-

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Kristine Nash last week. In short, everything will change.

Citing the previous School Committee meeting (see last week's paper), Nash said she and the board had agreed that they did not want to bring all students and staff back to school using just the three-foot minimum distances between desks the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is recommending, although the schools do have the physical space to do so. Instead, the plan is to have school start Sept 16 to give staff time to prepare lessons so that they can teach some kids in class and others at home simultaneously.

At first, though, classes will be entirely online until October, when the

Turn To COVID page A6



### OPEN FOR BUSINESS

This photo, shared with the Webster and Dudley Massachusetts Past, Present and Future group on Facebook, captures Webster Drug Co. moving into the Puritan Building in 1973.

# Help kids feel comfortable at the dentist



Routine dental examinations and cleanings are an important component of oral healthcare for both children and adults. However, many children do not visit the dentist until well after the time recommended by medical and dental professionals. Parents may be unaware of the dental health timeline, or they could be reluctant to bring their children for fear of how their kids will

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behave — especially if parents are harboring their own apprehensions about the dentist.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that a child go to the dentist by age 1, or within six months of the eruption of his or her first tooth. Yet, according to a survey commissioned by Delta Dental Plans, the average age of a child's first dental visit is 2.6 years.

Parents worried about how their kids will respond to the dentist can take the following steps to acclimate kids to dental visits to make them more comfortable during their appointments now and down the road.

• Be a positive role model. Children frequently learn by example. If they see their parents being diligent about dental care, they're more likely to embrace proper oral hygiene. Bring children to your own dental appointments so

• Stick to the first-tooth milestone. Take your child to the dentist on or about when his or her first tooth erupts. Early dental visits will get kids used to going to the dentist and prevent minor problems that may lead to more complex dental issues.

• Read books about the dentist and role play. Information can allay kids' fears about the dentist. Read books together about dental visits and act out possible scenarios with your kids. Give kids toy dental health tools and have them practice exams on you and vice-versa.

• Be supportive and instill trust. Avoid telling your child that everything will be okay. If a procedure is needed, this could affect his or her trust in you and make the dental office an even greater source of anxiety. Simply be supportive and offer a hand to squeeze or a hug if your child needs you.

• Consider using your dentist. Some parents like to take their children to a pediatric dentist, but it may not always be necessary. Many family practices cater to patients of all ages, and the familiarity of the office may help make children feel more comfortable. Speak with your dentist about the ages they see.

• Steer clear of negative words. Michael J. Hanna, DMD, a national spokesperson for the AAPD, suggests using positive phrases like "clean, strong, healthy teeth" to make the visit seem fun and positive rather than scary and alarming. Let the office staff come up with their own words to describe processes that won't seem too frightening.

By employing these techniques, kids' dental visits can be more pleasant for all involved, paving the way for a lifetime of healthy teeth.

they understand the process and become familiar with the type of equipment used.

### How parents can get kids excited about brushing their teeth

Dental hygiene is an important component of a healthy lifestyle, but it's an element youngsters rarely embrace with open arms. Parents know that getting kids, especially young children, to brush their teeth is not always so easy. In recognition of that, the American Dental Association suggests the following strategies to make brushing teeth something kids will look forward to.

• Make it fun. Brushing teeth may not be considered a fun activity, but who's to say it can't benefit from a little levity? The ADA recommends turning tooth brushing sessions into dance parties and/or sing-alongs. Youngsters might be so busy cutting a rug or listening to mom and dad belt out a few hits that they don't even realize they're cleaning their teeth at the same time. If singing and



dancing aren't cutting it, then incorporate another fun activity, like reading a child his or her favorite story, into daily brushing sessions. The ADA advises adults and children to brush their teeth for two minutes twice a night. day, so activities need not be too advanced. But a fun activity that allows kids to do something other than brush

their teeth can be a

great way to help them

meet the "two minutes,

two times" guideline. · Reward good behavior. Parents can reward youngsters who brush their teeth without incident by offering praise or allowing them to pick a bedtime book when brushing at

• Put kids' favorite characters to work. The ADA notes that many popular children's television shows and books have stories about brushing teeth. Watch these stories with your

children, then reference the stories and characters if kids are reluctant to brush their teeth. Parents also can find toothbrushes and/ or toothpaste that feature kids' favorite characters to get youngsters more excited to brush.

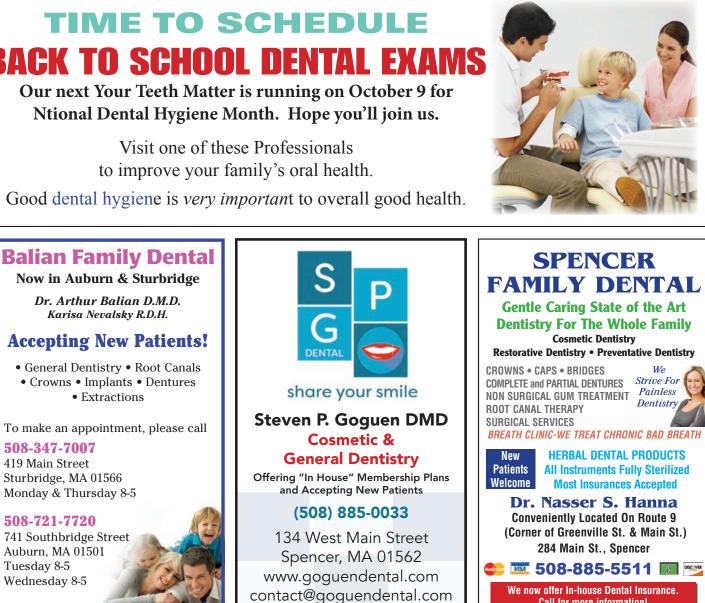
• Become a storyteller. Parents also can make up their own stories, explaining to kids how they can be superheroes who brush away the bad guys that cause cavities.

• Brush alongside your children. Kids love to mimic their parents, so moms and dads can brush alongside their youngsters in the hopes they'll follow suit.

Many children may never jump at the chance to brush their teeth. But parents can employ a few savvv strategies to make daily brushing sessions more fun for youngsters.

### TIME TO SCHEDULE **BACK TO SCHOOL DENTAL E** Our next Your Teeth Matter is running on October 9 for







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# bankHometown appoints Branch Manager/Assistant Branch Manager in Webster



**Tarese Lopriore** 

OXFORD — bankHometown recently appointed a new branch manager and assistant branch manager of its two Webster locations.

Tarese Lopriore of Webster has been named branch manager of the bank's offices on Gore Road and Main Street in Webster. She joined bankHometown in 2007 as a teller and over the years was



Caitlin Lang

promoted to customer service representative and assistant branch manager. Lopriore is a graduate of Oxford High School and has volunteered on several occasions at the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

Caitlin Lang of Webster has been named assistant branch manager of the two offices. She joined bankHometown

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 2-8.

Robert Wills, age 34, of Framingham was arrested on Aug. 2 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License (Subsequent Offense), Possession of a Class B Drug, and Possession of a Class B Drug with Intent to Distribute. Kevin <. Santerre, age 56, of North Grosvenordale, Conn. was arrested on Aug. 3 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a

Suspended License and Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (second offense). Emily Anna Clark, age 32, of N. Uxbridge was arrested on Aug. 4 in connection with a warrant.

An adult female from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 5 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Frank Maldonado, age 40, of Worcester was arrested on Aug. 6 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Carlos Gonzalez, age 38, of Worcester was arrested on Aug. 7 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Elese M. Elia, age 36, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 7 for making a False Report of a Crime and in connection with a warrant.

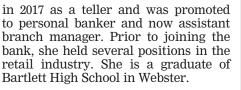
### DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of July 31 to Aug. 7.

Parth S. Patel, age 19, of Charlton was arrested on July 31 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with Suspended License (for OUI). An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested during the same incident for Assault & Battery. An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 31 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Jesse Leonard Carlson, age 38, of Chichester was arrested on Aug. 3 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License and in connection with a warrant from the Dudley Police Department.

Tara Marie Curtis, age 31, of Charlton was arrested on Aug. 6 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.



#### About bankHometown

Founded in 1889, bankHome town is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, and has \$1.0 billion in assets and 15 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated more than \$368,000 to nearly 270 organizations. Over the last four years, the program has donated more than \$1.1 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

### WEBSTER TIMES

#### **ACCURACY WATCH:**

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

Alena Kimble graduates, makes Le Moyne College Dean's List

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Alena Kimble, of Dudley, has graduated from Le Moyne College with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science Systems and has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above. More than 700 members of the class of 2020 were eligible to graduate from Le Moyne.

Located in a suburban setting on a picturesque 160-acre campus in Syracuse, N.Y., Le Moyne College is one of only 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Offering more than 30 majors, Le Moyne provides a values-based education that helps students explore their potential through academics, experience and service. In 2019, for the seventh consecutive year, Le Moyne was ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, an honor achieved by only 15 percent of the colleges and universities in the nation. A Le Moyne education provides students with the intellectual skills necessary to succeed in the world and the will to use their abilities to promote a more just society.



# DAR Chapter to dedicate grave marker at Evergreen Cemetery

DUDLEY Captain Job Knapp Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. will dedicate a marker on the grave site in Evergreen Cemetery of Sally Allen, one of the first members of the DAR in Douglas in 1904.

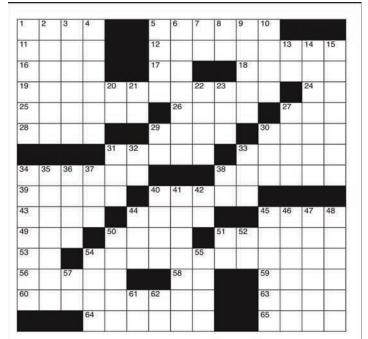
Sally Allen was the Daughter of Henry Reynolds who was a Revolutionary Patriot who served near Newport, R.I., her

Grandfather Samuel Mitchell was also a Revolutionary War Patriot. At the time she joined the Chapter she was 96 years old. The DAR recognizes members who at the time of their membership were real daughters. All members have ancestors who served in the revolution but it was rare to have a real daughter become a member.

The Captain Job Knapp

Chapter would like to find anyone who might be related to Sally Allen or her daughter Ann Bowen. Some of the 35 women who were original members were descendants of Job Knapp: Flora Perry, Almira Whittemore, Ola Rossell and Augusta Prentice. Other original members included: Louise Holbrook, Arvilla Batchellar Leonard, Maud McClellan, Flora Chase, Abbie Marsh, Florence Pine, Sarah Brown, and Myrtis Harris. The Jencks sisters were also early chapter members. We would also like to meet any one whose family members were members of the chapter, and still live

in the area. DAR members are today, "One in a million members." If you are interested in learning more about the Douglas Chapter or how you can become a member contact the Chapter at clavallee234@ gmail.com.



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

#### 1. Corrode

- 5. Jean Paul \_\_, author
- 11. Hebrew unit of dry measure
- 12. A type of scientist 16. Greek goddess of discord
- 17. For Red Sox MVP
- 18. It checks your speed
- 19. Made dirty
- 24. The First State
- 25. Lodgings
- 26. Spiritual leader
- 27. Bradley Int'l Airport code
- 28. Native American people 29. Sharp pain
- 30. Touch
- 31. Slowly disappears 33. Indigenous Russian people
- 34. Narrative poem

#### 38. Some are bad

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. To return an echo
- 2. Displace
- 3. Japanese religion
- 4. Predilections
- 5. Partial
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Road open
- 8. Atomic #81
- 9. Accomplished American
- composer
- 10. Oh, God!
- 13. Potato state
- 14. Most melancholic
- 15. Supportive framework
- 20. Hollywood's Pacino

- 39. Small quill feathers
- 40. Tattles 43. Popular Easter entree
- 44. Beneficiary
- 45. Clothed
- 49. Payroll firm
- 50. Lower Normandy's largest city 51. Binary compound of halogen
- 53. The Fighting Irish
- 54. Skilled, paid worker 56. Eyelashes
- 58. The 12th letter of the Greek
- alphabet
- 59. Large, stocky lizard
- 60. Made poisonous
- 63. Former US Secretary of State
- 64. Sticky substances
- 65. A type of gin
- 33. More (Spanish) 34. Even distribution of weight 35. "Arabian Nights" hero 36. Compact mass of a substance 37. Bachelor of Laws 38. Halfback 40. Some of it is ground 41. They play in the trenches 42. Atomic #18 44. Chinese Prefecture 45. Fabrics 46. Being in a direct line of descent from an ancestor
- 47. In slow tempo
- 48. Flood

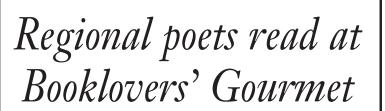
# Friends of the Oxford Library announce Annual Meeting

OXFORD — The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library invite everyone who loves the Library to come to their Annual Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. on the Oxford Common, near the bandstand. All are welcome, but you must bring your own chair so that we can safely social distance. Masks can either be worn or must be accessible to you, if it becomes necessary to wear one.

This meeting is an opportunity for some to step up and really help us. President Jan Chesties and Treasurer Laura Kneeland have served the Friends for nearly twenty years and are leaving their posts, so two positions are open. They will gladly be available to oversee the new position holders as long as is necessary. This is an opportunity to be of great service to our community - and have a lot of fun doing it!

As library services and access have been severely impacted by the pandemic, we want to have a support network prepared to encourage and assist with restoring of the funds and, in time, the staffing that will be needed to rebuild the library to the precious community resource we all depend on.

The Oxford Free Public Library, at 339 Main St. in Oxford Center, is a member of the C/W MARS network and is "open" to all residents of Massachusetts. The Friends of the Library is a 501c3 nonprofit organization of volunteers who support the Library with fundraising and promotional activities. Keep up to date with news of library services and, hopefully soon, schedules of re-opening and hours, at http://oxfordmapubliclibrary.org



WEBSTER — Four regional poets will present their work Thursday, Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at an outdoor space at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster. Rain date for this event will be Aug. 27 at the same time.

Featured will be National Beat Poet Laureate for 2020, Paul Richmond. Richmond was Beat Poet Laureate for Massachusetts during 2017-2019, and he is a member of the political funkadelic band "Do It Now." Candace Curran, twice named as Western Massachusetts Poets' Seat Laureate, will also read, as will published author/poets Robert Eugene Perry of Dudley, and Woodstock resident Karen Warinsky. Warinsky was a finalist in the 2013 Montreal International Poetry Contest. Perry's new book is titled "Surrendering to the Path," and Warinsky's is "Gold in Autumn." Both are currently available at Booklovers' Gourmet and signed copies of each poet's books will be available that night.

Topics will include mid-life, nature, spirituality, politics and the humorous side of life. Richmond, Warinsky and Perry are all published authors through Human Error Publishing, and Ms. Curran is represented by Haley's of Athol.

This event is free and the audience should bring their own

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WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

50. Long-necked bird 21. A title for women 51. Secondary school 22. Popular Grammys alternative 52. Artificial intelligence 23. Check 54. Structure by the water 27. Bolivian river 29. South Dakota 55. Lather 57. What happens there stays there 30. Wonderful 31. Supervises flying 61. A bone 62. The Great Lakes State 32. Commercial

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chair. Refreshments will be available at the café and there will be an "open segment" slot after the intermission as time allows.

## University of Maine announces spring 2020 Dean's List

ORONO, Maine — The University of Maine recognized 4,210 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the Spring 2020 semester, including Rachel Bonney and Alyssa Singer of Oxford.

Of the students who made the Dean's List, 2,769 are from Maine, 1,333 are from 41 other states and 108 are from 43 countries other than the U.S.

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\$276,000, 152 Southbridge Rd, Mead, Scott P, and Mead, Nikki, to Maccormack, Sean.

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#### WEBSTER

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# **OBITUARIES**

### Michael J. Stefaniak, Jr. 86

Mike Stefaniak, 86 of Alfred, ME (formerly from Webster, MA) passed away on August 4, 2020. Born in Webster, MA, he made many places in New England home throughout his life.

Mike was predeceased by Redith, the love of his life, his wife of 63 years. He was also predeceased by his oldest daughter, Regina Yount. Mike is survived by 3 children : Jean Fiske (Rick), Stuart Stefaniak, and Laura Bryant, as well as his son-in-law, Thomas Yount. He leaves 6 grandchildren: Thomas Yount Jr, Kate Cobb, Beth Yount, Andrea Saucier, Heather Stokes and Patrick Jimmo. He also leaves 9 great grandchildren: Selene, Lily, Caroline, Abraham, Zachary, Brooklynn, Tyler, Ryan and Nicol, and many cousins.

Mike was a Korean War veter-

an of the U.S. Army achieving the rank of Sargent First Class by the time his tour was over. He was an amazing Little League coach in Tolland, CT during his son's younger years. Mike loved spending time



fishing, vegetable gardening, hunting and watching The Boston Redsox and New England Patriots. He fully loved life and adored his family. He will be sorely missed.

All final arrangements are private. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, to support your local Little League organization.

### Frances R. Jarosz, 90



DUDLEY – Frances R. (Makowski) Jarosz, 90, formerly of Pine Street, died Monday, August 3, 2020 in Brookside Rehab in Webster after an illness. Her husband of 64 years, Edward J. Jarosz, Sr.,

died in 2017.

She leaves 2 daughters, Patricia A. Bachand and her husband Thomas of Woodstock, and Sharon R. Donovan of Berkeley, MA; 4 grandchildren, Marissa, Kevin, Christopher and Amanda; 1 great-grandson Luis; 3 brothers, Roger Makowski of Berlin, MD, Joe Makowski of Pascoag, RI and John Makowski of Southport, NC; 2 sisters, Agnes Moroz of Dudley and Jane Frenette of Harrisville, RI; a son-in-law, Raymond C. Siekierski, Jr. of Rindge, NH; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a son, Edward J. "Edziu" Jarosz, Jr. in 1984 and by a daughter, Kathleen M. Siekierski in 2016.

She was born on December 2, 1929 in Pascoag, RI, one of the 9 children of Michael and Stella (Kaczynski) Makowski. She moved to Dudley at the time of her marriage in 1953.

Mrs. Jarosz was a custodian at Shepherd Hill Regional High School from 1973 to 1991, when she retired.

She enjoyed gardening, crocheting and quilting. She loved to go to the ocean and walk on the beach.

Her funeral will be held privately. There are no calling hours. Donations in her name may be made to the Edward J. Jarosz, Jr. Scholarship Fund, c/o Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, MA 01571. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School St., Webster

www.websterfunerals.com

### Richard "Dick" Tetreault, 87

WEBSTER – Richard "Dick" Tetreault died on August 3, 2020 at age 87; he was the son of the late Leo P. Tetreault and Stella (Stelmaszek) Tetreault; he was born in Oxford, MA.

Richard is survived by his daughters Linda Jarmolowicz of Thompson, CT, Deborah Renaud and her husband Edmond of East Providence, RI, Jennifer Gile, and John Wilbur of Dayville, CT, and a son Richard Tetreault and Gloria of Woonsocket, RI; he has seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and one greatgreat-grandchild; he has a brother Leo Tetreault of Florida and was predeceased by his brother Walter Tetreault of Woonsocket, RI.

Richard is also survived by three step children: Lorraine Tatro, Victoria Devish, and Perry Tatro and predeceased by Christopher Tatro and Michael Tatro and seven step grandchildren.

In 1951, Richard began his textile career as a loom fixer at Crown Manufacturing in South Attleborough, MA and then at Millcraft in Brooklyn, NY for five years. When Richard moved back to RI, he owned and operated the Club Café Nightclub in Manville, RI from 1959-1960; he worked at Providence Pyle in Grafton, MA and Steven Linen in Dudley, MA.

Richard "Dick" Tatreault spent most of his career working as a weaving superintendent in textiles mills in CT, MA, and RI. In the late 1960's he was an excellent weaver and dresser attendant. Facts and Fiber magazine wrote

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an article about weavers, in which they talked about Dick's knowledge about the textile industry and of his ability as an exceptional supervisor.

Dick became a weaving superintendent at Sparling Mills in North Scituate, RI, Angus Park in Hanover, CT, and Eastbrook Textiles in Dalton, MA; he was a shift overseer at Charlton Woolen in Leicester, MA, Stanley Woolen in Uxbridge, MA, and Anglo Fabric in Webster, MA; he was also a loom technician in the engineering department in charge of the fly shuttle loom at the Draper Corporation in Hopedale, MA. When Draper closed, Dick went to work at Lusigna Corporation in Linwood, MA, afterwards he finished his career at Fabian Woolen in Fabian, CT until his retirement. Dick had a good working relationship with the owner John Thomas. Every textile mill Dick worked for is no longer in business.

Dick's family is grateful for his wonderful neighbors and friends: Dave, Linda, Kyle, Richard, and Steve. Dick will be sadly missed by his family and beloved dog "Smitty".

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

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



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#### ISAIAS

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winds stayed higher than they thought. It didn't weaken. We got the wind side and not the rain side so that made it worse too as far as damage to trees and houses."

At the peak of the storm, firefighters were dispatched to a house fire at 7 Jaybee Ave. No injuries were reported from the incident, which was the only reported fire caused directly by the story. Downed power lines and trees caused a multi-day cleanup, but by Friday night, most of the roads in Dudley were back to normal.

With Isaias now behind us, Chief

#### COVID

#### continued from page A1

district transportation. That's still in the works; among other things it will require more bus runs and planning to ensure that "cohort groups" stay together, she said.

Nash noted the district is surveying parents to see who will use buses and who will self-transport. Additionally, the draft plan is being sent to all parents and is up on the district website, but some aspects of it could change as new DESE guidelines come in. The district is planning two online Q-&-A sessions for parents to explain the changes, but they were not yet listed on the Web site as of Monday.

"There isn't an area of

education that won't look different," Nash said. "... Reality may very well be that we have to flip the switch in 48 hours and all of us have to go remote."

To facilitate remote classes, the district will now provide all students with Chromebooks to ensure they all have the same capabilities. It had originally offered the laptops to students who needed them.

Selectman Cheryll Leblanc praised Nash's work and thanked her for beign here "to help us throung this." She noted the school system hasn't changed in years, so people base their work and childcare around it. To her, the critical thing is to "convey to as many people as we can" that the changes are aimed at promoting safety.

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

🛉 🛉 Friday's Child

Nash agreed, describing safety as "the balancing act for me." While all educators agree the kids should be in school, that can't happen now. She noted "no model" will appeal to everyone, and each district is designing their own, to some degree. That's likely to be difficult for staff who have kids in other districts.

Kochanowski gave some insight into

at least one lesson learned that his

department wants to improve on for the

future: how do you handle the potential

need for an emergency center during a

"It's a little tricky trying to manage

shelter needs right now because we're

in the middle of a pandemic so that

changes how you would run one of those things," said the chief. "It's some-

thing to think about down the road how

we may have to have that added level

of protection and make those necessary

changes when necessary. It just makes

it more difficult in an already difficult

pandemic?

situation.'

Far less directly visible are changes the selectmen heard about from Aquarion's Steve Olson before Nash arrived. He summarized the water company's work for the current fiscal year, particularly ongoing capital projects.

To address manganese in the water (which is harmless, but causes discoloration and some odor), Olson said Aquarion is seeking sites for two new wells in North Oxford and a "satellite" well at its Nelson Street site. The latter won't increase system capacity, but is intended as a "safety factor" in case the existing well there has issues, he said.

WEBSTER

Fridays.

continued from page A1

(Special ed, some English learners and

other "high-needs" kids) go to school

Monday-Thursday and go remote on

Regardless of the group, the plan

notes "teaching for both the in-person

group of students and the remote group

of students would be synchronous (in

real time with web cameras in class-

rooms and/or Google Meets) to allow

for each group to be exposed to the same

learning objectives at the same time"

with grades and attendance taken. It

also notes elsewhere, however, "It is

Additional, he said, they're upgrading the Nelson Street pump, replacing the Church Street line this fall, and rehabbing the Prospect Hill tank next year. Aquarion is also working with the fire department to replace some hydrants.

Olson repeatedly urged conservation in light of the ongoing drought, noting that the system is seeing increased use because so many people are staying home due to Covid. To help that along, he cited the company's conservation program, by which customers can sign up to replace toilets, showerheads and faucets on the company website. The 28 households that did so this past year reduced overall water consumption by 1,000 gallons a day, and 25 are now on the waiting list, Olson said.

In other business, selectmen voted to grant a Forest Street resident a 60-day permit to access his home via town land after learning "someone" had been doing so for years. Town Attorney Jon Eichman said the man (who was not named) is trying to fix"problems with his title" and may not actually have deeded access.

They also granted two liquor license modification requests, and praised

understood that children cannot be expected to spend a major portion of a day in front of a computer screen. It is not effective nor developmentally appropriate. Educators will need to strive to provide learning that is active and hands-on that includes visuals and modeling whenever possible...."

Goguen told the committee some elements of the plan will change subject to union bargaining and health data. Despite that, she concluded, "we're trying to keep things as normalized as possible."

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

n on her pending retirement and a local resident s for saving a woman having a seizure while driving. But they opted to r take no action on anothr er resident's request to l-sponsor a Town Meeting e article that would allow t, ownership of chickens and ducks without a spes, cial permit. Instead, they urged Rachel Perez to attempt it by way of the

Town Clerk Lori Kelley

citizen petition route. They did, however, set the Fall Town Meeting date for Oct. 7 and opened the warrant, which will close Sept. 1.

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

#### **SCHEDULE**

continued from page A1

mary will also include early in-person voting dates which will allow people to vote up to a week before the actual primary date. Early in-person voting will take place on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 2 until p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 23 from 8 a.m. until noon; Monday, Aug. 24 through Thursday, Aug. 27 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.; and Friday, Aug. 28 from 9 a.m. until noon.

For the presidential election the same voting formats will apply. The deadline for mail-in voting applications for the Nov. 3 election is Oct. 28, and the absentee deadline is Oct. 30. The deadline for registering to vote is Oct. 24. Early in-person voting will take place for fourteen days prior to Election Day starting on Saturday, Oct. 17 and Sunday, Oct. 18 from 8 a.m. until noon. Voting will also take place the following weekend on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 2 until 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. until noon. Weekdays will also offer early in-person voting at the same times as the primary dates. As of the Aug. 3 meeting, around 1,000 of the roughly 7,000 registered voters in Dudley had applied for mail-in voting. Smith said safety protocols are being taken seriously as voting days quickly approach.

"The message to the voters is do not go to the polls if you're sick or you were exposed to COVID-19. Wear face coverings. Don't touch your face at the polls just to reduce the risk of spreading anything. Maintain social distancing keeping six feet away and keep the ballot dry and free of hand sanitizers to avoid any malfunctions when you're act the voting booth," said Smith.

As a result of the added workload of Election Day 2020, the Dudley annual fall town meeting will occur a little earlier than in prior years. This year's meeting will take place on Oct. 19, where voters will be asked to decide on several articles to complete town business for the 2020 calendar year.



#### Hi! My name is Gabriella and I love cosmetology!

Gabriella, also known as Gabby, is a smart and creative young woman of Caucasian descent. She is very talented and enjoys painting, drawing, and baking, which are just a few of her creative outlets. Gabby enjoys spending time with friends and family watching television. A typical teenager, she often connects with friends via social media and loves animals. Gabby appreciates her alone time and can be quiet, but at times is very talkative with friends and familiar adults. She has a witty sense of humor and is easy to get along with. BEST FARM FRESH MEATS IN CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS PASTURE RAISED • NATURAL MEATS

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Gabriella Age 14

Gabby aspires to attend college in the future and is currently in the cosmetology program at her vocational high school. Gabby is able to build strong relationships with teachers and adults, which helps her accomplish her goals. She thrives when she has a routine with clear expectations.

Legally freed for adoption, Gabby is looking for her forever home. She is self-sufficient and able to take care of her own needs, but hopes to find the love and support of a forever family. Gabby will do well in a family consisting of a single female, two females, or a male/female couple. She would benefit from being the only child or having older siblings in the home. Gabby looks forward to having a support network that is stable and able to stick by her side through all that life has to offer.

#### Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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> **BRENDAN BERUBE** EDITOR

# **EDITORIAL** A challenge... and an opportunity

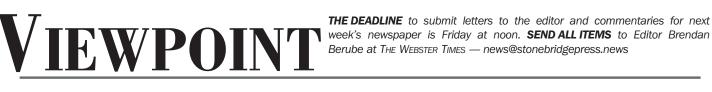
School this fall will be an unprecedented experience for students from pre-school all the way through grad-With districts ironing uate school. out re-opening plans, it's important to remain patient and to withhold judgement. Administrators are working with their respective state guidelines, communities and experts in every aspect of education, and health to keep staff, students and families safe. Now is not the time to be a know-it-all because the fact will always remain, that we don't know it all, and never will.

At this time, it's best to leave things up to the experts and remember that this is only temporary. The powers that be as far as re-opening goes, are doing the best they can, given the unfortunate and unpredictable circumstances they've been put in. The only thing left to do is to be supportive. Anything apart from that is simply counter-productive. Students of all ages are experiencing

all sorts of feelings, and not necessarily in a negative way; however, we do know that some are. Children and teens need each other now more than ever. Parents, extended family members, older siblings and community members need to set the example of what resiliency looks like. Yes, this fall will be difficult, especially for single working parents whose option to home school is null. In those cases, we can only hope there will be some sort of respite offered in each community for those in need.

What we need to remember is that children are resilient, to varying degrees. Most children are capable of working through tough times and managing stress in their own way. We just need to pay attention and keep an eye out. Resilience is something that we all develop as we grow, each time we face a challenge, adversity or any sort of trauma or failure.

As parents, we wish we could protect our children from harm's way or from facing any sort of adversity. There will always be bullies, grief, heartbreak and all sorts of obstacles. Global pandemic is new on the list, but alas here we are. How we react matters. Our children are watching and listening to all of us. Remember that what seems small to us, seems much larger to a child. Experts tell us to arm your children with confidence to face their problems, so that they know, they have the tools to confront tough things. When they can self soothe and bounce back independently, they grow and become stronger and more resilient. Oftentimes when parents jump in too much to solve their children's issues (albeit with good intentions), it can weaken their resilience and ability to problem solve on their own. Without the ability to problem solve, children may encounter more anxiety in the future. Of course, age plays a role with guidance and we have faith that most parents know what is best for their children. One tip from experts is to make sure to spend plenty of one on one time with your child so they know they are loved and supported unconditionally. These positive connections give parents and adults a chance to model resiliency Having your child take what's called a 'healthy risk' is important. This simply means, letting them step outside of their comfort zones, knowing that if they fail, little harm will occur. When children avoid taking risks, they are teaching themselves that they aren't capable to tackle challenges. If your child comes to you with an issue, respond by asking them questions on how their specific problem should be solved. We like this one, and had one reader tell us that she has been having her children watch episodes of the tele-vision show "MacGyver," whose main character's defining trait is his ability to think on his feet and improvise his way out of challenging situations. We're not suggesting letting kids figure every-thing out for themselves, we all need help at times. Make sure your children know what kind of emotion they are having, and let them know those feelings are normal and will pass. Lead by example. Teach your children that exercise is important and any other activities that promote calm. While we wish there was a quick fix, there just isn't one. During this pandemic, we need to stay positive and teach our children the power of optimism. There's a quote that explains this perfectly: "The way you perceive a specific situation is determined by your frame of mind. If your frame of mind and thoughts are positive, you will always be in a position to seize the opportunities that are before vou.



# Overcoming the storm

sky, meets a storm? Well, the eagle does not run away from the storm. Instead, as the storm sweeps in, the eagle sets his wings at the proper angle so that the winds will lift him above the storm. While the storm is punishing the earth below, the eagle is soaring above it, using the very winds of the storm itself to propel it above the storm! What a fantastic and vivid image of how we can face the many storms of life-illnesses, death, disappoint-ment, failure, betrayal and opposition – whatever the storms may be, when they come, we can set the wings of our faith in such a way that the adverse winds will only propel us far above the storm!

What happens when

an eagle, flying in the

We see Jesus teach His disciples this significant lesson when he sends his disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee while Christ him-self went up to a moun-tain to pray all night. In the middle of the night, a fierce storm arose on the lake, and the disciples found themselves rowing against strong winds, as high waves battered the boat. These experienced fishermen knew the danger they faced. By early morning, they still were far from land when they saw Jesus walking on the water toward them. At first terrified, they thought that they saw a ghost. But Christ comforted them by saying, "Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid.

Peter, still unsure that it is truly Jesus and not a ghost, calls out to him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." And Jesus answers "Come." Peter obeys and starts to walk on the water as he keeps his eyes focused on Christ. One step, two steps. Peter himself begins to walk on water! As this second miracle occurs. Peter begins to notice the strong wind and waves all around him. In the midst of this crisis, he becomes afraid, and begins to sink as his focus turns more towards the wind and the waves instead of towards our Lord Jesus! He cries out, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus immediately reached out and holds Peter in His loving arms, saying, "You of little faith. Why did you doubt?" They both enter the boat, and immediately the winds cease.

**BEYOND** THE PEWS By Fr. Luke A. Veronis SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

come, which inevitably they will, at the moment when we precisely need God most, we forget about him and try to handle our situation in a rational way, using only our own abilities.

We must learn to turn our eyes away from everything else and only look at Christ. When facing any challenge or problems, don't go over again and again all the details of the problem, without allowing Christ to enter into the midst of the situation and humbly listen to His advice and guidance! When we are troubled, it does no good to keep our mind recounting the difficulty of the problem. Turn your eyes away from the wind and water and waves, and instead look at Jesus standing there with his arms open, inviting us to enter his secure embrace.

Notice the reaction of Jesus the moment Peter begins to sink. Peter feels overwhelmed, and cries out, "Save me Lord." and immediately Jesus reaches out to help him. Christ is our ever present help, ready to come whenever we call in need! Beware though, because the devil tries to deceive us by making us think that we are alone. This was the main problem with the disciples on the sea of Galilee – they thought they were alone; they thought Jesus was back on a mountain, far from their need.

And we often make the same mistake in our own lives. We proudly think we can handle the problem ourselves, and ignore, or forget the fact that Christ is near. In days of tension and stress when we are burdened with life's challenges, and all the world seems dark, we may think, "If only our Lord Jesus was here with us." Well, today, the Gospel lesson optimistically tells us, "He is here. Look out into the storm and see him coming for us. Do not be afraid. Never despair. Take courage and find hope!" let's address Now, another misunderstanding we sometimes have about storms and following Christ. Some think that being a faithful follower of Christ means that all problems of our lives will disappear. What a naïve and childish attitude! Our Lord never promised his followers an easy life. In fact, he clearly told them the exact opposite. "Anyone who fol-lows me," He said, "must deny himself and take up his cross." In other words, a follower of Christ will face persecution, difficulty and struggle. Disciples of Christ must carry a heavy cross, BUT, in the midst of these difficulties, Christ promises us that He will be with us. God will not

save us from the storm, but He will be with us in the midst of the storm. He won't stop the storms from coming, but He will give us the strength to overcome any storm! For He knows that in facing storms, we grow stronger by learning to rely on Him!

Look, for example, at where one can find the strongest trees. Often these will be found at the top of a mountain. Why? Because it is precisely there that the storms hit hardest, and that's where the trees resist the powerful winds by developing deep roots. Let us learn, therefore, to use the storms of life to help us become stronger by relying more on Christ and thus, growing in our faith!

One final aspect about the storms of life is that along with strengthening us, such storms also come to test us, to show us where we are in our journey of faith. When a ship is out at sea, and a terrible storm comes with waves pounding the ship and winds howling about, one may wonder if the ship will hold together? It is a terrific struggle. But really, the battle was fought long before, in the forest where the timber grew, in the shipyards when the nails were pounded in and the planks laid. Others fought the battle by the care they gave throughout the years by guarding the ship against dry rot and broken ribs. The storm in the middle of the sea is simply the test; the battle was either won or lost long before in the process of building and caring for the ship.

It is the same with us. We must build our ship of life carefully and prepare it for the days of the storm which will surely come. Through prayer, fasting, study of our faith, practicing of good works, stewardship of all we have, and living a spiritual and Christcentered life, we slowly build a strong and sound ship that will be prepared to face the most vicious storms of sea. Then when the storm attac ks us unex pectedly, we will be ready and sure in the security of our ship, for the battle has been fought long before the storm actually comes!

Rules of the road for recreational vehicles



Four-wheel vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in the winter, can be seen traveling on or along public ways from time to time. This is an issue during the summer months, when children are out of school, and many people are out riding. These vehicles are not allowed to operate normally on the streets

without the appropriate registration requirements. I was asked to provide people with some information about these vehicles traveling on the roads.

Most of the recreational vehicle laws are covered by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90B. These vehicles are generally restricted to off road travel and there are registration and other laws of use in place which promote their safe operation. One, which applies to the operation of recreational vehicles on the roads, is under Chapter 90B, Section 25. This section addresses their ability to travel across roadways. Recreational vehicles must come to a full and complete stop before crossing any road. When they cross, they must do so in a fashion which is as direct as possible. They must not interfere with the free movement of vehicular traffic on the road and they must yield the right of way to all vehicular traffic when making the crossing. The penalty for a violation of this law is a maximum \$100 fine or up to 60 days in jail, or both. These vehicles are also prohib-

ited in such places as rail trails and conservation areas. People operating in these locations are trespassing and criminal charges could apply. This is particularly true if damage occurs or if places, such as wet lands, are disturbed. Recreational vehicles are fun. I used them myself in my younger years. They need to be operated in the proper locations while exercising the appropriate safety precautions. The best practice is to use caution, operate in the correct locations, wear proper equipment, and always be aware of your surroundings. This will best prevent accidents, damage, and injuries.

Here, Saint Peter offers a concrete example to us about what often happens when unexpected storms sweep into our lives. Notice that while Peter kept his eyes focused on Christ, he was safe and secure – he even actually walked on water himself! The moment Peter took his eyes off Christ, however, and concentrated on the wind and water and waves, he forgot about the security of Jesus and allowed fear to enter his mind and heart. Fear never comes from God. God's love drives out all fear. His peace and presence don't allow fear to remain! But Peter did not allow God's love to remain. For one moment, he focused on the storm, instead of overcoming the storm with the help of Christ!

The secret of successfully handling any and every difficulty in life is to focus on our Lord Jesus Christ instead of the storm. Don't focus on the magnitude of your problems and troubles, which will lead only to fear and despair, but look to the greatness of our Lord Jesus, and trust in Him who can calm even the mightiest storm. Jesus' words, "Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid," are for us as well, in the midst of any difficulty we may face.

Unfortunately, we often act like schizophrenic people. We say we believe in God, we come to Church to worship Him and fill our lives with His presence, we might even turn to Him each day in prayer. But when tragedy, struggles, and disappointments

So, remember. Keep our eyes on Christ in the midst of storms, instead of looking at the wind and the waves. Second, we can be sure that storms will come in life. Do not be surprised by them, nor be unprepared. We know that they will come, so this leads us to our third point - Be vigilant and ready! Our time to prepare for storms is not at the moment of the crisis, but long before. Here and now we must take the time to cultivate an intimate and serious relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and participate in all the spiritual exercises and traditions of the Church. In this manner, we will be ready to face anything and everything!

"Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid.'

### <u>Letters to the Editor</u> Webster Museums grateful for Janet Malser Trust's support

#### To the Editor:

On behalf of the entire team at Webster Museums, Inc., we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for their recent grant.

This generous donation will allow us to move forward with the ongoing development of the Samuel Slater Museum in Webster. This exciting undertaking will primarily focus on Samuel Slater, his life, the life of his workers, the settlement of Dudley/Oxford that would become "Boomtown" Webster, the immense impact Samuel Slater had on this community, and the Industrial Revolution.

This donation reinforces the concept that it is vitally important to preserve and uniquely present the history of our local geographic development as a resource for schools, community members and tourists that visit the area.

The Samuel Slater Museum is being developed unlike any other cultural history venue.

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

#### SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



The Museum will tell a continuous story of Samuel Slater's life from leaving Belper, England in 1789, to settling in Webster through a series of immersive experiences that use a variety of cutting-edge digital technologies that make the visitor a realistic witness and participant in the journey.

Visitors will also enjoy a simulated trolley journey down Main Street Webster circa 1910. Our recreated Main Street will include the Liberty Theater, the iconic Mannexit Hotel, the Webster Times, and Dugan's Store, to name a few.

The Janet Malser Humanities Trust's generous contribution supports our vision of bringing this much anticipated venue closer to its completion.

We are very appreciative.

CONNIE GALLANT TEAM MEMBER WEBSTER MUSEUMS, INC.

# Keep an eye out for rocks when boating

Due to the lack of rain this year, many fresh water lakes and ponds are extremely low. Boaters need to be aware of structures like rocks and stumps that are normally submerged in some of their favorite waters which can cause serious damage to their motor or boat. Numerous reports by boaters in the last few weeks about hitting some of these submerged structures should be taken seriously. Fortunately, no injuries were reported from the anglers and family's that were involved.

The water quality is also a major concern to boaters and the swimming public. This past week, a local resident called me to report the smell of raw sewage at the lacky Dam Pond area. I visited the area last week and found the pond to be extremely low with very little water flow over the dam. Unfortunately, when the water becomes low the bottom residue at Lacky Pond is exposed, and is still polluted from years of dumping by mills upstream years ago.

Rotting weeds and algae are a common problem with low water conditions. Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife has control of the dam and could raise the water level by using the control arm at the dam. This writer was in charge of the dam's water flow for many years after the completion of the dam, but MFW now has taken responsibility. Residents should call MF&W

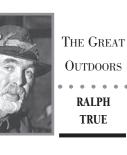
Central District or at the Boston office to get the water level raised.

If we do not get some relief by beneficial rain soon, we could see some fish kill at a few pond's in the coming days and weeks due to lack of oxygen. Eating fresh water fish at

this time of year is not recommended by the Department of Public Health, from numerous bodies of water in the state. Bottom eating fish are likely to have worms in their meat, and also carry other forms of dangerous chemicals like mercury, which are found in most freshwater fish in local ponds and lakes. Bottom sediment in both the Blackstone River and Mumford River is still highly polluted, and will take many more generations before they are clean enough to swim in.

The Quabbin Reservoir is still open to fishing; however, the boat rentals are still not available to anglers that enjoy fishing on one the cleanest bodies of water in the state, not to forget to mention the great fishing it offers. Calling ahead to check on availability of boat rentals is recommended! Taking your own boat to the Quabbin can become very expensive, if you follow all of the rules in respect to boat washing.

If you are planning to take your



will need to travel to the Western part of the state to have your boat washed and cleaned by an authorized garage. To the best of my knowledge there are no local washing sites in our area, but vou can call Fish & Wildlife for more information. The efforts

to keep invasive weeds from getting into the Quabbin are a bit overblown, and have become very expensive for the boater and anglers to visit.

You need to make an appointment and pay a substantial amount of monies to have it done. After washing, you are cleared to take your boat to the Quabbin until you decide to use your boat in another lake pond or saltwater. When your boat is washed, it will have a tag affixed to the bow and wench. If it is broken or damaged, you will need to have it washed again. Concerns of invasive weeds being brought into the lake from other ponds on the bottom of boats, are the reasons for the strict regulations. You really need to have two boats, one for the Quabbin and one for the ocean and fresh water lakes and ponds.

The invasive weed problem in the state is becoming worse every year. Local lakes and ponds are covered with aggressive weeds that are main-

boat to the Quabbin, you ly brought in by waterfowl, carrying seeds on their feathers and also from there feces. Some ponds have become totally covered by invasive species of weeds. Very little is being done to eradicate the weed problem. Purple loosestrife invasive weed is a big problem at Rice City Pond in Uxbridge. It has driven most waterfowl from the area ,and provides very little feed for waterfowl from other plants that were once abundant, like wild rice.

> Technical difficulties prevented us from showing a photo sent in this week of Matt Fontain with a nice doormat fluke he caught last week in Rhode Island. The fish weighed five and a half pounds! The fish provided a few good meals for his family to enjoy. He is now hooked on fishing!

> Hopefully, the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak is brought under control soon! Numerous outdoor Field Days by local Fish & Game Clubs are starting to plan their annual events, but only if the Covid situation improves dramatically. Life needs to get back to some form of normality! The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club is planning their annual Field Day for September, and others are doing the same. Stay tuned.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

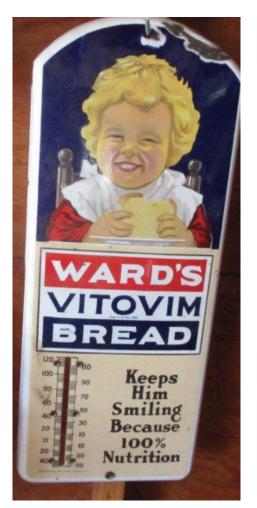
# Advertising thermometers

ANTIQUES,

COLLECTIBLES

& ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA



to promote their brands. Gas station pumps featured brand names on their pumps. Soda companies displayed their names on coolers full of their soda. Manufacturers gave clocks and thermometers to country stores and corner markets to help promote their products. Many advertising thermometers are very valuable, but some can be affordable for novice collectors, too.

A 1991 Chicago Tribune article reported that Galileo "produced a thermoscope, which consisted of a large glass bulb with a long narrow open-mounted neck inverted

over a container of colored water, alcohol or mercury." Gabriel D. Fahrenheit invented a mercury thermometer in 1714 that was similar to those that we are familiar with today.

Most American advertising thermometers were produced between 1875 and 1940, according to the Chicago Tribune. Advertising thermometers were intended to be hung outside of buildings. Some were wood, but they were more typically made of all metal or enamel over metal. Most of the ther mometers were vertical with rounded corners. Collectors Weekly's website says that thermometers became popular in the 1920's when "they were made by beverage, food, tobacco, automotive, and agricultural firms, as well as the health-care industry. These were hugely popular in rural areas, because knowing the temperature, as well as



eters. Age, condition, and rarity all matter. Some advertising thermometers can be affordable to average collectors. Five 1960's thermometers including one for Royal Crown soda and one for Camels cigarettes sold for \$70 each at auction last month. A Sealtest Milk round thermometer recently went for \$120.

However, plenty of advertising thermometers are worth much more. A Champion Spark Plugs metal thermometer had two wheels that could be rotated

to show different options for "weather forecast" and "check service." It sold for \$7,000 in 2015. A 1950 rare turquoise colored Coca Cola thermometer that was believed to be one of a few in existence brought \$9,500 in 2016. A round thermometer for Red Hat Moto Oil reached \$11,500 in 2016. A rare Ace High

Motor Oil thermometer fetched \$12,000 in 2010. A porcelain Campbell's soup can with a thermometer in the spot where the gold medal symbol appears heated up the auction floor when it sold for \$16,000 in 2014.

Our Warren, R.I. online estate auction includes some vintage advertising thermometers. The preview will be held on Sept. 12, with bidding ending on Sept. 16. We will also be running an estate sale at a Southborough, Mass. mansion on Aug. 22 and 23. The video of the webinar I presented on getting the most for your estate items is now available on our website. More information will also soon be available on the online auction and estate sale on www.centralmassauctions.com.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www. centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

All We Know Is Local

Regular readers of this column know that old advertising signs are popular and can be quite valuable. Companies also used other methods besides signs



# LEGALS

#### Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle under G.L. c, 2551 Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by: School St Towing 17-31 School St., Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions ofG.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that on 22 Aug 2020 at 9AM the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle. Vehicle description: Year: 2006 Make: Toyota Model: Matrix Registration#/State: Unregistered Vin: 2T1KR32E36C586880 Name and address of vehicle owner: Jesse W Burdwood, 19 Robin Hood Drive Unit 2 Notingham, NH 83290 by: FranK A Czechowski Dated: 3 August, 2020 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A. August 7, 2020 August 14, 2020

August 21, 2020

#### TOWN OF DUDLEY Massachusetts **Historical Commission**

The Dudley Historical: Commission is in receipt of an application for a demolition permit for 419 West Main Street; Dudley, MA 01571 Dated August 3, 2020

A public hearing will be held as per section 12.04.00 of the Dudley MA Demolition Delay Bylaw, at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01517 On (day) Wednesday, August 26, 2020

at 6:45 pm, in Room 3:21A.

"Within forty five (45) days of the Commission's receipt of a copy of the ap-

plication for a demolition permit, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on such application, and shall make a determination as to whether the structure is a significant structure under one or more criteria set forth in sections 12.05.00a, and 12.05.00b. The Commission shall give written notice of the time and place of the hearing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing, to the owner by certified mail, and by posting and by publication once in a local newspaper. The Commission may conduct a site visit prior to the hearing." Respectfully, David Proulx, Secretary

**Dudley Historical Commission** August 14, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** The Trial Court **Worcester Probate** and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO19D1328DR **DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING** Lydia Appiah-Kubi vs.

#### Maxwell Appiah-Kubi To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and

#### required to serve upon: Lydia Appiah-Kubi 9 De Marco Ter #1 Worcester, MA 01604

your answer, if any, on or before 10/26/2020. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 29, 2019

Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate

August 14, 2020

#### COMMONWEALTH **OF MASSACHUSETTS** WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH Worcester SS.

To either or the Constables

or the Town of Webster

#### **GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA on TUESDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Stale Primary for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS ... FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS... SECOND DISTRICT

COUNCILOR ... SEVENTH DIS-TRICT SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT ... WORCESTER & NORPOLK DIS-TRICT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT ... EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT REGISTER OF PROBATE ... WORCESTER COUNTY Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the lime and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of August 2020.

August 14, 2020

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by S.H. Auto Repair LLC., 120 Schofield Ave, Dudley MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on September 4, 2020 @ 5 PM at: S.H. Auto Repair, LLC 120 Schofield Ave Dudley, MA 01571 The following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage

keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles: Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: VIN # KMHDH4AE-5DU656507; 2013 Hyundai Elantra, REG # 1JAA61

Owner: Biadasz Jeffrey T, 9 Elm Street, Apt # 1R, Webster MA 01570 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A August 14, 2020 August 21, 2020

August 28, 2020

# What does an unplanned career transition mean for you?

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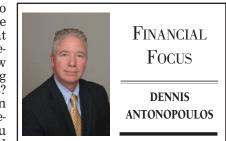
The COVID-19 pandemic has unsettled the country's employment picture for months, and will likely continue to do so for a while. However, the nature and terminology of this disruption varies greatly among individuals – some have seen their jobs disappear, others have been "furloughed," and still others have been offered an early retirement. If you're in this final group - those either offered, or feeling forced to accept, an early retirement, how should you respond?

Try to look at your situation holistically, rather than strictly in a shortterm manner. Consider these four areas:

What Retirement does retirement really look like to you? Are you ready to fully retire or would you like to work part time? Are you confident that you can work somewhere else for a few years before retiring on your own terms? If you're not certain you can work elsewhere, how can you adjust your desired retirement lifestyle -

what you planned to do, where you hoped to live, etc. - to meet your new reality?

Income – Just how financially affected you'll be from an early retirement depends on several factors: how much you've already saved and invested, whether you're married and have a working spouse, whether you've paid off your mortgage, and so on. In any case, though, you'll need to answer sever-



al questions, including these: Do I need to start taking withdrawals from my IRA and 401(k)? If so, how much can I afford to take out each year without running the risk of outliving my resources? Should I adjust my current investment mix? If I haven't yet started collecting Social Security, should I do so now, or can I afford to wait until my monthly payments will be bigger? Are there any other sources of income I can leverage? You may want to work with a financial professional to address these and other key income-related issues. Insurance – If

you received health insurance through your employer, an early retirement

could present you with dilemma, especially if you're not quite old enough for Medicare. You might be eligible for COBRA, which provides ex-employees and their dependents the option of continued health insurance for potentially up to 36 months, but this coverage can be expensive. As an alternative, you might be able to negotiate an extended severance package, which could provide you with health insur-

ance for several months. Or, you might be able to get on the health insurance plan of your working spouse.

Legacy –Many people want to take care of their family while they're alive - and leave something behind when they're gone. If you take an early retirement, you might lose your employer's group life insurance. Of course, if this plan was not sufficient, you may have already supplemented it with your own policy, but, if you haven't, you may need to shop around for some coverage, particularly if you have children still at home. You also may want to take this opportunity to review your key financial accounts to make sure your beneficiary designations still

accurately reflect your wishes.

Going through an unplanned career transition is certainly challenging. But looking closely at the four areas describe above, and making the appropriate moves, may help you reduce some of the stress and can put you in a better position to start the next phase of your life.

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

# Debunking bot pepper myths



Moments MELINDA **MYERS** 

Enjoy the spicy heat hot peppers add to your meals without concern for the many myths surrounding these garden vegetables. Here are a few you may have heard but are not true.

Growing both hot and sweet peppers in the garden will not add spicy heat to the sweet varieties. Peppers are normally self-pollinated. If an insect happens to move the pollen from a hot to sweet pepper, it will not affect the flavor or heat of this year's harvest. If vou save the seeds from a cross-pollinated pepper for next year's garden there is no guarantee on the results. The offspring

from this cross may GARDEN be hot or sweet, only time will tell.

Label hot peppers when growing, harvesting, and storing to avoid any mix-ups. The sweet banana pepper, for example, can easily be confused with hot

banana. This makes for an unwelcome surprise when preparing, serving, and eating.

Consider wearing rubber gloves and avoid touching your face and eyes when working with hot peppers as they can burn. Wash your hands, utensils and cutting boards when finished to avoid any future issues.

Never assume all green peppers are sweet or you will be in for a surprise. Jalapenos are typically harvested when green and others like habanero and Anaheim are hot, whether harvested when green or red. You will also find that hot peppers can be yellow, orange,



Photo Courtesy

Red Ember F1 cayenne pepper is an All-America Selections (AAS) winner. Judges described this early maturing pepper as spice but tastier than traditional cavenne pepper varieties.

brown and of course red. You can turn down the heat when prepar-

ing your favorite recipes. Contrary to popular belief, all the heat in hot peppers does not come from the seeds. While partially true, the majority of the capsaicin that gives hot peppers their heat is in the white membrane that houses the seeds. When the seeds are growing, they may also be coated with extra capsaicin. Remove the white membrane and the seeds, just to be safe, if you want to turn down the heat. The spicy heat of hot peppers is measured in Scoville Heat Units. The ratings are based on the amount of sugar water needed to neutralize the spicy heat in the extracted capsaicin that has been diluted in alcohol. A panel of five taste testers decides when the spicy heat has been neutralized and then assigns the rating. Today many companies use a chemical process (liquid chromatogra-

phy) but translate their

results into the popular

The Scoville Heat Unit rankings vary from one

type of hot pepper to

another with Poblano-

Ancho rating between

1,000 to 2,000, jalapenos

Scoville Heat Units.

pers. Contrary to some old adages, planting hot peppers when angry will not make the peppers hotter, but unknowingly taking a bite of a hot pepper may very well change your mood.

# Giving up is easy. Anyone can do it!

As you read this. I'm checked in at the Holden Cancer Center at the University of Iowa. I came here with a positive plan to improve my health. I was full

of optimism and my spirits were high. The plan was to have my stomach removed, but things do not always go according to plan. When they went in they found that my cancer was spread and inoperable.



As I've mentioned before, I have Stage 4 Stomach Cancer. There is no cure and I didn't want to lay around waiting for the inevitable end, so I found a Doctor who's a fighter and we are working to defy the odds and extend my life.

In February, I was given nine to 12 months to live by a Doctor that was convinced I was dying. So, I fired that Negative Doctor and began searching for an optimist and found him.

Dr. Kasi walked into the exam room with his entire team and said, "I hear you want to fight this diagnosis?" I said that I did, and he said with enthusiasm, "We are your team!"

I had undergone eight rounds of chemo and on Friday, my stomach was supposed to be removed. Yeah, it's not a cure but our hopes were that it can extend my life up to five years and in that extra time, we'd find a way to extend it five more. That was the plan, but plans change when presented with new information. Now we have a new plan we are optimistically pursuing.

Why am I sharing this personal health info?

Because there is no such thing as darkness. What we call darkness is absence of light. As such, there is no such thing as an insurmountable problem, but only the absence of an idea that creates a solution.

I refuse to give up on my life. I want you to also, not give up on your goals, dreams, and yes, life. Life's short. Go for it. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't achieve your goals and dreams. I have goals. I plan on seeing my eight and ten-year-old grandsons graduate from high school. I suspect I have grandchildren that are not yet conceived or

born that I want to meet and hold in my arms.

My books, "Playing with the Enemy" and "The Final Service" are both now in negotiation to become major

motion pictures. I plan on living to see their premier. My book, "Fragrance of Lilacs" is sitting with a publisher now. I plan on seeing it in print and on shelves. I can go on and on ... the point is that I have plans, dreams, and goals

that I'm not willing to give up on. I'm stubborn this way. I plan on writing this column ten years from today,

I'm not going to let anyone, other than my creator tell me when it's time to go.

Being optimistic doesn't mean that everything turns out magically perfect. It never does, but being an optimist means you look beyond your problems in search of the solution that makes your dreams come true. In my case, I'm looking beyond a negative diagnosis to find the solution that gives me more life. Without optimism, I'd have given up already ... and I'm just not willing to quit.

What about you? What about your dreams? What was your passion before you gave up and said it was just too hard to achieve?

In the movie, "League of their Own," there is a scene where the star catcher, Dottie Hinson, played by Geena Davis, decides she is quitting and going home before the championship game. The manager, Jimmy Dugan, played by Tom Hanks stops her and has a discussion.

"(Baseball) It just got too hard," Dottie says.

Hinson responds, "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard everyone would do it. It's the hard that makes it great."

Achieving your goals and dreams isn't easy. Not giving up on your life when someone says its over is ridiculously hard. Not everyone succeeds. Most people are not optimistic.

It's hard being an optimist ... but it's the hard that makes it great.

Never give up. Never give in. Always look beyond the problem and

find the solution.

2,500 to 6,000, habaneros at 100,000 to 300,000 and one of the hottest, the ghost pepper, at 1,000,000 to 2.200.000 Scoville Heat Units. Ratings may also vary from individual plants within a specific type based on individual plant differences and the growing conditions.

Finally, do not worry if you had a bad day when planting your hot pep-

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www. *MelindaMyers.com.* 





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# Tips to Pick the Fruits (and Vegetables) of Your Labor

The pleasures of the New England harvest season are truly bountiful. Ripe, red tomatoes heavy on the vine, stately rows of corn stalks, and pots of leafy herbs promise home grown goodness for the family table.

It's harvest time and backyard gardeners every-

where are anticipating the well earned fruits of their labor. From plucking peppers to cutting cauliflower, proper harvesting ensures optimum flavor and nutrients from your home garden. Read on for the ways to up the odds of culling "the cream of the crop" from common vegetable and fruit plants.



Experts say the most important rule at harvest time is to pick vegetables daily. Plucking them as soon as they ripen not only offers superior taste, but this practice encourages plant production. Simply stated, harvesting on the day that the produce ripens can

help you yield more from your seasonal crop. Furthermore, gardeners should be aware that some vegetables are best harvested when they appear premature. Examples include summer squash, zucchini and green beans, all vegetables can become tough and lose flavor when they are allowed to sit on the vine too long. Seed company Burpee offers expert advice on harvesting common fruits and vegetables:

Herbs. Pinch or cut back herbs frequently to keep them producing more stems and leaves (the parts we eat) and to keep them from blooming, which changes the flavor. If that means you have surplus thyme or oregano, dry it in a brown paper bag. Basil, especially, needs frequent pinching back to keep it bushy and productive. At some point in July or August everybody has too much basil, which is why the Italians invented pesto (find many recipes on the internet).

Tomatoes. There is a huge range of tomato varieties. Many kinds are red when ripe, but some are orange, yellow, striped or even green. Learn what to

expect from your variety and monitor the plant closely as its due date nears. Generally, a tomato is fully ripe when it releases easily from the stem. If you misjudge a bit it's no tragedy, because tomatoes will ripen somewhat after picking. But they develop the fullest sweet flavor if they ripen in the sun on the vine. Once you have picked the first few tomatoes of a particular variety, you will get a feel for what a ripe one will look and taste like. Some tomatoes are «determinate» types, which will stop bearing after a few weeks. Most are «indeterminate» kinds, which will keep flowering and setting fruit until killed by frost, although colder weather will slow production. It's a good

Turn To HINT Page A13



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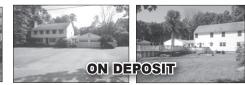


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#### HINT

continued from page A12

idea to pick your green tomatoes a week or so before your area's average first frost date. The more mature ones will ripen indoors if they are stored at room temperature, wrapped in newspaper so they don't touch. Or make fried green tomatoes.

Peppers. Peppers are mature and ready to eat when full-sized but still green. If left on the vine longer, they will change color to red, orange, yellow or brown, depending on the variety, and will deepen in flavor and become less crisp in texture. Hot peppers left to change color will get hotter. So whether you pick at the green stage or later will depend on the variety and what you plan to use the pepper for. As with tomatoes, the first few you pick will teach you to gauge ripeness.

Lettuce. It's important to pick lettuce before hot weather encourages the plant to "bolt," or develop a flower stalk, which makes the leaves taste bitter. With leaf lettuce and many other greens, you can "cut and come again" while the leaves are young and tender, no more than five inches long. Use scissors to cut the largest leaves individually from the plants. When the smaller leaves get big enough, harvest those. You may be able to come back to a plant two, three or four times, a few days apart, before it gives up in the summer heat. To prolong the lettuce harvest. look for bolt-resistant varieties and sow seeds several times at two-week intervals. A tent of shade cloth or translucent row cover -- or a site in part shade -- also may delay bolting in hot climates.

In late summer, sow green seeds again for a fall crop.

Green beans. Green beans are an easy vegetable to harvest. Pick the pods when they are a little shy of their maximum size, to be sure that they are tender, with immature seeds. If you delay, the seeds will mature and harden and the pod will become tough. Don't pick green beans in the morning when the dew is still on the vines; wait until they are fully dry to avoid spreading disease. Be sure to keep up with regular picking to encourage the vine to keep flowering and producing pods.

Peas. For garden peas, pick a test pod and open it when the seeds have begun to swell inside. You're looking for peas that are round but still tender. Pick peas just before you are ready to shell and cook them. For snow peas and sugar snaps, taste a pod when it nears full size. You want a crisp, crunchy, fresh-tasting pod, in which the seeds have started developing but are nowhere near round. Pods left too long on the vine get tough and stringy

Cantaloupes, muskmelons and honeydews: Harvesting melons can be tricky, even for melon farmers. You can thump the melon and listen for a dull, hollow sound or sniff it to see if it smells sweet. A ripe cantaloupe or muskmelon will begin to have a tan or yellowish color beneath the corky «netting» on its skin. A honeydew will feel smooth, not hairy. Cut the stem rather than breaking the fruit off, which creates a wound that invites the fruit to rot. Let the fruit ripen for another day or two at room temperature before cutting into it.

Watermelons. When the spot beneath

the melon, where it sits on the ground, turns yellowish, rather than white or green, the melon is close to ripe. The rind also gets tougher, so test it with your thumbnail to how easily it dents. For old-fashioned full-sized watermelons, the traditional ripeness test is to thump and listen for a dull, hollow sound, but this may not work as well with the smaller «icebox» varieties. Ultimately, you>ll have to cut one open and decide if its ripe, and use that as a standard for the rest of the crop.

Cucumbers. Check the seed packet to see how large your variety of cucumber will get and how long that is expected to take. But bear in mind that you can pick cucumbers at any stage, depending on what you want to use them for. Smaller ones will be more tender, with thinner skins and few or immature seeds. Tooold cucumbers get dry and woody. Like melons, cucumbers should be cut from the vine, not pulled.

Sweet corn. Timing is everything with sweet corn. The kernels begin to lose sweetness and flavor the instant the ear is picked, so the great advantage of growing your own is so you can wait until the last minute. The traditional rule was to get the pot of water boiling to cook the corn and then go out and pick it. Sweet corn is ready to eat when you can feel full, rounded kernels beneath the husk; the silk at the top of the ear is drying out; and a squished kernel produces a milky sap.

Root vegetables. Read the seed packet to see how long it should take before you start checking to see if your variety of carrots, beets, turnips, radishes or parsnips is ready for harvest. When it's about

time, loosen the soil gently and pull one up to see how big it is. Root vegetables are more tender and delicate in flavor if eaten younger and smaller; as they get older and larger, they get tougher, woodier and more pungent. If that's okay with you, you can store some root crops right in the cold ground after the tops die. Spread a thick layer of leaves, straw or other mulch to keep the ground from freezing so you can still dig them up, and you may be able to harvest carrots, turnips or parsnips.

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

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



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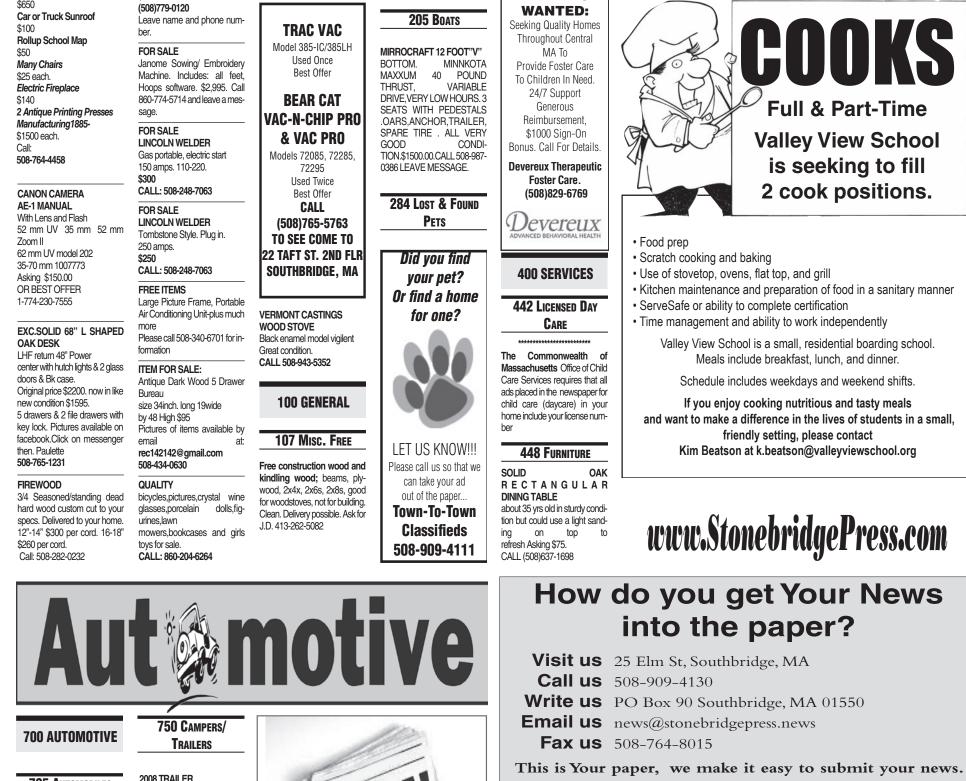
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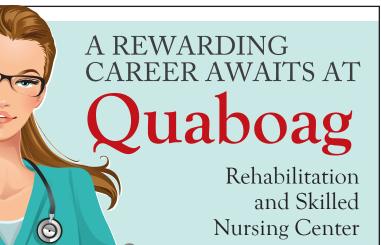
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