



Local couple recognized with Saint Joseph Partners in Education Award

Design completed for Village and Mill Streets

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT



John and Louise Hester accepted Saint Joseph School's prestigious Partners in Education Award from Bishop Robert J. McManus during the school's Annual Migration Mass on Jan. 28.

WEBSTER — It has been a tradition since 2003 that during the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Saint Joseph School awards the Partners in Education Award to a person or persons who've made a significant impact on the school community. Saint Joseph School is pleased to present this award to John and Louise Hester this year.

John Hester was born in Worcester and baptized at Our Lady of Fatima Church. He also made his First Communion at that same church and his Confirmation at Immaculate Conception Church. John attended Worcester public schools. After high school, he graduated from Quinsigamond Community College and Central New England College of Technology. While attending college, John worked at Norton Company. He received his master's degree from Anna Maria College. John later left Norton Company and became a postmaster.

Louise Hester was born in Webster and baptized at Saint Joseph Church. She graduated from Saint Joseph School, having made her First Communion and Confirmation there. She

DUDLEY — While the renovations of Stevens Mill have been put on hold for the time being, work around the historic structure is proceeding as planned to address local sewer and water systems and roadways.

The Dudley Board of Selectmen hosted a presentation from Tighe & Bond on Jan. 22 that examined the status and future of the initiative which was sparked by a grant-funded infrastructure study in 2019 examining the Jericho-Brandon Neighborhood. Town Planner Bill Scanlon explained that the study revealed deficiencies in water and sewer systems and nearby streets and sidewalks. This, combined with the plans to revitalize Stevens Mill, lead Dudley to move forward with a plan to address the areas of Village and Mill Streets.

"Out of that plan a number of high priority projects were developed," Scanlon explained. "One of them was to improve the deficient sewer network and improve the sidewalks around the Stevens Mill. We were able to secure a Massworks Grant to pay for the design of that project which was completed about two years ago. We have a \$2.5 million grant from Mass Works to construct these improvements."

The plans were presented by Matt Wzorek and Aaron Sabbs, both Project Managers at Tighe & Bond, who showcased several plans indicating where work would take place and what will inevitably go out to bid in 2024. Wzorek explained that a survey conducted in 2020 identified eight potential projects of focus starting with the First Avenue infrastructure improvements that were implemented over the last year. The second was work in the Steven Mill Area of town which recently completed its design phase.

"I think we're in the pre-contract phase right now with Massworks so hopefully that will get resolved in the next couple of months. Once that's resolved and the contracts are signed, bidding is hopeful for the spring of 2024 and if we get favorable bids, then a summer construction. We anticipate, hopefully, the underground work will get completed this year and next year in the summer or spring of 2025 we'd commence the surface restoration work, sidewalks, and roadways," said Wzorek.

The goals of the project are two-fold with upgrades to numerous systems to benefit not only local residents, but also the Stevens Mill which has long been slated for renovations into residential and other uses. The

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All Saints Academy student's poetry celebrates legacy of Martin Luther King

WEBSTER — This year, Worcester State University held its 30th Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Every year, students in grades 7-12 are invited to write a poem based on Dr. King's dream of equality for all.

The theme this year was entitled, "Beyond the Dream: The Struggle for Equity Continues." Students were asked to describe how they would like elected officials to see through their lens the challenges our communities are experiencing in the struggle for equity, and what their vision would be for bringing equity to any of the following challenges: labor rights, affordable housing, access to education, and inclusion and visibility of our most vulnerable communities. It is a tall order, especially when one is limited to 200 words or less.

But Matthew Monticelli, a seventh grader at All Saints Academy, was recognized for his efforts at the MLK Jr. Youth Celebration held on Jan. 13.

When Mrs. Linda Oakley, Monticelli's

English teacher, presented this opportunity to the class, they immediately began to brainstorm how they/we can "live" the call of Dr. King to equality of opportunity. As students of the small Catholic school, located in Webster, began to think about the topic, they also considered what contributions they make to their local community with the fundraisers and drives in which the school, students and families participate. Currently, the school's chapter of National Junior Honor Society is collecting "Soup and Socks" for the unhoused.

Those experiences and call to service are embedded in the school's mission, so it was not too difficult to think about the needs of others in their own community. In the early class discussions, students considered how they could talk and play with those who appear to be alone and not gossip or tell secrets where others are excluded. As the students began to think beyond their school, the ideas began to flow.

The entire writing process took several hours after the brainstorming portion to compose, revise and rearrange words. Monticelli's poem focused on hunger and housing:

In a society filled with power and greed
we must open our hearts to those in need.
From hunger to housing
and everything in between
so many peoples' needs go unseen.

How do we help this?
Do you even know?
As our elected leaders
I surely hope so.

I ask that you take a good look around
Step out of your world and into the crowd.
Walk in our shoes and see where we

eat
See where we learn and see where we sleep.

Let's raise the awareness
Of treating with fairness
Those who are not the same.

Let's take down our blinders
And remove our dividers
So that inequity no longer remains.

When Monticelli was informed by school principal Mrs. Joan Matys of his winning entry, he was surprised and humbled. He truly "didn't expect it." He attended the ceremony with his proud parents. When asked by Mrs. Oakley what he was going to do with the certificate, he replied that he will get it framed and hang it in his room.

School Committee presents Superintendent, Principal Awards

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee celebrated its annual honoring of two outstanding seniors in the district with the presentation of the Superintendent's Award and Shepherd Hill Regional High School Principal's Award on Jan. 24.

Each award represents a senior that goes above and beyond to achieve success at Shepherd Hill and to contribute as a larger part of their school

community. The first honoree was Joanna Lepper, who was presented with the Superintendent's Award by Superintendent Steve Lamarche. Lepper is an active member of Shepherd Hill National Honor Society, a peer tutor, and an accomplished musician proficient in clarinet and saxophone. She comes from a family of mathematicians and has shown great comprehension of biology taking AP studies in the subject her senior year. She plans to attend Syracuse University to study bioinformatics. Superintendent

Lamarche complimented Joanna as a student who is unafraid to challenge herself every step of the way.

"Joanna sets goals for herself and has taken the opportunity to reach new heights and try new things during her high school experience as she prepares for graduation and what is next," said Lamarche. "Joanna maintains the highest GPA in the class of 2024 and has received scores of five on three and a four on one of four AP exams prior to her senior year.

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Courtesy

Accessible Home Health Care of Auburn, a woman owned private home care agency, celebrated its fifth year in business last weekend at the Elks Club. The agency was recognized with a Proclamation from the town of Auburn, presented from Dan Carpenter, Vice Chair of the Auburn Selectmen, to Ruth Langlais, RN (who grew up in Auburn) and Andy, co owners of the agency ,along with Martine Beaumont.

bankHometown raises \$84,400 for local food pantries in 20th Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Drive

OXFORD — Robert J. Morton, president and CEO of bankHometown, announced that the bank's 20th annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising drive raised \$84,400 for local food pantries. This brings the total amount raised since the program's inception to \$415,400.

The annual appeal is part of bankHometown's charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, which reflects the bank's commitment to making a difference in the neighborhoods it serves. Throughout November, the bank invited customers, employees, and members of the community to donate at bankHometown branches. Up to \$2,500 per donation was matched, dollar for dollar, by bankHometown and the total divided among food pantries in Massachusetts and Connecticut communities the bank serves.

Each of these pantries received \$5,275:

Massachusetts Food Pantries:
Athol Salvation Army Food Pantry
Auburn Youth and Family Services Food Pantry
CARE Food Pantry, Clinton
Food Share, Southbridge, Charlton & Sturbridge
Friendly House Pantry, Worcester
Ginny's Helping Hand, Inc., Leominster
Millbury Senior Center Food Pantry

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Sutton Senior Center Michael A. Chizy Food Pantry
St. John's Food for the Poor, Worcester
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Webster

Connecticut Food Pantries:
Community Kitchens of Northeastern CT, Killingly
Daily Bread, Putnam
Friends of



Courtesy bankHometown's Grove Street, Worcester office Vice President, Branch Officer Isabelo Cruz Lopez (left) and Assistant Branch Manager Allysha Desrosiers (right) present a check for \$5,275 to Trish Appert, executive director of Friendly House, one of 16 food pantries receiving donations from the bank's Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising campaign to help address food insecurity.

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Friday's Child



Ashlynn

Age 15

Hi! My name is Ashlynn and I love to draw! !

Ashlynn is a shy teenage girl who loves music, and doing her nails, makeup, and hair. She can start out being quiet with new people but warms up if given the time to develop a relationship. Ashlynn enjoys arts & crafts, spending time with her friends, and swimming in the pool. She loves the company of her siblings and is very protective of them. Ashlynn has friends at school that she enjoys being around. She does well in class with support. Ashlynn will thrive in a home that can provide her with her own space and individualized attention. A family that is knowledgeable and able to navigate education and mental health resources is also important.

Ashlynn does best with clear expectations and a structured routine. Her social worker is open to exploring homes with a mother and a father or two mothers. Ashlynn will do best as the youngest or only child in a family. Ashlynn has four brothers and two sisters in Massachusetts, and it is extremely important that she maintains relationships with them.


<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6169>

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

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



Assisi, Killingly Project PIN Food Pantry, Moosup Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group


"On behalf of bankHometown, I'd like to thank all those who generously donated to our Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraiser to help fight food insecurity in our communities," said Morton. "We're pleased to host this annual appeal and that so much was raised to help families in need this holiday season."

About bankHometown

Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

Country Bank supports EcoTarium with \$25,000 pledge



WORCESTER —


Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts recently announced a \$25,000 pledge to the EcoTarium. This pledge aims to support the development of a cutting-edge

gallery for traveling exhibits and contribute to the establishment of the new Early Childhood Science Learning Center, showcasing the Bank's commitment to education and community enrichment.

"The EcoTarium is deeply grateful for Country Bank's generous gift to our Third Century Campaign which will build a new state-of-the-art gallery for traveling exhibits and develop an Early Childhood Science Learning Center for children up to age six," stated EcoTarium President and CEO Noreen Johnson Smith. "These vital projects will ensure the Museum continues to offer transformative experiences that promote science literacy and learning about science and nature as we prepare the next generation of leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math."

To learn more about the EcoTarium, visit <https://ecotarium.org>.

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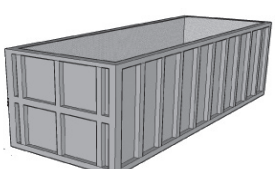
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Bay Path LPN obtains wound care certification



Heather Sheehan

CHARLTON — Heather Sheehan, LPN of Charlton adds a new credential after her name, that of Wound Care Certified (WCC), joining certified nurses, at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty and

alumni to date, marking professionalism and expertise. An alumna of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Class of 2018, Sheehan received her WCC recently and has the opportunity to become a member of the WOCN Society (Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society,https://www.wocn.org/). In 1998 at Salter School, she received her Certificate in Medical Assisting. She is an alumna of West Boylston High School. Aside from wound care, Sheehan is experienced and also holds expertise in hospice care. According to the National League for Nursing (www.nln.org) “Certification in any

field is a mark of professionalism. For nurses, it establishes a specialty area of practice and creates a means to demonstrate their expertise in this role.” It communicates to students, peers and the academic and health care communities that the highest standards of excellence are being met. The mission of certification is to promote excellence in the advanced specialty role of the nurse. By becoming certified in wound care, Sheehan serves as a leader and a role model. Certification is the mark of distinction for a specialty. WCC by the Wound Learning Academy by SNF wound care “is an online edu-

cation platform with content approved by RN and LPN/LVN Nursing Board nationwide, in all 50 states. WCC offers 30 CEU for license renewal.” Sheehan demonstrated dedication to the highest standards in wound care management and achieved recognition and elevated her status as a wound care specialist. Sheehan will collaborate and exchange invaluable insight and resources with like-minded wound care industry specialists, gain professional growth, and career advancement opportunities. According to the Wound Learning Academy, “Wound Care Certification demonstrates specialized and distinguished knowledge

in wound management, promoting the highest level of care for all wound care patients.” About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health

Board of Registration in Nursing, 239 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800; www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges, 209 Burlington Rd., Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022; www.neasc.org.

Bay Path Nursing students volunteer at Show Choir Festival



DUDLEY — The Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival was held at the Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Saturday, Feb. 3. Faculty and Practical Nursing Student Volunteers from Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy provided on site medical emergency care alongside Dudley Police and Fire Department.

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy team included Faculty lead Dr. Adelina Healy of Dudley and Practical Nursing student volunteers John Martin Wanjiru, Ashley Urbain, Michael Wairimu, Kaitlin Miliauskas, Evelyn Kiplangat, Catherine Ibrahim and Christiana Sochiletey. The Practical Nursing

student volunteers are all HCP/BLS CPR certified and trained in first aid. Photo shows from left, Michael Wairimu, Christiana Sochiletey, Evelyn Kiplangat, Kaitlin Miliauskas, and Catherine Ibrahim, all from Worcester. Terry Salonis, Vice President of the Shepherd Hill Music Parents along with Maria “Chet” Perea-Beaulieu coordinated the Bay Path student nurses’ participation with Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. According to Salonis, “this enormous event involves more than 24 schools from around the country and over 500 student performers.” Bay Path PN volunteers were there to ensure the safety of students and their families with onsite medical care as a complement to Dudley PD and Fire. Volunteer shifts started at noon through 10 p.m. “This was the second year for PN Volunteers to participate in this capacity, we’re glad to assist again and are looking forward to 2025,” concluded Bolandrina. About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

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First Poets At Large event of 2024 set for Feb. 24

POMFRET — The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Road in Pomfret, will host this year’s first host Poets at Large spoken word and poetry performance on Saturday, Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m. Poets at Large is a regional group of poets who read in Connecticut and Massachusetts, now in its fifth year. The group’s coordinator, Woodstock author/poet Karen Warinsky, is the Emcee, and those wishing to be in the open mic segment can sign up by contacting her at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. There is a five-minute limit for open mic readers and these events are recommended for ages 14 and up. Kicking things off for the 2024 Poets at Large series on Feb. 24 will be “Home Grown,” a show featuring Pomfret Poet Laureate Nancy Weiss, Coordinator of PAL and Emcee, Karen Warinsky and Thompson Poet Laureate Steve Veilleux. Weiss was appointed Pomfret’s poet laureate in 2021, is a life-long resident and writes a weekly column for The Woodstock Villager. Warinsky has published poetry since 2011, authored three books, is a 2023 Best of the Net nominee and a former finalist in the Montreal Int’l Poetry Contest. Author Veilleux was appointed as Thompson’s poet laureate in 2023, hosts a spoken word series at The Packing House in Willington, Conn., and is the author of “Event Horizon.” All three write about relationships, politics and life events with a mix of concern and humor. This first show has a special “Winter Blues” admission of \$10. Admission includes a chance at a giveaway. Upcoming dates for this series are March 23, April 27 and May 25. Admission for those shows will be \$15. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts.

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Pollinator Team is buzzing again!

OXFORD — The Oxford Grow Native for Pollinators Team has announced this year’s Pollinator Forum will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at the Oxford Middle School Cafeteria at 6 p.m. Guest speaker Ellen Scheid will be returning again, and will present how to create a pollinator-friendly yard. Informational stations will be set up with topics about butterflies, bees, native plant listings, gardening ideas and more. To encourage the community to include habitats for our important little pollinator friends –butterflies, bees and birds, the first 50 attendees to the Forum will receive a free Pollinator Garden Design Kit! The Pollinator Team is a partnership between the Oxford Conservation Commission and other local organizations and volunteers. Details about community events being planned for this spring and summer and volunteer opportunities will be available at the Forum. You do not have to be an Oxford resident to participate, all are welcome!

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Meet Curley: 3 years
Meet Curly! This handsome boy is looking for a home where he can be the solo pet and soak up all the attention. Curly is a very smart and active boy. He loves treats, training, and playtime. He especially loves chasing balls around the yard! Curly enjoys going for walks and having play dates with other dogs. He has lived well with kids and would do best in a home with teens. Curly is a perfect gentleman in the home and keeps his space clean. If you are looking for a companion to snuggle with on the couch and enjoy outdoor activities with, start the process to learn more about Curly today!
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a.m.-2 p.m.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

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

Are you a Collector of Old Books? Come check out our display upstairs to see if any of them could be added to your collection!

Adult Programming
YOGA - Saturday
February 10th, and 17th

at 9:30 AM
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP—February 26th at 6:30 PM
This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing The Last Apothecary by Sarah Penner . Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmars.org for inquiries.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT--- February 5th —6:00 PM
Come in and play

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

COOKBOOK CLUB—February 12th --- 6:00 PM
Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and our least favorite things of the cooking adventure. You can pick up your copy from behind the circulation desk.

DUSTIN PARI MOTIVATIONAL TALK: HOW SOON IS NOW---February 22nd at 6:30 PM
Spend an hour with Dustin as he examines the concept of time, challenges our understandings of the passing days, and questions the way we measure our lives. Make the most of your time by changing

your perspective of it. Hurry to this lecture, for there is not a minute to waste!
Children's and Young Adult Programming

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

MAKER MONDAYS - Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM
Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

LEGO CLUB--- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM
Come play with the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your

work on display!
No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM
Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmars.org for more details.

STORY TIME - - - February 13th, 20th, and 27th 9:30 AM
Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

STUFFED ANIMAL STORY TIME--- February 14th and 28th 10:00 AM
Join Library Director Sondra Murphy for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This story time is geared toward ages birth to 3 but siblings are welcome.

WINTER CRAFT SERIES: MARSHMALLOW ART--- February 12th at 3:30 PM

Join us for a festive craft this winter season. We'll be using fluffy delicious marshmallows to create works of art! Creations include animals, rainbows, and anything else you can dream up. For all ages with adult supervision.

BINGO--- February 10th at 12:00 PM
Join us for a fun all ages Bingo event! Prizes will be awarded for the winners. All are welcome, no registration required.

ONE UP GAMES: LED MINI GOLF--- February 17th at 11:00 AM
Enjoy a fun outing at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library playing 9 holes of LED Mini Golf with gaming company One Up Games on the Go! Patrons will be able to come and enjoy 9 holes of fun and exciting LED mini golf with friends in a unique setting!

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Open Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday 2/13 Hot Dog, baked beans, coleslaw. Wednesday 2/14 Salmon with Primavera Sauce, wild rice, mixed vegies. Thursday 2/15 Chicken Cacciatore, gemelli pasta, spinach. 2/16 Egg Frittata, stewed tomatoes, green beans.

SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Senior Center to assist you with any health insurance questions you may have. Please call (508) 949-3845 for more information.

Need help with your MassHealth application? Tri-Valley has Certified Application Counselors available to assist you. Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Tri-Valley office in Dudley. Please call Tri-Valley at (508) 949-6640. Appointments are also available on Fridays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Webster Senior Center. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule Friday appointments at the Senior Center.

Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center and enter a raffle to win a free haircut! No purchase necessary. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment. NEW! Koffee Klatch - get together and chat with us as we watch mini-series on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am. Thursday, Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be served – come join us!

The REC Farmer's Market is now setting up in the Webster Senior Center on Thursdays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Coloring Workshops with Stacey will be offered on Friday, February 9th and Friday, February 23rd at 10:00 am. Cost: \$5.00 per class, sign up at the front desk. A Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative will be at the Senior Center on Thursday, February 8th from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm to answer any ques-

tions you may have about Medicare. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

The Friends of the Webster Senior Center are hosting a Valentine's Day Party on Monday, February 12th at 12:30 pm. Live Music and Refreshments! Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

We will be celebrating February birthdays on Wednesday, Feb. 14th. Cake will be served at 12:00 pm. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

Webster Manor Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, February 22nd at 12:00 pm. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

February Movie Matinee will be a showing of NYAD, the true story of athlete Diana Nyad on Monday, February 26th at 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Progressive Beginner Line Dancing Classes with Forty Arroyo are postponed until further notice.

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

Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets.

Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm. Why not sign up for lunch, come early and spend

the day!
Do you like to play cribbage? Our weekly cribbage group now meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm – feel free to join us!

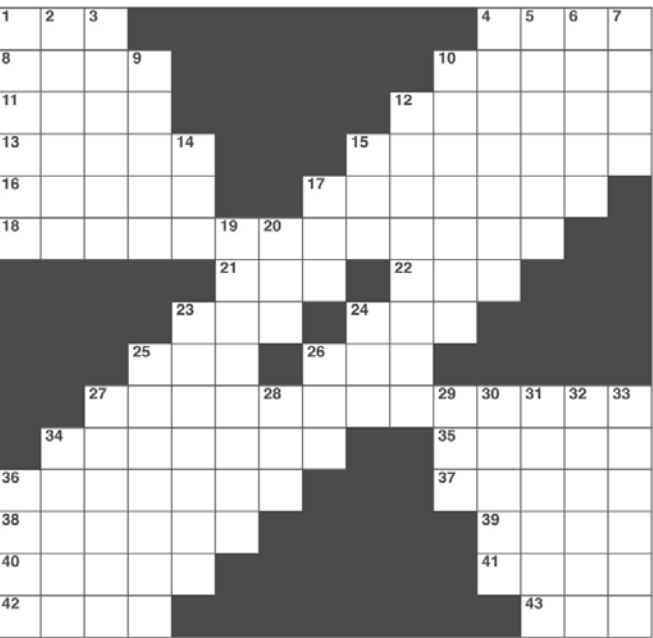
Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center – come join us for 6-card or 13-card pitch! Six card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

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

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

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

Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 or stop in to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of additional activities and upcoming events.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching statistic
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends The Bee
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ova of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back together
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Leading with purpose: Prioritizing local issues over the culture war

At a time when communities far and wide face pressing challenges like homelessness, substance misuse, and the need for unity, it is essential that our local leaders redirect their focus towards the issues that truly matter. Rather than engaging in divisive cultural battles, true leadership demands a dedication to improving the daily lives of residents by addressing local concerns.

One of the most pressing issues in many communities today is homelessness. Our woods and streets are home to many individuals who are struggling to find shelter and support. This issue should take precedence over divisive cultural debates, as it directly impacts the well-being and safety of our very own community members.

Similarly, the challenge of substance misuse is a significant concern that requires our leaders' full attention. Addiction affects not only the individuals grappling with it but also their families and communities. Local leaders should work collaboratively to establish effective rehabilitation and support programs that address this issue head-on, instead of allowing it to be overshadowed by polarizing cultural discussions.

A true leader understands the importance of bridging gaps rather than creating divisions. In an era marked by increasing polarization, it is incumbent upon our local leaders to strive for unity. Their role should be to bring residents together, encouraging dialogue and understanding among diverse groups. Creating a sense of community and solidarity should be a top priority, as it helps build a stronger, more resilient society.

It is crucial to recognize that small, symbolic issues like the presence of a two-inch pride sticker on a public building's door should not distract us from the substantial problems at hand. A leader's duty is to prioritize actions that will improve the daily lives of everyone in the community. While diverse perspectives are important, focusing on such symbolic issues detracts from the time and resources that could be better allocated to address actual challenges.

Furthermore, thriving businesses are an integral part of a flourishing community. Local leaders should work tirelessly to create an environment where businesses can thrive. A prosperous economy enables residents to access better opportunities and services, thus improving their quality of life.

Effective local leadership necessitates a clear focus on the issues that directly impact our community's well-being, such as homelessness, substance misuse, and unity. Divisive cultural debates, while important in their own right, should not overshadow these pressing concerns. A true leader, one with courage, prioritizes the needs of their constituents, brings people together, and strives to build a stronger, more resilient community. By doing so, they ensure that businesses thrive, basic needs are met, and everyone can enjoy a higher quality of life.


Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week's newspaper is Friday at noon. **SEND ALL ITEMS** to Editor Brendan Berube at [The Webster Times](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news) — news@stonebridgepress.news



Courtesy

The Webster/Dudley Veterans Council would like to announce the Military Honors provided for the month of January to our recently deceased local veterans. Kenneth Bembenek USAF, Joseph Zdrok US Army Reserves, Bernard Szczepaniak, US Army, Jeffery Bell, US Navy, Leon Jezierski, US Army, Donald Wallen US Army, Urban Lavine, US Army. We thank them for their sacrifice and service to our country.

Discovering new life

A TV commercial portrayed a beautiful woman and a handsome young man sitting in an exclusive restaurant in the midst of a romantic setting, with flowers, linen, fine china, and an expensive bottle of wine. "I'm looking for the right woman to marry," he says. She smiles and inquisitively asks, "And what would that take?" He confidently responds, "A very rich woman, who will help me get anything I want." Then the scene flashes off to him getting into his BMW, shifting gears, gutting the engine, and zooming off into some endless mountain highway, supposedly into eternal bliss! Scene of a happy ending, right?

So it would seem and so the advertisers want us to think. Make lots of money, drive the best car in the world, have a beautiful young woman at your side – you can't beat that! That's living the dream!

Of course, we all know that that's not the way life is. Look at the rich and famous, and you'll see the same temptations, weaknesses and failures as the rest of us: the passion of envy, greed, pride, uncontrolled anger, hatred, gluttony and with the passage of time, the ravages of old age, sickness, ill health and all the familiar ailments. After all, beautiful women will get older, heavier, and less attractive. Even the rich will age, put on weight, become less agile, and eventually lose their hair, their sharp eyesight, their hearing and physical stamina.

What keeps people content, and gives lasting meaning to life? Certainly not just beauty, health, wealth and expensive toys!

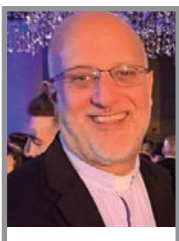
Zacchaeus, the rich tax-collector in Jesus' time offers us an important lesson. Zacchaeus had it all: wealth, power, position, and support from the powerful Roman government. Furthermore, he earned the title of chief tax collector in Jericho, the richest, most fertile region in his land. Like the man in the ad, he had it all. More money than he could spend, all his physical desires satisfied, surely a big house with ample servants. He served the finest wines and treated his friends and guests to elaborate meals and banquets.

Yet when Jesus passed through Jericho one day, and all the people ran out to meet him, Zacchaeus was intrigued. After all, nothing important escaped his attention. If a significant government official or VIP came to Jericho, Zacchaeus would surely meet him. Thus, he went out with the crowds to see Jesus. And yet, it was not only Zaccheus who sought out Jesus, but it was Christ Himself, who noticed Zacchaeus, and unexpectedly invited himself to his home for a meal.

No matter how materially successful we become, no matter what high position we attain, no matter how famous we are or think we are, there comes a day of reckoning. And that time came for Zacchaeus! He came face to face with Jesus Christ, and the contrast between the two couldn't have been more stark.

Zacchaeus lived in extreme luxury; Jesus lived in utter simplicity. Zacchaeus had servants to satisfy his every whim; Jesus had no servants, but was ready to serve even the people who followed him. Zacchaeus had a high position in society, and lived in the most exclusive section of Jericho; Jesus had no home, "no place to lay his head," and no position in society. Zacchaeus could buy his way in or out of anything; Jesus had nothing to his name. Zacchaeus indulged himself, denying himself nothing; Jesus fasted and prayed yet had all that was necessary. And in the end, with all that Zacchaeus had, people hated him; and with the little that Jesus possessed, the crowds adored Him!

Once in the presence of Jesus,



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

Zacchaeus suddenly realized how poverty-stricken he was in life, in things that really mattered, and how Jesus, who seemingly had nothing, ultimately had everything.

Whenever anyone encounters our Lord at such a deep, personal level, his/her life changes! This happened to Zacchaeus in the midst of a crowd. He listened to Christ's words and encountered His presence. And then, as if struck by lightning, Zacchaeus' life changed! His heart converted!

"Look, half of my possessions, I will give to the poor," the tax collector professed. "And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay them back four times as much."

Jesus affirmed this radical conversion of Zacchaeus by proclaiming, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

A favorite religious hymn in America is "Amazing Grace." It was written by John Newton, captain of a slave trading ship in the 18th century. As a slave trader, Newton would pack 600 slaves in the hull of a ship, chain them down on their side so that they couldn't move to the left or right until he delivered them from the African coast to America. One day, however, he happened to read Thomas a Kempis's classic, The Imitation of Christ. Through that reading he encountered Christ which led to his own radical conversion. Not only did he see the inhumanity of the slave trade, but he repudiated his past life and returned to England to study for the ministry. He would spend the last 43 years of his life repenting for his past sins and preaching the Good News that comes with a new life in Jesus Christ. He ended up writing hundreds of Christian hymns, the most famous of which is "Amazing Grace."

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me, I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

John Newton's tombstone reads, "John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

That, of course, is the story of not only John Newton and Zacchaeus, but of everyone who authentically encountered Jesus Christ throughout the centuries – of all those who turned away from their evil ways and asked the Lord for His forgiveness and mercy! These converted individuals are people who came to the realization that life has fullest and truest meaning not by how rich we become, not by the high position we may attain in society, not by how many people we control, or by how many things we achieve, but by something much more profound. Life finds its deepest meaning when we encounter our Creator in an intimate manner and discover the life He has planned for us. Only after someone truly meets Christ will they discover the meaningful life of which Jesus spoke: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10).

The Zacchaeus story tells us that once we turn our lives over to Christ, we, too, can become new persons. In our own way, where God has placed us, we too can do great things for God and for people. St. Paul described this new beginning when he wrote the words, "So, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Zacchaeus. John Newton. Me. And YOU! Christ invites us all to encounter Him, to follow His way of life, and to discover the truly abundant life He promises to all!

Benefits of fixed-income investments



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

When many people think about investing, the first thing that comes to mind is the stock market. And that's not surprising, as the rise and fall of stock prices is constantly in the news. But if you're going to achieve your financial goals, you may well need to look beyond stocks and include fixed-income investments in your portfolio.

Fixed-income investments offer three important benefits:

Income – When you invest in fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds, Treasury securities and certificates of deposit (CDs), you receive regular income in the form of interest payments. And you continue to receive this income until your investment matures or you sell it, no matter what's happening in the financial markets. Of course, the income you can receive from fixed-income investments will always depend on the interest rates at which these investments were issued. But if you own a mix of long-term and short-term fixed-income investments, you can gain some protection against fluctuating rates. When market rates are low, you can get greater income from your longer-term bonds, which typically — although not always — pay higher rates. And when market rates rise, you can benefit by reinvesting the proceeds from your shorter-term bonds.

Diversification – If you were only to own stocks, or stock-based mutual funds, your portfolio would be susceptible to higher risks, especially with market downturns. But you may be able to reduce the impact of market volatility by adding fixed-income investments to your holdings. Bond prices often move in a different direction from stocks, so if stock prices are falling, you might find that the value of your bonds is rising. You can also diversify within the fixed-income portion of your portfolio by owning a mix of corporate and Treasury bonds, as well as CDs, just to name a few.

Stability – As mentioned, you will always receive interest payments from your bonds if you hold them until maturity. But if you wanted to sell your bonds before they mature, you could get more, or less, than what you originally paid for them. When market interest rates rise, the price of your current bonds will likely fall, as no one will pay you the full price for them when they get newer ones that pay more — this is what's known as interest-rate risk. Conversely, when market rates fall, the prices of your current bonds will probably rise. But here's the key point to remember: Bond prices generally don't fluctuate as much as stock prices. In other words, bonds are typically less volatile than stocks. Consequently, owning bonds can add diversification to your portfolio. And to maximize the stabilizing effects of bonds, you may want to stick with high-quality bonds rated as "investment grade" by independent bond-rating agencies.

How much of your portfolio should consist of fixed-income investments? There's no one right answer for everyone. And over time, your interest in these types of investments may well change — for example, as you near retirement, you may want to consider shifting some of your growth-oriented investments into income-producing ones, though you'll still need some growth potential to keep up with inflation. In any case, the combination of income, diversification and stability provided by bonds and similar securities should be compelling enough for you to find a place for them in your investment mix.

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

A night to remember

Last week, the Whitinsville Fish & Game Club held their annual Founders Day banquet. The event included a sold out prime rib dinner put on by President Matt Burbank and his committee. It was fantastic. After the meal, this writer was surprised with a plaque dedicating the club's trout pond in my name. I was totally surprised by the award, and was extremely appreciative of the award. This writer joined the club when I was only 10 years old, and was elected secretary of the club when I was 16.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

In later years, I continued as Secretary, and was on the board of directors for many years. I also served as president for a couple of years. After the club was incorporated, I remained an active



Courtesy
This week's first picture shows the plaque I received at the pond dedication.

member serving in numerous positions at the club including fish chairman. The clubhouse was located at Prentice Corner in a small patch of woods a couple hundred yards from the shore of the Meadow Pond. The activities at the club back then were BINGO parties and numerous suppers. Racoon and ham suppers were a big hit back then, with tickets to the supper selling for \$2. They were quickly sold out for every



The writer with his family on the big night.

supper. The club's cook was George Bramen back then, and he was famous for his turtle soup. Every year, snapper turtles were caught in the scenes of bait fishermen trying to catch shiners for local bait shops. The turtles were donated to the club almost on a weekly basis. Linwood Pond was the hot spot to seign for shiners back in the day.

The Clubhouse was later moved to a piece of property on White Court in Douglas that was purchased for land taxes. The approximately 100 acres has been the home of the WFGC for many years, and has a state of the art clubhouse built by many members of the club over the years. The Blackstone Valley Beagle Club used the club for a number of years prior to

moving to their own club in Douglas. The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club used Rileys Pond on Castle Hill Road in Whitinsville for many years. The former Whitins Machine Works owned Rileys pond and allowed the Whitinsville club to stock it with trout. I have a lot of great memories fishing at Rileys Pond, and my son Ralph JR. caught his first big brown trout there. Now, the Whitinsville Fish & Game Club has their own trout pond at their new location on White Court. Having my Granddaughter Andrea & her husband Chris, along with my two great grandchildren Eva and Logan and son Ralph, Jr. made four generations that were at the ceremonies making it that much more special. The Eastern States Expo at the Big E in Springfield will open their doors on Feb. 23-25! Attending the show every year is always a blast as we see old friends and acquaintances. The latest in fishing and hunting gear is always great to see, along with hunting

and fishing guides from around the world signing up sportsmen and women for that special outdoor adventure. Hope to see you there. Captain Mel True will be holding his annual fishing show again this year in Wareham! One day only! Towneplace Marriott, Wareham, MA, Buzzards Bay! April 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. New & used fishing tackle. A few tables available! Contact Mel at 1- 508-951-9991. 200 Sportsmen's club ice fishing derby cancelled for this weekend due to unsafe ice. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold their annual ice derby this Saturday for members only, ice permitting. The kitchen will be open for breakfast starting at 6 a.m., even if the derby needs to be canceled because of poor ice! Chef Bedard is planning a great breakfast for all in attendance. Come on down! Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

A Nostalgic Peek at Garden Folklore

The garden has long been a mystical place, where the wonder of nature's handiwork is apparent each harvest season. Given a garden's unpredictability it should come as no surprise that gardeners through the ages have tried to tempt fate through rituals and rhymes. As we anticipate the spring season (and the ground hog predicted an early spring!), it is fitting this column be dedicated to a sampling of garden folklore of tradition and tales.

“Weather” or Not: The weather plays a major role in planting success, and our forefathers had numerous anecdotes and rhymes to aid them in recalling nature's predictions. Here is an enter-

taining collection of phrases for you to ponder. Clear moon, frost soon. Cloudy mornings turn to clear afternoons. Halo around the moon, rain soon. Halo around the sun or moon, rain or snow soon. If you see the underside of the leaves in the gentle breeze, it will rain before your sneeze. Mare's tails and mackerel scales make tall ships take in their sails. No weather is ill when the wind is still. Pale moon doth rain, Red moon doth blow, White moon doth neither rain nor snow. Red skies at night, sailor's delight. Red skies at morning, sailors take warning. Smoke curling downward, poor weather.

When the stars begin to huddle, the earth will soon become a puddle. When your joints all start to ache, rainy weather is at stake. When a cow endeavors to scratch his ear, It means a rain shower is very near. When he thumps his ribs with an angry tail, Look out for thunder, lightning and hail. A year of snow, a year of plenty. Evening red and morning gray help the traveler on his way. Evening gray and morning red bring down rain upon his head.

Mantra of the Months: Certain months of the year bring curious clues as to Mother Nature's mood. Some of these vintage verses are oft repeated today.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

If February brings no rain, 'tis neither good for grass nor grain. If the grass do grow in Janiveer, it grows the worse for it all the year. In February, if thou hearest thunder, thou shalt see a summer wonder. A summer fog for fair, a winter fog for rain. A wet January, a wet spring. An April flood carries away both the frog and his brood. April showers bring May flowers. April weather: rain and sunshine both together. Beit weal or beit woe, bean blow before May doth go. A cold May and a windy, a full barn will find ye. If it thunders on All Fool's Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay. A peck of March dust is worth a king's ransom. March'll search ye, April try ye; May'll tell, whether live or die ye. A wet May makes a big load of hay. A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely. When April blows his horn, 'Tis good for both hay and corn. A cold and wet June spoils the rest of the year. A dripping June keeps all things in tune. A dry May and a leaking June, make the farmer whistle a merry tune. If the 24th of August be fair and clear, then hope for a prosperous autumn that year. In July, shear your rye. June damp and warm does the farmer no harm. Mist in May and heat in June will bring all things into tune. A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay. A swarm of bees in July

is not worth a fly. ** The Legend of Gazing Balls: Gazing balls, which are large shiny, reflective orbs that typically sit on a stand in the garden, have long been said to have protective powers. In the Victorian era, gazing balls were common sights in gardens. Legend has it evil spirits attempting to enter the garden were scared off by their own reflections in the gazing ball. Also called Witch Balls because witches were often the spirits to repel, the brilliant globes were also said to ward off misfortune and illness. Today, gazing balls have become an attractive addition to both formal and casual gardens. Set on a cement or metal stand, the orb allows a view of the entire garden with a single glance. **

Hummingbird Lore: The tiny hummingbird has a rich heritage steeped in Native American folklore. In Mayan lore, the hummingbird is the sun in disguise. A Mojave legend has a hummingbird flying up from the darkness of the inner earth to discover the world we now live in. The Taino tribe worship the hummingbird, believing it is a “sacred pollinator.” And the Chaymas of Trinidad also hold hummingbirds sacred, as it is thought the hummingbirds are their dead ancestors. Hummingbirds are a delightful addition to the modern garden, as they are not only wonderful to watch, they are valuable pollinators and insect predators. Growing flowers that produce nectar will attract the tiny birds, and hummingbird feeders ensure a plentiful flock of the tiny visitors. Hummingbirds are attracted to the following shrubs and flowers: Azalea; Bee Balm; Butterfly Bush; Canna;

Coral Honeysuckle; Flowering Quince; Four O'Clocks; Foxglove; Fuchsia ; Hosta; Impatiens; Morning Glory; Petunia; Trumpet Creeper; Yucca. If you use a hummingbird feeder, a homemade solution of nectar is an economic way to attract the birds. The general recipe is one part sugar to four parts water. Mixture should be boiled for about a minute to retard mold. The solution should be replaced at least once a week and it is imperative you keep the feeder clean. It is not necessary to add red food coloring to the water, as any red trim on the feeder will attract the birds. **

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough tips are received) 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 tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

African Americans attributed to the town of Ward during the American Revolution

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Would it surprise you to know that town of Ward had two African Americans who fought in the American Revolution credited to it? The month of February is Black History month and now would be a good time to talk about these men. The first is Cuffe Parks, who was a private. According to “Notes on Auburn's Revolutionary War Soldiers Collection,” which was compiled by former town historian, John J. Hartwell, the following description appears for Cuffe Parks, “Colored, age 16, height 5'11”, hair black, occupation farmer. 12 April 1781, on a list of men from Crowl's Co., Denny's Rgt for service in Continental Line per Resolve of 20 Dec 1780. No further record found. Note: Shubael LAMPHEAR (qv) appeared on the same list – he entered Vose's 1st Rgt. Mass. Line. [NOTE: Cuffee (or “Coffee”) is a common given name among mullattoes (sic) and blacks in Colonial America.] The listing compiled from Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War the entry for Cuffe Parks reads: Parks, “Cuffe.” Descriptive list of men raised in Worcester Co. to serve in the Continental Army, agreeable to resolve of Dec. 2, 1780, as returned by Seth Washburn, Superintendent; Capt. Crowl's co., Col. Donny's (Denny's) regt.; age, 16 yrs.; stature, 5 ft. 1 in.; complexion, black; occupation, farmer; engaged for town of Ward (Auburn); engaged April 12, 1781; term, during war. April 1781 there was the Battle of Petersburg in Virginia. The British invaded from Portsmouth and sailed up the James River to City Point where the Virginia militia held off the British and gave Lafayette time to entrench his army on Richmond Heights. No further information has been

found for Cuffe Parks, though town records were burned in a fire that happened on February 4, 1869 in the Congregational Church which housed the Town Hall in the basement. The second African American was Boston. In Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, which got the information from the Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls Vol. 41, page 173, his entry was: “List of men returned by a committee for settling disputes between towns as to soldiers credited to them, dated Barea, June 25, 1778; said Boston claimed by Shrewsbury; allowed to Ward: reported a negro.” But, according to the “Massachusetts Muster and Pay Rolls”, Vol 69 page 26 it states that Boston was a private of Capt. Sylvanus Smith's Co., of the 5th Mass. Regt. Boston's enlistment was May 17, 1781 for 3 years. The muster records also state that Boston was with Col. Rufus Putnam for July 1781 and on August 4, 1781 he was near Dobbs Ferry in Camp. Dobbs Ferry was where the Continental Army was encamped along with the French forces commanded by General Rochambeau. General Washington was hoping to find weakness in the British defense who were encamped 12 miles south of them. On Sept 1 he was listed in Camp Peekskill in New York. Peekskill was an important military base, and was used as a headquarters for American army officers in the Hudson Valley from 1776 through 1782. The area's advantages were its hilly defensive location, the bay view, and its industries available. In October, he was the Garrison at West Point until March 1782, this was after the incident with Benedict Arnold which happened in 1780. For April 1782 until January 1783 no camp is mentioned, but February had him reposted at West Point on command at the Block House. In March Boston is succeeded by Francis Cisco. No other information was found as to what happened to Boston. Neither men were buried in town.

Poets at Large women's writing workshop set for March 16

VERNON, Conn. — Poets at Large will hold a women's writing workshop on Saturday, March 16 at Arts Center East, 709 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon. Titled Springtide II, participants will bring three pieces of their writing (short stories or poetry) to share and discuss. The \$35 admission includes light refreshments and a chance on a give-away. There will also be writing exercises during the workshop which will run from 1-3 p.m. Arts Center East is ADA compliant. Send emails to karen.warinsky@gmail.com with questions or for information on how to reserve a spot. This workshop will be limited to ten women and is a project of Windham Arts.

Aircraft memorabilia

Fascination with flight dates back centuries. English cleric Roger Bacon wrote about mechanical flight around 1250 A.D., according to the Library of Congress. Leonardo da Vinci designed flying machines and a parachute from 1485 to 1500. The first aerial voyage took place in 1783 when Jean François Pilâtre de Rozier and Marquis d'Arlandes took flight in a Montgolfier hot-air balloon. Two years later in 1785, Jean-Pierre Blanchard and John Jeffries crossed the English Channel by balloon. DaVinci's parachute design was put to use in 1797, when André Jacques Garnerin made the first human parachute descent from a balloon.

Both powered flight and winged flight were being considered in 1843 when aeronautical engineering pioneer George Cayley published a biplane design. Henri Giffard used a steam engine to propel a cigar shaped aircraft in 1852. In 1891, Otto Lilienthal began successful gliding experiments and in 1895 he began flying his biplanes. Hu used split willow

framed wings covered with cotton, resembling bird wings. His biplane was considered the most influential winged aircraft prior to the Wright Brothers.

On Dec. 17, 1903, two brothers who owned a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio made the first airplane flight. Wilbur and Orville Wright flew a 12-horsepower gasoline engine powered aircraft for 12 seconds above the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Later in the 1900s, record-breaking pilots were considered heroes. Charles A. Lindbergh completed the first solo, nonstop trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly a solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight. Later in 1947, Charles E. Yeager's Bell X-1 became the first aircraft to exceed the speed of sound in level flight.

As you might expect, there are collectors who appreciate the history of



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We sold a program, ticket, and first day cover from the event for \$150 in our December 2022 auction. Some other early aviation medals sold well in our last auction this past January. A sterling silver 1919 New York Aeronautical Expedition commemorative medal sold for \$140 and a bronze medal commemorating Admiral Byrd's Flights over the Arctic and Antarctica sold for \$550.

As for more recent history, Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) was founded in 1927. It was considered to be the leading international carrier after World War II. In 1943, President

flight or have fond memories of airlines and collect airplane related memorabilia.

Locally, the "Worcester" Airport opened in North Grafton in 1927. Over 30,000 people witnessed stunt flyers, parachuters, and military pilots when the airport opened.

Franklin D. Roosevelt needed a plane to fly to a conference in Morocco and chose a Pan AM Boeing 314 Clipper. Other presidents including Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Richard Nixon also flew on Pan Am flights staffed by some of their finest employees. We auctioned memorabilia from the estate of a stewardess who flew with Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Nixon on their chartered flights. A signed Richard Nixon photo and other memorabilia sold for \$275. A 1950s or 1960s stewardess cap with pin brought \$350. A Pan Am clock shaped like an instrument panel landed at \$500 and three silver appreciation tokens from President Eisenhower soared to \$2,400.

We are accepting comic books, sports cards & memorabilia, and collectibles consignments for the next week. We are also accepting consignments for our multi-estate auction with gold jewelry, sterling silver, coins, art, antiques and collectibles. My "Evaluating your Antiques" class will be on March 5th at the Bay Path Evening



School in Charlton. I'll also be at the Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Connecticut on May 6. Please note the date correction from my last column. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to other upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Every loss holds a lesson

Loss is a part of everyone's life, as common as the air we breathe. It's one of those things we all face – the deep sadness of saying goodbye.

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It could be the final goodbye to a family member, a close friend, or someone else we hold dear. We know these moments are coming, but that doesn't make them any easier. They're like uninvited guests who show up, reminding us how precious our time is with the people we care about.

As a poet once said, "Sometimes, only one person is missing, and the whole world seems depopulated."

Then there's the kind of loss that sneaks up on us, the kind we don't talk about much. It's not about the unavoidable end of life but the relationships that drift apart because of what we do or don't do.

In these moments, we might lose someone and part of ourselves. This is particularly true when we invest so much in our relationships

that our identity diminishes. We can lose sight of who we are outside of these connections, and the loss of self can be as profound as the loss of the other.

Take, for instance, the time I lost a business partner. We clashed over a business decision that seemed unfairly balanced and not mutually beneficial to me. I tried to find a middle ground. I sought a compromise, hoping to preserve our partnership, but a compromise was outside his agenda. In the end, we had to part ways. Why did it happen? That's something I might never fully understand.

I also recall a friend who suddenly stopped talking to me. We used to spend a lot of time together – sharing meals, attending church, and just enjoying each other's company. Then, out of nowhere, he cut off all communication. I tried reaching out multiple times – calls, texts, emails – but got very little response. Four years passed before he started talking to me again. Even when I asked him about the reason for his long

silence, he never gave me a straight answer.

I was deeply in love with a woman who didn't share my feelings. Despite my persistent efforts over the years, her feelings didn't change. I may never fully understand why it didn't work out.

These experiences, though painful, remind us that not all losses seem preventable. In life, we're often faced with situations that are beyond our control. But what about the losses we might prevent?

Consider your relationships, not just with your spouse but also with your friends – are you nurturing these bonds with the care and respect they deserve?

Often, we take our closest relationships for granted, not realizing the value of what we have until there's a risk of losing it. The erosion of trust is a subtle yet profound form of loss, and it isn't confined to romantic relationships alone. It creeps in when we neglect our partners' and friends' needs, feelings, or expectations.

Once trust is damaged, whether in a marriage or a friendship, rebuilding it can be a long and challenging road.

And what about your customers? When we lose a customer, it's the loss of an opportunity to serve and to make a meaningful impact. Are you paying attention to their needs and expectations to contribute positively to their day or solve a problem they're facing?

Winning back a customer after they've left can be significantly more challenging than maintaining that relationship.

So, what can we do in the face of potential loss? We can strive to be kind, communicate openly, and cherish our time with those around us. We can work on being understanding and patient. And when someone steps back into our lives, we can welcome them with open arms, knowing that relationships are sometimes mysterious and require understanding.

Loss, in its many forms, is an inevitable

part of life. But each loss carries a lesson.

It's been said that you learn more from loss than you do from gain.

Ultimately, it's not just

about preventing loss; it's about embracing the learning and growing that comes from it. And that's a positive take on one of life's most challenging experiences.

Local students named to University of Hartford's President's List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Alek Popovich of Dudley and Isabella Sund of Auburn have been named to its President's List for Fall 2023.

The President's List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. This is the GPA that must be sustained over a full undergraduate career to qualify for a degree summa cum laude.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit hartford.edu to learn more.



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Retirees: Time to use a barbell? (No, not the weights)

Predicting where interest rates will be in the future is an extremely difficult task. Where will rates be 12 months from now? Higher? Lower? The same? Even professional economists with their proverbial crystal balls guess wrong. Nevertheless, it is important for retirees to consider the current interest rate environment when looking for ways to maximize their sources of retirement income.

During 2023 we watched the Federal Reserve dramatically raise rates in an effort to slow the economy and curb inflation. The chart below illustrates that dramatic increase.

Today, there is a general consensus amongst economists that we are at the end of this

tightening cycle, and we will likely see rates come down in the second half of 2024. Most notably, during their Dec. 12-13 Fed meeting, policymakers signaled the central bank would cut rates three times in 2024, confirming a pivot from prior rate hikes.

Against this backdrop, retirees are now left wondering how to position excess cash, CD's, bonds, and fixed income portfolios. It is no surprise one of the most common questions our clients ask us is, "How can we maximize our retirement income?"

One effective strategy for consideration is a "barbell approach". To use this approach an investor will pair a short-term fixed income instrument with a longer-term

FINANCIAL FOCUS

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

fixed income instrument. Here's a hypothetical example of a barbell in action:

Nancy has \$200,000 of assets she'd like to put to work. She places \$100,000 in a (12) month CD paying 5.05 percent* and the remaining \$100,000 in a (5) year fixed annuity paying 5.45 percent*

If interest rates fall over the next 12 months: Nancy will still have a portion of her money paying 5.45 percent* (the fixed annuity)

If interest rates rise over the next 12 month: her CD will mature and

she can reinvest that money at a potentially new (higher) rate

In summary, this approach can help retirees hedge against interest rate movements in either direction. And if rates are indeed near their peak, this strategy may help "lock in" a potentially attractive rate for longer.

If you would like to learn more about how The Capstone Planning Group assist clients with retirement income planning, or discuss our current rates, please contact our office at 508-764-0046 to speak with a professional.

About The Capstone Planning Group
The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank.

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*Interest rates quoted in this article are for educational purposes only. Interest rates change daily. This article is not a solicitation or recommendation to purchase any specific product. Guarantees offered on Fixed Annuities are subject to the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

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SPORTS

Shepherd Hill's suffocating defense leads to win over Patriots, provides automatic spot in State Tournament



Nick Ethier photos

Shepherd Hill's Heidi Jarosz taps the ball down the court during the game-opening jump ball opportunity.



Jaizzy Santiago of Shepherd Hill flings a pass over to her left side.



Shepherd Hill's Ashely Dickhaut applies tremendous defensive pressure while Olivia Marquis of North Middlesex attempts to inbound the ball.



Jillian Clarke of Shepherd Hill handles the ball while running the fast break.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — With three weeks of scheduled regular season games remaining, Shepherd Hill girls' varsity basketball head coach Maura Hackenson had a simple message to her team: "It's go time."

And with that proclamation, the Rams defeated Oakmont on Tuesday, Jan. 30 by a final of 52-39. And then, on Friday, Feb.

2, The Hill took care of
North Middlesex, 49-20.

The Rams' defense was suffocating against the Patriots. North Middlesex's life was made difficult as they tried to move the ball down the court. If they were able to do so, hoisting up a quality shot was uncommon. The Patriots' quarter scoring totals were all in single digits: 7, 3, 8 and 2. "We've gone through

a few defenses this year, trying to figure out what our main defense is going to be — we still haven't figured that out yet — we decided to go out in full man (to man pressure) tonight, trap when you can, and the girls did a really good job tonight," explained Hackenson. "We like to press and put pressure on people, and we're coming out ready."

The high-pressure

defense was certainly part of the game plan heading into the game against North Middlesex, a team they defeated by 23 points (48-25) earlier in the season.

"We definitely wanted to come out and play hard tonight. We wanted everyone to contribute, take care of the basketball, limit our turnovers, cause some chaos out there, and the girls took care of business," said Hackenson.

Eight Shepherd Hill players (Jaizzy Santiago, 13 points; Heidi Jarosz, 11; Kaitlyn Sullivan, 8; Gianna Neri, 6; Ashley Dickhaut, 5; Jillian

Clarke, 2; Shayley Szela, 2; Lily Connole, 2) found the score sheet on the offensive end.

"Real big emphasis on team basketball and the girls have really bought into it. Everyone's contributing every single night. We have assists all over the place," said Hackenson.

The victory moved the Rams' record to 10-5, while North Middlesex dropped to 3-10. The 10 wins means that The Hill has automatically qualified for the upcoming Division 2 State Tournament.

"We're very grateful to have 10 wins. People had

us pegged to win four," explained Hackenson. "We lost seven seniors and nine total players (from last season). They've meshed together in a short amount of time."

Hackenson noted that the Rams are also competing for the Mid-Wach B Division title. Shepherd Hill's lone loss in league play has come against Westborough — a team without a league loss as of press time — and they will play the Rangers in a rematch on Thursday, Feb. 8. A victory there would give the Rams a chance at sharing or winning the league.

Webster Little League Baseball Registration now open

Webster Little League 2024 Spring Baseball Registration is now open online at WebsterLittleLeague.com for boys and girls ages 5-16 (age on Aug. 31). Multiplayer discounts offered as well. Final day to register is Feb. 24.

Find us on Facebook at Webster Little League and online at www.WebsterLittleLeague.com. Don't forget to sign up for coaching and volunteer opportunities when registering — Especially Tee-Ball and Coach-Pitch parents!

Webster Little League Baseball is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Any questions, please email websterlittleleague@gmail.com.



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SPORTS

Offense comes together for Panthers, who dispatch Auburn



Auburn's Zack Wetzel surveys the floor while crossing the ball over the midcourt line.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — Pat O'Connor, head coach of the David Prouty boys' varsity basketball team, has two "magic numbers" when assessing a performance. "Any time in a high school game you give up under 50 and you get to 60, those are the two magic numbers," he explained.



After driving the ball into the paint, Brayden Martin of Auburn dishes a pass out to the corner.



Auburn's Colby Martin elevates to shoot a midrange jumper up and over the reach of a David Prouty defensive triple team.



Nathan Ikonya of Auburn attempts to beat the buzzer with a shot past the half-court line.

The Panthers checked off both boxes when playing at Auburn on Thursday, Feb. 1. They held the Rockets to 47 points and scored 65 themselves in an 18-point victory.

"I was happy with our offense and defense. I was happy, even with the offense that didn't produce," said O'Connor. "I thought we took really good shots. Some of our best possessions did not lead to points."

Prouty's offense was balanced, as the starting five did the bulk of the work, scoring all but two points. Alec Fournier led the way with 19 points, and he was followed by Jay Jay Neiray (15 points), Jayden Rubio (12 points on four 3-pointers), Noah LaTour (9 points) and Fred Neiray (8 points).

The Panthers led at all the stops (12-11 after one quarter, 30-21 at halftime and 52-33 through three) as they improved to 12-2.

"We're thrilled. We want more, but we're thrilled," said O'Connor, who noted that Prouty has won the league. "SWCL B is clinched, which was one of our goals."

Following the conclusion of the regular season, the Panthers will partake in the Clark Small Schools and Division 4 State Tournaments, where they will in all likelihood have decent seeds in both.

"We'll see what happens with the Clark and the State Tournament. No matter what, either tournament we're going to play a really good team in the first round," said O'Connor. "We want to have home games in the (State) Tournament. That's our goal, to get a high seed."

Auburn dropped to 4-10 following the loss.

"We're missing two starters, which is tough going into Prouty, a very well-coached team, a very experienced team, a team used to winning," said Dan Koen, head coach of the Rockets, who were without Billy Stewart and Jason Kahura. "We fought, we competed. Whenever we had to make a play, there was a lid on the hoop. Then they would come down and make the play. But the kids played hard and hard until the end."

Auburn has had an up-and-down 2023-24 season.

"The only thing we're consistent with is our inconsistency," said Koen, before providing a possible explanation. "We've got an inexperienced team in the sense that we do have a bunch of seniors, but we have a lot of seniors that don't have experience playing varsity basketball."

One of those players is Brayden Martin, one of the Rockets' top scorers, but he missed his junior season with an ACL injury.

Martin had 8 points

versus Prouty, as did Luke Martin and Zack Wetzel, while Tyler Kohler provided a team-best 9 points.

Koen is hoping for a good close to the season.

"I think we've got some winnable games, teams we've had some success against. So, we'll try to go out with a bang," said Koen.

MOHEGAN BOWL WINTER LEAGUES, WEEK ENDING FEB. 4

- Monday Men's Business
Single – Ryan Pelletier 152, PJ Janton 146, Tim Labay 134
Series – Ryan Pelletier 388, PJ Janton 378, Tim Labay 368
Series over average – PJ Janton +60
- Women's Ten Pin City
Single – Division 1 – Nicole Shepard 176
Division 2 – Charlene Hebert 136, Kelley Webb 115
Series – Division 1 – Natalie Wood 494, Donna Dziadula 373
Division 2 – Evelyn Rivera 408, Jessica Jacques 331
- Tuesday Chet's Social
Single – DJ Devish 124, Ryan Pelletier 118, Richard Girouard 115, Erin Van Dam 118, Patti Hurm 99, June Carpenter 92
Series – DJ Devish 345, Ryan Pelletier 333, Tom Smith 316, Erin Van Dam 279, Patti Hurm 270, June Carpenter 261
Series over average – DJ Devish +36, Patti Hurm +18
- Wednesday Women's Industrial
Single – Tara LaLiberte 119, Lynne Smith 109, Roberta Zacek 107
Series – Lynne Smith & Tara LaLiberte 303, Monique Pierangeli 285
Series over average – Jeanne Walker +49
- Summit Tenpin
Single – Division 1 – Butch Mattson 225
Division 2 – Carol Harvard 188
Series – Division 1 – Derek Reynolds 614
Division 2 – Joe Harvard 453
- Thursday Morning Coffee
Single – Jackie Arpin & Jeanne Carita 95, Jessica Agazarian & Pat Blake 93
Series – Jackie Arpin & Jeanne Carita 260, Donna Lewandowski & Pat Blake 259
Series over average – Elaine Timilty +30
- Thursday Men's Industrial
Single – Mike Therrien 124, Dean Gaboury & Roger Gauvin 118
Series – Roger Gauvin 339, Ryan Pelletier 328, Paul Urbanowski 309
Series over average – Roger Gauvin & Paul Urbanowski +42
- Thursday Mixed Tenpin
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SPORTS

Playing shorthanded, Pirates can't get past Leicester



Oxford's Cameron Small takes a slight step backward to create additional space versus Leicester.

LEICESTER — The Oxford boys' varsity basketball team was playing shorthanded when they took on Leicester back on

Tuesday, Jan. 30. Jordan DeLeon, Drew Martinez and Connor Fantasia, who all receive plenty of playing time in the rotation, were unavailable for

Oxford. The Pirates tried to not let that phase them as they came out of the gates hot and led, 15-11, after the initial eight-minute



Kofi Owusu of Oxford looks ahead while driving the ball into the lane.

quarter. Oxford's Nolan Remington scored 10 of his game-high 17 points in the frame. The slim roster may have hampered the Pirates the rest of the way, though, as Leicester outscored them 12-4 in the second quarter and 16-8 in the third as the

Wolverines led at half-time, 23-19, and through three quarters, 39-37. Oxford did win the fourth quarter, 11-8, but it wasn't enough as they fell by a score of 47-38. Brady Margoupis, a 1,000-point scorer for the Pirates, did play, but he was returning from a

sickness and has been wearing a face mask during game action due to a broken nose. Margoupis drained a deep 3-pointer early but was limited to just 7 points. Oxford dropped to 6-8, while Leicester improved to 3-12.



Oxford's Cam Lavallee leaps to catch a pass thrown his way down in the paint.



Brady Margoupis of Oxford breaks away from defensive pressure provided by Leicester's Mason Griffiths.

Auburn co-op hockey battles hard in close loss to Longmeadow



Auburn's Elizabeth Rudge controls the puck as she skates down the ice.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — The Auburn girls' varsity co-op ice hockey team opened and closed the month of January with contests against

Longmeadow. First, the Rockets lost a 4-2 decision to the Lancers on Jan. 1 at Smead Arena. Then, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, Auburn again did battle with Longmeadow, this time at Horgan Arena.



Auburn's Izzy Spencer dumps the puck into Longmeadow's zone.



Rachel Bowman of Auburn follows through upon the release of her shot on net.

The Rockets fell just short in this one as well, 5-3. "They're a powerhouse," Auburn head coach Peter LaPrad said of the Lancers. "They're a very good program, and for us to compete at that level in both games, we're thrilled. They're a very veteran team, a lot of upperclasswomen, and we're a very young team. It's a great compete for us." The Auburn co-op, which also includes student-athletes from Tantasqua, Grafton, Shepherd Hill, Northbridge, Sutton and select Worcester schools, dropped to 6-9-1, while Longmeadow improved to 9-2. "I want to play tough teams, I want to play strong teams, because we need to learn how to win against strong

teams," said LaPrad of his team that consists of two seniors, five juniors, five sophomores and 10 freshmen. The Lancers were ranked No. 5 in the Division 2 Power Rankings as of Friday, Feb. 2, proving how strong of a team they are. But it was the Rockets who struck first, as Leah Medeiros won a faceoff and Alice Peck collected the puck. Peck's casual backhand got past Longmeadow goalie Nicole Pollard (11 saves), as Auburn took a 1-0 lead less than two minutes into the contest. "Any shot on net is a good shot," said LaPrad. "The other thing that I'm thrilled about it is I feel like we have the most talent we've ever had in our history. What we're doing is more advanced stuff,

we have systems that we put in place where we're doing things in certain circumstances, and that was one of them." After Longmeadow tied the game at 1-1 later in the period on a goal by Ava Saunders, the game moved to the second period. There, the Lancers grabbed a 2-1 lead early when Milana Shuman's snap shot slipped past Auburn goalie Alex Corey. The Rockets wasted little time tying the score, though, as two-plus minutes later Izzy Spencer and Elizabeth Rudge worked a two-on-one to perfection, with Rudge sliding a centering pass to Spencer, whose shot beat Pollard. Unfortunately for Auburn, the Lancers' Amelia Hanke, Margo Watkins and Molly

Henshon all scored later in the second period as they moved to the third leading, 5-2. The Rockets did score early in the third to trim the deficit down to 5-3. It was another two-on-one opportunity, this time featuring Maddi Leonard and Olivia Viens, for the goal. Leonard started the play with a right-to-left pass to Viens, who then quickly passed back to Leonard; Leonard's shot then beat Pollard. "With all the talent, the next step is the chemistry. The chemistry exists off the ice and on the ice. And those two goals were very good examples of chemistry on the ice," LaPrad said of the two-on-one goals. LaPrad was proud of the way Corey played in net, as she finished with 34 saves. Corey, a freshman, has been getting spot starts to give normal starter Tori Horne, a senior, a break. "She's the future for us for sure. Alex, I've been throwing her in in tough pressure situations, and she does great," explained LaPrad. Despite the sub-500 record, the Rockets are still in playoff consideration for the Division 2 State Tournament. The top 32 teams automatically qualify, and in the Feb. 2 rankings Auburn was No. 31. "We definitely want to get in, for sure. Who you play is critical, and this will help us. That's the goal," LaPrad said of making the State Tournament.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE, NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE, Premises: 195 Leicester Street, Auburn, Massachusetts 01501, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mark W. Hunter to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Homecomings Financial Network, Inc., dated July 25, 2005, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 36958 at Page 193, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated June 1, 2012, and recorded with said Registry in Book 49875 Page 330, as further affected by Modification Agreement date September 24, 2018, and recorded with said Registry in Book 59732, Page 156, as further affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated February 16, 2021, and recorded with said Registry in Book 67277 Page 57, as further affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated January 25, 2023, and recorded with said Registry in Book 69112, Page 122, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to GMAC Mortgage, LLC, dated August 26, 2010, and recorded with said Registry in Book 46230 at Page 143, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from GMAC Mortgage, LLC to Green Tree Servicing, LLC, dated August 22, 2013, and recorded with said Registry in Book 51414 at Page 260, as affected by a corrective assignment of mortgage from GMAC Mortgage, LLC to Green Tree Servicing, LLC, dated October 15, 2016, and recorded with said Registry in Book 56362 at Page 240, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from DiTech Financial, LLC s/b/m to Green Tree Servicing, LLC to MTGLQ Investors, L.P., dated September 21, 2016, and recorded with said Registry in Book 56362 at Page 244, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from MTGLQ Investors, L.P. to US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust, dated June 10, 2020, and recorded with said Registry in Book 62702 at Page 218, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust to Fay Servicing, LLC, dated August 15, 2023, and recorded with said Registry in Book 69547 at Page 185, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Fay Servicing, LLC to Amos Financial, LLC, dated August 15, 2023, and recorded with said Registry in Book 69568 at Page 350, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the 20th day of February, 2024 at the mortgaged premises located at 195 Leicester Street, Auburn, MA 01501, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit: The land in Auburn on the westerly side of Leicester Street, further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northerly corner of the premises hereof at land now or formerly of one Bengston; THENCE S. 18 deg. 50' 10" W. by said Bengston's land one hundred and ten (110) feet to a point; THENCE S. 37 deg. 33' E. eighty-three and 24/100 (83.24) feet to a point; THENCE N. 48 deg. 36' 40" E. by land now or formerly of Clarence and Lillian M. Hunter, one hundred three and 17/100 (103.17) feet to a point on Leicester Street; THENCE N. 41 deg. 23' 20" W. by Leicester Street, fifty-one and ninety-five (51.95) feet to WCH bound; THENCE continuing by said Leicester Street, N. 42 deg. 48' 30" W. eighty-five and 75/100 (85.75) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 11,050 square feet of land more or less. For Mortgagor's title, see deed dated May 19, 2004, and recorded in Book 33756, at Page 389 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by

certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, NY 10004, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. Amos Financial LLC, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004
January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Angela T. Ciccone to Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., dated February 23, 2007 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40741, Page 121 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing is the present holder by Assignment from Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. to Green Tree Servicing LLC dated April 15, 2013 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 51022, Page 19, and Assignment from Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing, LLC to New Residential Mortgage, LLC dated January 22, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61780, Page 157, and Assignment from New Residential Mortgage, LLC to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing dated May 19, 2021 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 65227, Page 300, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 14 Preston Avenue, Auburn, MA 01501 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00 PM on February 28, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
Two parcels in Auburn with the buildings thereon bounded and described as follows:
FIRST PARCEL: A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon situated on the southwesterly side of Preston Avenue in said Auburn, and being a part of lot numbered One Hundred and twenty-two (122) on Warden and Phelps plan of "Elm Hill Lots" recorded with Worcester District Deeds, Book 1339, Page 653, and bounded as follows to wit: BEGINNING at a point on the southwesterly line of Preston Avenue at corner of lot numbered 123; THENCE southwesterly by lots numbered 123, 124 and 125 One Hundred and Fifty-five (155) feet to a corner of land now or formerly of Exaverie Gaucher; THENCE northwesterly by a line parallel with Preston Avenue Fifty-Five (55) feet by said Gaucher's land to a coenr of lot numbered 121; THENCE northeasterly by lot numbered 121 One Hundred and Fifty-five (155) feet to said southwesterly line of Preston Avenue; THENCE southeasterly by said line of Preston Avenue Fifty-five (55) feet to a place of beginning.
SECOND PARCEL: A certain lot or parcel of land, situated at Elm Hill in said Auburn, bounded and described as follows, to wit; BEGINNING at a point on the southwest line of Preston avenue two hundred and twenty feet from the southwest corner of Field Street and said Avenue; THENCE by line of lot One Hundred Twenty-two (southwesterly) one hundred and sixty-five (165) feet to a point; THENCE northwesterly by line of lot One Hundred and twenty, fifty-five (55) feet to a point; THENCE northeasterly by line of lots one hundred seventeen, one hundred eighteen, and one hundred nineteen, One Hundred sixty-five (165) feet to a point on the said Preston Avenue; THENCE southeasterly by line of said Preston Avenue, fifty-five (55) feet to a place of beginning
BEING all of Lot #121 on said plan. For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39335, Page 90.
The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in

possession.
Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Ciccone, Angela T., 18-032748
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024
February 16, 2024

Request for sealed bid-Chain link fence

Please be advised this letter represents a request for sealed bids for the Town of Webster Water & Sewer Department to purchase and install 400' of 6 foot galvanized chain link fence with one 10' double door gate at 26 Park Road, Webster, MA.
Please submit sealed bids to Webster Water & Sewer Department located at 38 Hill Street, Webster, MA 01570. Deadline for response is February 15th at 1:00 pm. Bids may also be delivered by fax to: 508-949-3868 or by email at: kdoyle@webster-ma.gov Questions please call 508-949-3865 Ext. 2. Please note the work maybe subject to prevailing wages.
The site can be seen Monday thru Friday between 7:30am and 2:30pm by contacting Sam Yacino at 508-949-3861, ext 1032.
February 9, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 13 Piasta Road, Dudley, MA 01571
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mabel Ann Hurley A/K/A Ann M. Hurley to Graystone Tower Bank, and now held by **Mortgage Assets Management, LLC**, said mortgage dated October 6, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47950, Page 110, said mortgage was assigned from Graystone Tower Bank to MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, NA by assignment dated October 12, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 48470, Page 205; said mortgage was assigned from MetLife Home Loans, A Division of MetLife Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated August 20, 2012 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 49665, Page 199; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage, LLC to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company by assignment dated February 3, 2016 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 54918, Page 258; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage Company to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by assignment dated August 13, 2018 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 59252, Page 328; said mortgage was assigned from The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage by assignment dated December 17, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 61685, Page 267; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage Company to Mortgage Assets Management, LLC by assignment dated May 31, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 67786, Page 264; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage to Mortgage Assets Management, LLC by assignment dated July 14, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 67960, Page 384; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on March 13, 2024 at 03:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land situated on the westerly line of Piasta Road, in the Town of Dudley, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being Lot 10 on plan

recorded in Plan Book 477, Plan 27, and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof at an iron pin on the westerly line of said Piasta Road, said pin being 371.39 feet northwesterly of the County highway bound at the westerly line of Oxford Road, so-called, as measured along the westerly line of Piasta Road; THENCE South 70 degrees 59' West, by land of grantor, for a distance of 634.39 feet to a point at land of grantor; THENCE North 80 degrees 30' West, by land of grantor, for a distance of 128.00 feet to a point at land of grantor; THENCE North 3 degrees 00' East, by land of grantor, for a distance of 95.99 feet to a point at land of grantor; THENCE North 70 degrees 59' East, by land of grantor, for a distance of 710.92 feet to an iron pin on the westerly line of said Piasta Road; THENCE South 19 degrees 01' East, by the westerly line of said Piasta Road, for a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning. CONTAINING 2.45 acres. RESERVING the right for public road on 17-foot easement, westerly of and parallel to the westerly line of said Piasta Road. SUBJECT to restrictions as set forth and as referenced in an instrument dated May 15, 1981 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 7230, Page 303, as the same may still be in force and applicable to locus. BEING THE SAME PREMISES conveyed to Joseph D. Hurley (deceased) and Mable Ann Hurley by Deed of Huguenot Development Corporation dated May 15, 1981 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 7230, Page 303. EXCEPT AS TO THIS LENDER AND THIS LENDING TRANSACTION, FOR WHICH MY RIGHT OF HOMESTEAD SPECIFICALLY IS WAIVED, MORTGAGOR EXPRESSLY RESERVES MY RIGHT OF HOMESTEAD (BOOK 18267, PAGE 76) AND DOES NOT TERMINATE MY HOMESTEAD BY GRANTING THE WITHIN CONVEYANCE.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 15, 1981 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 7230, Page 303.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Mortgage Assets Management, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701

January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024

Notification of Community Outreach Meeting
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40a Section 11 that Webster Cannabis Company LLC, of 4 Town Forest Road, Webster, MA, 01570, will be conducting a community Outreach Meeting intended for a Adult Use Marijuana Retail Establishment License, seeking to provide Marijuana and Marijuana Infused Products to adults over the age of 21.
A Community Outreach Meeting will take place at 4 Town Forest Road, Webster, MA, 01570, on Thursday, February 15th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
All interested parties are invited to be present. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions at the end of the presentation.
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024

For Legal Advertising Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

Seniors named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School congratulates the following grade 12 students on being named to the honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

High Honors
Kaidra Anderson, Sophia Balestraci, Vincent Brink, Rachel Carpenter, Meredith Clark, Kirsten Congdon, Mariselle Cosme, Emma Davidson, Dylan DeJesus, Emma DeJong, Kacey Flanagan, Jenna Gajewski, Makayla Graham, Tristan Hanson, James Heywood, Carly Impey, Anna Lehtola, Kristina Liberty, Catherine Magnusson, Shaun McLaughlin, Maggie Mullaly, Kayla Nguyen, Peter Nhan, Madison Nolin, Avelyn O'Brien, Nason Omasta, Noalani Perez, Wendy Ramirez, Paige Seymour, Catherine Sirard, Jacob Sirard, Victoria Tinsley, Hailey Williamson, Gabrielle Zopatti

Honors
Alexander Adkins, Kasey Babkauskas, Colton Beauchamp, Alyesia Bellamy, Alex Beshiri, Luke Boliver, Caroline Borgeson, Andrew Bousquet, Emma Bransky, Ryan Bray, Gabriella Cabrera, Olivia Carrier, Madyson Chicoine, Charles Chivallatti, Natalie Cierpich, Jomar

Cintron Perez, Petru Cojocaru, Yanieris Colon Vega, Shane Conti, Richard Corriveau, Zachary Cournoyer, Peter Courville, Kyleigh Czechowski, LeeAnn Dagnese, Daniel Daige, Wyatt Daoust, Jeffrey Denham, Dylan Dietlin, Marissa Dumas, Jayden-James Dunston, Jibril Erraihani, James Ferreira, Robert Fleck IV, Jonathan Forget, Nicholas Gagne, Ethan Gallant, Giovanni Garcia, Devin Gavaletz, Jacob Goodspeed, Rachel Gormley, Simon Greening, Lucas Hafner, Bridget Hast, Riley Heenan, Alba Henriquez Baez, Isabelle Herholz, Valerie Hernandez, Tessa Howard, Caitlin Hubbell, Ian James, Stanislaw Janusz, Eva Jerez, Jady N Katz, Abigail Kibaru, Jordan Kippax, Madisyn Kozlowski, Matthew Lach, Braeden LaPointe, Benjamin LaTour, Emma Lefasseur, Damon Lopez, Radiel Lopez, Albert Luciano, Patrick Luperchio, Hannah Luukko, Sarah Martin, Jenna McLeish, Vincent Messier, Macaylah Miller, Cole Mitchell, Leah Monti, Adrianna Navarro, Christian Nguyen, Alix Norman, Megan O'Shea, Noah Okolita, Brayden Parente, Esteban Pimentel, Colon Plante, Laci Pollone, Jared Powell, Logan Powers, Evan Provost, Emily Quental, Jacob Reed, Gabriela Rivera Burgos, Victoria Roberts, Margaret Russell, Samantha Russell, Luchia Sargent, Caterina Schiappa, Amanda Seidler, Sydney Seymour, Ryan Sinkewicz,

Jason Sinkis, Gerald Splaine, Adriana Stanley, Ashton Stockenberg, Brady Suprenant, Kyle Sylwanovicz, Isabella Taiste, Jack Ugrinow, Landon Walker, Natalie Walker, Ryleigh Warchal, Timothy Welch, Thomas Wilk, Ryley Williams, Sebastian Winer, Charlotte Worster, Stone Zink

Principal's List
Juliana Alcivar, Jacob Anderson, Hailey Benoit, Samuel Brill, Kayla Brown, Caitlyn Burke, Rayanla Castillo, Karoline Corpes Diaz, Pedro Augusto Dasilva, Deanna Davis, Nyasia Delgado, Noah Dupont, William Dwyer, Janelle Ethier, Jared Evora, Arianna Flores, Chase Forehand, Joseph Fritze, Jesse Gillet, Sabien Gonzalez, Renee Hallaman, Nathan Josey, Alyssa Kutzko, Abigayle Linde, Jadier Maldonado, Ava Marotta, Marissa Masciarelli, Matteo Mastrototaro, Gianna Pantalone, Sylas Perreault, Nicholas Pollone, Ismael Porrata, Daniel Russell, Cody Savary, Cody Sexton, Madison Sibert, Brady Staniunas, Alysha Szafarowicz, Christopher Verdolino

Editor's note: Due to space limitations, the honor rolls for the junior, sophomore, and freshman classes will appear in future editions.

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Catherine E. Mallette to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as Nominee for Irwin Union Bank and Trust Company dated May 7, 2007, recorded with Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 41232, Page 278, which mortgage was assigned to ARCPE 1 LLC by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 18, 2022, recorded in Book 68042, Page 131, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 23rd day of February, 2024, at the mortgaged premises described below, being known as 158 Leicester Street, Oxford, MA all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

All that certain parcel of land situated on the easterly side of Leicester Street in Oxford, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof at an iron pipe driven in the ground on the easterly line of Leicester Street and also being the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Eben and Stella S. Dickie, and said pipe is located 499.8 feet southerly, measured along the easterly line of said street, from a cement boundary post at the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Comins and Co. from said pipe;

THENCE by land now or formerly of said Eben and Stella S. Dickie S. 88° 58' E., four hundred thirty-six and one tenth (436.1) feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground;

THENCE by land now or formerly of D. Russell Taft, S. 3° 20' W., ninety-three and seventy hundredths (93.70) feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground;

THENCE by land now or formerly of D. Russell Taft, S. 6° 06' W., eleven and six tenths (11.6) feet to a stake at other land now or formerly of D. Russell Taft;

THENCE by land now or formerly of D. Russell Taft, N. 88° 55' W., four hundred thirty-nine and six tenths (439.6) feet more or less to an iron pipe driven in the ground on the easterly line of aforesaid Leicester Street;

THENCE by the easterly line of said street, N. 6° 10' E., one hundred five (105) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 46,614 square feet, more or less.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Grace L. Mallette recorded with Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 15527, Page 115.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The Mortgagee further reserves the right to open the bidding at the time, date and place appointed for sale, and if no bids are received, or the bids received are deemed unacceptable to Mortgagee, to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation.

Said premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens and other public taxes, assessments or liens, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell

the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with Mortgagee's attorneys the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to said second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.

TERMS OF SALE: Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be required to bid and be paid in cash or by certified check at the time and place of sale as earnest money. The balance is to be paid in cash or by certified check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale at the offices of Murphy & Lupan, P.A., 5 Commonwealth Road, Natick, Massachusetts 01760. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of any typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

ARCPE 1, LLC

Present holder of said mortgage,

By its attorney,

Michael J. Murphy, Esq.

Murphy & Lupan, P.A.

5 Commonwealth Road

Natick, MA 01760

Tel: (508) 650-9252

January 26, 2024

February 2, 2024

February 9, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate

and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO11P3857EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

David Mrazik

Date of Death: 08/15/2011

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

JoAnn E. Nelson of Oxford MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

JoAnn E. Nelson of Oxford MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/05/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: January 31, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 9, 2024

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL

COURT

Docket Number: 24 SM 000466

ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Jessica Figueroa Rodriguez

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 8 Pine Street, given by Jessica Figueroa Rodriguez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, dated December 17, 2021, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66778, Page 280, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated April 26, 2023, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69158, Page 249, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before March 18, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief

Justice of this Court on February 1, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

25175

February 9, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael J. Eggleston, Tracy L. Eggleston to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated October 28, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37682, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns to Ally Bank, recorded on January 27, 2020, in Book No. 61798, at Page 86

Ally Bank to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., recorded on May 7, 2021, in Book No. 65117, at Page 185

J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as Trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust, recorded on May 7, 2021, in Book No. 65117, at Page 188

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as Trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust to Goldman Sachs Mortgage Company, recorded on October 22, 2021, in Book No. 66359, at Page 84

Goldman Sachs Mortgage Company to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, recorded on September 27, 2022, in Book No. 68269, at Page 283

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on February 23, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 34 Eastern Avenue, Unit K, The Townhouses at 45 Eastern Avenue

Condominium, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts on the West side of Eastern Avenue and shown on "Plan of Land in Webster, Massachusetts Townhouses at 45 Eastern Avenue 'As Built' Plans prepared for Gosselin Builders, Inc." dated April 1, 1991 and prepared by Robert W. Kilmartin and recorded at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 647 Plan 112 and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the most northeasterly corner of the premises herein described at the point in the center line of Eastern Avenue;

THENCE S. 01° 00' 00" E. 174 feet by land now or formerly of the Town of Webster to a point;

THENCE S. 88° 31' 00" W. 329.7 feet to a point;

THENCE N. 01° 29' 12" E. 174.26 feet by land now or formerly of the Town of Webster to a point;

THENCE N. 88° 31' 00" E. 321.57 feet to the point of beginning.

The above premises is subject to the following:

1. Subject to rights of others in Eastern Avenue as shown on said plan.

2. Subject to easements to New England Telephone and Telegraph Company and Massachusetts Electric Company as noted on plan recorded in Plan Book 561, Plan 3.

3. Easement for underground electric distribution system granted to Massachusetts Electric Company dated January 3, 1989 and recorded January 19, 1989 in Book 11879, Page 283.

Property Address: Unit K, Townhouses at 45 Eastern Avenue Condominium, Webster, MA

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37681, Page 378.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

24111


February 2, 2024

February 9, 2024

February 16, 2024

OBITUARIES

Judith Ann Gremo, 77



Judith Ann Gremo 77 of Webster died peacefully at Webster Manor Rehabilitation & Health Care Center with her daughter by her side after a period of failing health on January 29, 2024.

Judith was born on November 9, 1946 in Holden Massachusetts, the daughter of the late Antonio Gremo and the late Angela Lena (Natolo) Gremo.

Judith's passions included the study of languages, she loved to play board and card games, she loved arts and crafts; partaking in needlepoint, sketching, and painting but most of all was an avid daughter of God through daily Bible study.

Prior to retirement in 2012 she was a sales associate at Marshalls.

Judith is survived by her daughter Michele Blajda and her husband Donald, her two grandchildren: Ryan

Blajda and his wife Danica, Petty Officer Third Class (USCG) Madeline Cain and her husband Petty Officer Third Class (USCG) Gawain. Judith loved being a great grandmother to Parker Janele Blajda and Baker James Blajda. In addition to her parents, Judith is predeceased by her beloved canine companion Angel.

The family would like to express sincere gratitude to her caregivers at Webster Manor, with special appreciation to Ester and the staff of Hospice of Western and Central Massachusetts for her peaceful journey to her beloved God and canine companion Angel.

At Judith's request there will be no calling hours. A mass of Christian burial will be a private family event at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Judith's name to Dog Orphans, Inc., 90 Webster street, Douglas, Massachusetts 01516

James Edward Gouin


Webster/Uxbridge- James Edward Gouin, a decorated Navy veteran, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his devoted wife and daughter on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

James is survived by his loving wife of thirty-five years, Lorene (Bacon) Gouin and three daughters: Jenna E. Gouin of Webster, who was his caregiver and advocate; Christine Ozolins of Dudley; and Jaime Teodoro of Worcester. He is also survived by his brother and best friend, Kenneth "Moose" Gouin of North Uxbridge and his sister, Patricia Daley of Broomfield, CO. He leaves behind three grandchildren: Camryn, J.J. and Leah, as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family. He is survived by several childhood, close friends whom he considered his brothers: Robert "Rex" Matte, Joe Sabatino, Bob "Coon" Dalbec, Mark "Hanky" Pasiczniak, Ron "Louchy" Castonguay and Dennis "Dino" Bombara. In addition, he leaves his beloved family felines: Jagger and Faithful, who lovingly comforted him on some of his most difficult days. He was predeceased by his son, Jonathan Gouin, and brother-in-law, Timothy Daley.

Born in Whitinsville, MA on July 17, 1948, he was the son of Edward J. "Sonny" and Lena M. (Furno) Gouin. He graduated from Uxbridge High School in 1966, where he was an outstanding gymnast and baseball player, and immediately enlisted in the United States Navy. He then served aboard the U.S.S. Everett F. Larson from 1967-1970 during the Vietnam War and traveled through the South Pacific.

James spent many years working in the textile industry at various mills including Stanley Woolen, Stevens Linen, and Anglo Fabrics. He was a mail handler at the United States Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center in Shrewsbury; he retired after twenty-six years of service in 2014. Shortly after retirement, he worked part time for Tri-Valley Inc. and delivered Meals on Wheels. This job brought him tremendous joy and, in true James fashion, he made many friends along his route.

Jim's love language was food. If you were lucky to know him, chances are you were fortunate enough to receive one of his many tasty creations. During



the warmer months, you could find him outdoors in front of his smoker while he made his world-famous batches of beef jerky or smoked roast beef. There was nothing he enjoyed more than cooking and bringing his family and friends together for meals. When he wasn't hard at work in front of his smoker, you could often find him tending to his hot pepper plants on the patio.

James had several passions in his life, but none as deep-rooted as his undying love for his New England sports teams. On weekends, you would find him with his brother and closest friends watching whatever games were on, enjoying some great food and cocktails. Another highlight of his days was his afternoon stops at Empire Wok for a Mai Tai; there, he would often bring snacks in to share and visit with his friends. Wherever he went, he brought an energy that was infectious and a smile that could warm your heart. For everyone who knew and loved Jim, our lives will be forever changed; he will be missed more than words can ever be conveyed.

Jim was extraordinarily privileged to be cared for by Dr. Jeff Barnes and Dr. Jorg Dietrich, along with the entire Lymphoma and Neuro-Oncology Service and Lunder 9 nursing staff, of Massachusetts General Hospital. The Gouin family is forever indebted to the world-class care they provided Jim.

Calling hours at Tancrell-Jackman Funeral Home, 35 Snowling Rd., Uxbridge were Wednesday, February 7th from 10 to 11:30 am. His graveside funeral service followed in St. Mary's Cemetery in Uxbridge. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Lymphoma Research Fund (208335) specifically for CAR-T/Cellular Therapy efforts in Lymphoma. Donations can be made by visiting: <https://giving.massgeneral.org/donate/james-gouin/>

To leave a condolence message for his family please visit <http://www.jackmanfuneralhomes.com>

Joan E. Flagg, 83



OXFORD – Joan E. (Ryan) Flagg, 83, died Monday, January 29, 2024, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Charles E. Flagg; two children, Cathy J. Bennett and her husband Richard of Oxford, and Chuck M. Flagg and his wife Kathleen of Holland; three step-children, William R. Smith and his wife Beatrice of Illinois, Phillip C. Smith and his wife Jennifer of Tennessee, and Wendy J. Anderson of Kentucky; her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Briggs and her husband Clifford of Oxford; 11 grandchildren, Justin, Derrick, and Andrew Bennett, George, Devin, and Bradford Flagg, Jessica Wales, Richard Chaffee, Brian Niekirk, Heidi and Tammy Anderson; 11 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and good friends. She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Maurice J. and Rita A. (Pelletier) Ryan, and lived in Worcester and Oxford before moving to Florida for 30

years. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1957.

Mrs. Flagg worked as a school bus driver for Cazeault Bus Company in Oxford. Later, she worked at WCIS Bank in Oxford for five years, and worked alongside her husband at Flagg's Service Station in Oxford for many years. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in Oxford, and served on the church's Diaconate. While in Florida, she was a member of the Mustang Club, and enjoyed playing cards and WII bowling on Tuesday nights. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed boating, fishing, puzzles, and working in her yard. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. She will be greatly missed by her family, and will be remembered as a woman who enjoyed life to the fullest.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church, P.O. Box 585, 355 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540, or to the Boston Children's Hospital Trust, 401 Park Drive, Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

QCC student finds community and more with Veteran Affairs Office



Courtesy
Tom Vincent with the scooter gifted to him by Quinsigamond Community College Veteran Affairs.

WORCESTER — Taking the plunge into higher education after 50 years out of school may not be for the faint of heart, but for Quinsigamond Community College student and veteran Tom Vincent, the support of QCC's Veteran Affairs department has made all the difference in his confidence and academic success.

"Before I was in school, I was depressed. But the staff and students in Veteran Affairs took me out of that depression and got me excited about school," Vincent said. "The atmosphere in the Veterans Affairs Office is fantastic. We've all been through similar experiences, no matter which branch of the military we were in."

After graduating high school in 1972, Vincent enlisted in the army during the Vietnam War. While his unit didn't end up deploying to Vietnam, they spent years training, which Vincent

described as life changing. When Vincent finished his service, he said it was an obvious choice to immediately start working because going to college wasn't an expectation for people in his family.

After decades of working in multiple industries, Vincent wanted to go back to school so he could pursue a career as a virtual bookkeeper. Due to limited physical mobility, he thought a remote bookkeeping job could allow him the flexibility he needs to work from home and take breaks as needed.

Vincent tried enrolling in college a few times before the fall of 2023 but often backed out. However, last September, he officially started classes at QCC. He ended up withdrawing from his courses because he didn't feel ready to navigate some of the online aspects, but signed up again this spring and is determined to complete the classes this semester.

Since starting at QCC, the Veteran Affairs office has become a source of community as Vincent navigates higher education. After telling QCC's Director of Veteran Affairs, Matthew Casaubon, that he was having issues walking to his classes, Casaubon obtained a scooter for Vincent to make it easier to navigate campus.

"No one has ever done anything like that for me before and I'm not used to accepting help. But the joy it gave me...I smiled so hard my cheeks hurt," Vincent said when the scooter was delivered to him.

While Vincent said they even helped him find an agency to install new rain gutters on his house, it is the friendly people he talks to on campus that make him feel like part of a community.

According to Casaubon, the Veteran Affairs office has also provided food, clothing, laptops and other assistance to QCC's veterans.

"We are building a community where veterans can feel they are valued and supported," Casaubon said.

"I would never have come back to school if it wasn't for the Veteran Affairs office," Vincent added.

LEGALS

LEGALS

continued from page A15

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Thomas J. McGee to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated April 2, 2008 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 42660, Page 73, subsequently assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 53257, Page 345, subsequently assigned to Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC by JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 56832, Page 56, subsequently assigned to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2019-1 by

Specialized Loan Servicing LLC by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61723, Page 43 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on February 16, 2024 at 14 Clarence Street, Oxford, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: A certain parcel of land located in a subdivision entitled, "Corey Estates". Said parcel being shown as Lot 6R on a plan entitled "Plan of Land Showing Revised Lots 2-8 in Oxford, Massachusetts Owned by Dennis M. Corey, Sr." dated June 17, 1993 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 673, Plan 108 and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the south-easterly corner of the lot to be conveyed at a point on Clarence Drive; THENCE along a curve to the left with a radius of 278.10 feet a distance of 8.88 feet; THENCE proceeding west along a curve to the left with a radius of 825.00 feet a distance of 116.12 feet to a point; THENCE N. 48° 34' 32" W. a distance of 323.69 feet to a point; THENCE N. 6° 23' 41" E. a distance of 57.11 feet to a point; THENCE N. 86° 53' 29" E. a distance of 171.49 feet to a point; THENCE S. 38° 40' 51" E. a distance of 247.45 feet to the point of

beginning. RESERVING a drainage easement on the easterly border of the property as described above as is further shown on the plan referred to above. The area of the easement may not be distributed or otherwise altered in any manner that would prevent the flowage of surface water. Further reserving the right to pass and repass over the easement area for maintenance of said easement. BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor by deed dated March 19, 1996 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 17757, Page 164. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form

of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

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By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
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Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
20-003670
January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024

Current, former state troopers charged with taking bribes for falsifying CDL test scores

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Two current and two former State Police troopers are facing charges in connection with an alleged conspiracy to falsify records and give passing scores to certain Commercial Driver's License (CDL) applicants in exchange for bribes.

The following six individuals have been indicted on three counts of conspiracy to falsify records; three counts of conspiracy to commit extortion; three counts of extortion; six counts of honest services mail fraud; and one count of perjury: Gary Cederquist, 58, of Stoughton; Calvin Butner, 63, of Halifax; Perry Mendes, 63, of Wareham; Joel Rogers, 54, of Bridgewater; Scott Camara, 42, of Rehoboth; and Eric Mathison, 47, of Boston.

According to the charging document,

MSP Sgt. Cederquist was in charge of the State Police's CDL Unit. Trooper Rogers and retired Troopers Butner and Mendes were members of the unit.

"Members of MSP's CDL Unit were responsible for administering CDL skills tests. Test requirements for CDLs are established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation," read a statement released by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The CDL skills test is a demanding, in-person test that consists of three segments: vehicle inspection, basic control skills, and the road test.

Class A CDLs are required to drive tractor-trailer units. Class B CDLs are required to drive heavy single vehicles (box trucks, school buses).

According to the

charging document, between May 2019 and January 2023, Cederquist, Butner, Mendes, Rogers, and others conspired to give preferential treatment to at least 17 CDL applicants. The troopers agreed to give passing scores on these applicants' skills tests, regardless of whether they passed the test, investigators allege.

The six suspects used the code word "golden" to identify applicants who would receive special treatment, according to investigators. The indictment alleges that several incriminating text messages were sent between the suspects describing applicants and their test results.

Additionally, it is alleged that Cederquist gave preferential treatment to four Class A CDL applicants who were MSP troopers by falsely reporting that each trooper took and passed a

Class A skills test.

Moreover, Cederquist allegedly conspired with his friend, Camara, who worked for a truck-driving school in Brockton.

It is further alleged that Cederquist conspired with his friend, Mathison, who worked for a spring water company that employed drivers who needed CDLs. Cederquist allegedly gave passing scores to certain applicants affiliated with the water company.

"The indictment alleges that Cederquist gave passing scores to three such applicants who actually failed, in exchange for bribes of free inventory from the water company, such as cases of bottled Fiji, VOSS and Essentia water; cases of bottled Arizona Iced Tea, and coffee and tea products—all of which Mathison delivered to an office trailer at the CDL test site in Stoughton," the U.S. Attorney's Office

statement read.

The indictment alleges that Butner assisted with the conspiracy by giving Mathison a key to the Stoughton yard, enabling Mathison to drop off water company inventory even when the test site was closed. The indictment also alleges that Mendes took part in the conspiracy by accepting cases of water from Mathison immediately after administering an incomplete skills test to a new driver for the water company.

According to the charging document, Cederquist accepted additional bribes in exchange for using his position as the sergeant in charge of MSP's CDL Unit to give preferential treatment to certain CDL applicants. Alleged bribes include a \$750 granite post and mailbox; a new driveway valued at over \$10,000; and a snowblower valued at nearly \$2,000.

"The indictment alleges that Cederquist described one such applicant as 'horrible' and 'brain dead', but gave him a passing score anyway in exchange for the snow blower," the U.S. Attorney's Office statement read.

All CDL recipients who were later identified by investigators as not having been properly certified were reported to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

The investigation remains ongoing.

The following individuals and agencies are thanked for their roles in the investigation: Acting United States Attorney Joshua Levy; Michael Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England; and Christopher Scharf, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Transportation Office.

QCC welcomes first community resource dog

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Campus Police started the new year off with the college's first-ever community resource dog.

Siggy, a four-month-old English Cream Golden Retriever, is already making his presence known on campus. He will be sworn in as an official campus police dog once

he completes rigorous training, making him the first of his kind at a Worcester college or university.

"The college community is overjoyed to have this type of emotional support service for its students, faculty and staff. Studies have shown that interacting with dogs can improve mood and decrease stress," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. "In this new post-pandemic world many people are still struggling with added stress and stressors. We are delighted to have Siggy as a member of our QCC community to offer a bit of cheer and positivity."



Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Dean's List

WORCESTER — A total of 2,299 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's fall 2023 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said Professor Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the fall 2023 Dean's List:

Zachary Cote, from Auburn, class of 2027, majoring in Robotics Engineering

Alysha Creelman, from Auburn, class of 2025, majoring in Computer Science and Data Science

Audrey Johnson, from Auburn, class of 2025, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Finn O'Donnell, from Auburn, class of 2027, majoring in Applied Physics

Nick Palumbo, from Auburn, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Robotics Engineering

Sandra Phan, from Auburn, class of 2024, majoring in Data Science and Management Information Systems

Caleb Scopetski, from Auburn, class of 2024, majoring in Computer Science

Zoe Butzke, from Oxford, class of 2027, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Gabriel Colebourn, from Webster, class of 2027, majoring in Chemistry

Marlee Donohoe, from Dudley, class of 2026, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Talia Gardner, from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology

Nikita Igoshin, from North Oxford, class of 2025, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Szymon Mamro, from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Sofia Napierata, from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development

Benjamin Perry, from Dudley, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development

Rami Rachid, from Dudley, class of 2027, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Justin Santiago Wonoski, from Dudley, class of 2024, majoring in Computer Science

Amanda Warchal, from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology

Community resource dogs have become a common practice for both educational institutions and police departments across the country. At QCC, Community Resource Officer Nicholas Yacuzzi is supervising Siggy, and the dog resides with Officer Yacuzzi and his family when he is not on duty.

Yacuzzi brought up the idea of having the college retain a dog after witnessing resource officers utilize canines as a de-escalation technique.

"There is a huge need for this across the state and the country. These types of dogs have become a common practice to bridge the gap between the public and the police," Yacuzzi said.

While QCC has had therapy dogs on campus during events and busy periods such as final examinations, the new community resource dog

will be on campus consistently with office hours available for people to spend time with him.

Siggy is currently being trained by Golden Opportunities for Independence, a program in Walpole, MA that specializes in training dogs to work in a variety of settings, such as schools, healthcare facilities or as personal service dogs. The community resource dogs are taught to be calm

and confident in crowded environments through activities such as visits to Gillette Stadium on a busy day.

According to Yacuzzi, Siggy already knows several basic commands and has begun meeting the college community. Upon completion of his training, students, faculty and staff will be able to submit requests to spend time with Siggy during specific hours.

Local students named to Dean's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 700 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

This prestigious honor is a testament to the commitment and dedication these students have demonstrated in their pursuit of academic excellence. The Dean's List acknowledges those who have achieved a semester GPA of 3.30 or higher, showcasing their remarkable scholastic accomplishments.

The diverse group of awardees represents various majors across WNE's Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering. The University commends these students for their intellectual curiosity, leadership, and dedication to their educational journey. They are:

Kiana Tonkin of Dudley, majoring in Health Sciences.

Evelyn Smith of Oxford, majoring in Psychology.

Rhylan Hopkins of Dudley, majoring in Finance.

Sadie Smith of Oxford, majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Logan Paranto of Webster, majoring in Computer Engineering.

Vincent Denolf of Auburn, majoring in Engineering.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Local students named to President's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 500 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

This prestigious honor is a testament to the commitment and dedication these students have demonstrated in their pursuit of academic excellence. The President's List acknowledges those who have achieved a semester GPA of 3.80 or higher, showcasing their remarkable scholastic accomplishments.

The diverse group of awardees represents various majors across WNE's Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering. The University commends these students for their intellectual curiosity, leadership, and dedication to their educational journey. They are:

Alayna Karam of Dudley, majoring in Construction Management.

Allie Provost of Dudley, majoring in Marketing.

Jack Dalton of Webster, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Carter Coughlin of Auburn, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Amy Ly of Auburn, majoring in Health Sciences.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

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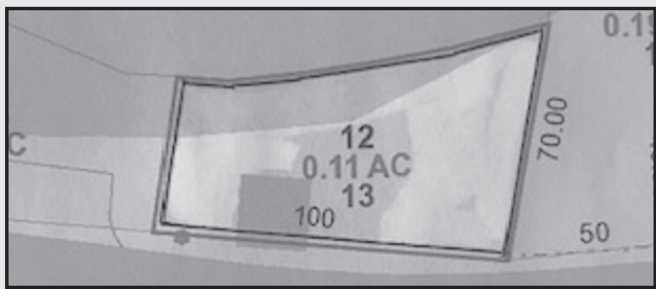
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STREETS

continued from page A1

plans include sidewalk improvements on Village Street and the section of Mill Street in front of Tri-Valley, Inc. behind Stevens Mill which are bid alternatives to allow wiggle room to stay within the allotted budget. The fixed elements of the project include sewer work and roadway repairs. The project is expected to be fully funded through grants.

While the presentation was focused on the scope of the project, attention briefly turned

to the future of Stevens Mill. The Town of Dudley received an update from Camden Partners in late 2023 informing them that progress on the renovation had halted due in large part to increased costs and raising rates. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda answered concerns saying he had received a more recent update from the company indicating a promising 2024.

“The interest rates seem like they’re going to take a more favorable trend, and the project should be back on track when those interest rates

continue to (lower),” said Ruda. “When they hit their sweet spot then they’re going to move on it, and they said probably within the next six to eight months – They remain all in the on the project, but they don’t want to lose their shirt in the meantime. The last year was not a very good time to finance big construction projects.”

Some residents voiced concerns about the potential for squatters or if the project would even continue. Ruda and other town officials assured residents Camden Partners has security measures



Designs for the sidewalk portion of the Village and Mill Streets project.

in place to monitor the building and that they still plan to proceed with the project once the rates have lowered.

As for the larger work around the mill, Tighe & Bond remains in the precontract phase with Massworks, but once that contract is completed they will put the project out to bid, hopefully as early as this spring.

PARTNERS

continued from page A1

received her degree in Education and master's degree from Worcester State College. Louise taught in the Dudley Public Schools for 37 years before retiring. She then taught Grade 2 for one year at Saint Joseph School.

John and Louise were married at Saint Joseph Church and are celebrating their 47th anniversary this year. Their children and grandchildren are also graduates of Saint Joseph School, which means three generations of their family have completed their elementary Education at Saint Joseph School.

Louise has served as a lector, substitute teacher, and monitor of children. John has also been involved in parish activities, serving on the Parish Council, cooking at parish festivals, and becoming a Eucharistic Minister. He worked in different capacities at the school, including as a basketball coach, CCD instructor, janitor, kitchen help, and monitoring children before the start of school.

Saint Joseph Basilica and School have always

been a significant part of their lives.

During the award presentation, Saint Joseph School principal Beth Boudreau noted that the manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Hester do their work amazes her. She said, “Whether Mr. Hester is zipping around the school between his many duties, or Mrs. Hester is working in PreK with four-year-olds one day and then giving a middle school Spanish test the next, they never complain. Their work is always done with compassion and love.” She then said that words cannot adequately express how much the students, faculty, and staff appreciate all John and Louise do for them. They are always willing to help – no matter what they are asked to do!

Following Mrs. Boudreau's speech, John and Louise accepted the prestigious Partners in Education Award from Bishop Robert J. McManus and thanked everyone who made it possible.

Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Hester! Saint Joseph School's students, faculty, and staff appreciate your support and dedication.

AWARDS

continued from page A1

While Joanna's academic interests are heavily weighed to the studies of mathematics and sciences, she leaves nothing off the table in all areas of learning.”

The second honor was the Principal's Award presented by Shepherd Hill Principal Darren C. Elwell to senior Adrian Roach. Roach has also maintained a 4.0 GPA and succeeded in several AP classes such as Stats, Bio, English Language and Composition, and an AP seminar earning fives in all exams prior to senior year. He is currently participating in AP Calculus and Research. Roach is the recipient of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, Jae S. Lim Award, and the 2023 AP Scholar with Honor Award and is an

active basketball player and Best Buddy. Principal Elwell complimented Roach as not only an exceptional student, but an exceptional person as well.

“Scholastic achievement is our bread and butter, and its students like Adrian whose steady churning deserves to be celebrated. Intrinsic motivation, intellectual curiosity, effective time management skills, and a determined work ethic are among some of the characteristics that allow Adrian and other exceptional students to sustain high levels of achievement, not simply on occasion, but over an extended period of time,” said Elwell. “It's students like Adrian whose academic achievements inspire and whose own contributions to the social fabric of our school truly make this a special place.”

While the two seniors were the focus for the celebration, the school committee's Jan. 24 meeting also revealed several other members of the Dudley and Charlton school communities who will soon be presented with honors of their own. The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation is preparing for its 2024 Heroes Among Us ceremony later this year and President Sabrina Webb revealed the ten honorees who will be recognized for their contributions and dedication to the district on April 6 at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge.

The honorees will be retired Shephard Hill Athletic Director and football coach Leo Biron, Mason Road School kindergarten teacher Kim Lundquist, Principal of Mason Road School Jennifer Desto, former Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation President and the foundation's founding member John Grondalski, former Shepherd Hill student Emily Dabrowski who will be honored in Memoria, fifth grade teacher at Dudley Middle School Adrienne Daniels, Head Custodian of Charlton Elementary School Scott Cushing, Loretta Andre who serves as Administrative Assistant at Charlton Middle School and as Shepherd Hill's cheerleading coach, Heritage School second grade teacher Elizabeth Hurley, and substitute teacher, parent, and student council member Tammy Ducharme.

Tickets for the Heroes Among Us ceremony will be made available on the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation's website.

Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2023 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

Julia M. Canty of Charlton
Nicholas D. Lindberg of Dudley
Bernadette E. Lesieur of Oxford

About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers internationally respected liberal arts together with an innovative Purposeful Learning Program, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

Dean College announces fall President's List

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce the students that have earned a place on the President's List for the Fall 2023 semester. These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Kyrie Sullivan of Auburn
Natalie Zona of Auburn
Hannah Nordstrom of Oxford
Amanda Shields of Oxford

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin, 45 minutes from Boston, and Providence, R.I. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Dean College Announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce the students that have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Hayden Dube of Oxford
Paige Evora of Webster
Bella D'Auteuil of Auburn
Keith Wetzel of Auburn

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin, 45 minutes from Boston, and Providence, R.I. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Pernille K. Kristiansen named to Central Arkansas Dean's List

CONWAY, Ark. — Pernille K. Kristiansen of Vestby, FR, was named to the University of Central Arkansas fall 2023 Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List in a given semester, a student must earn a 3.50 or higher grade point average on a minimum of twelve hours of undergraduate degree credit with no incomplete grades.

Kristiansen was among nearly 1,500 students named to the Dean's List.

Local students named to University of Hartford Dean's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2023.

Shannon Courtney of Auburn
Isabella Sund of Auburn
Alekh Popovich of Dudley
Ty Millette of Dudley
Maxton McPhee of Dudley

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Park Ave students create indoor rainforest

WEBSTER — The fourth grade Student Leadership Team at Park Avenue Elementary wanted to warm up the students at Park Avenue for the winter months. They came up with the idea of turning the cafeteria into a rainforest for the first day of February.

“The students came up with the idea,” said Mr. Aronian, who is in charge of the fourth grade Leadership Team. “They really worked hard to get this thing up and running and, to be honest, the students had a blast.”

During the school day on Wednesday the 31st, the students completely transformed the room adding palm trees, flowers, vines, animals (hanging snakes), thunder and rain sounds and incorporated a sandbox they

called The Rainforest Beach.

At The Rainforest Beach, students were able to try and grab Paw Coins from the sand to bring back to their class; Paw Coins are part of the school’s multiple PBIS incentives. Ms Puliafico, Ms Thompson and Ms Ochoski worked hard this year to make sure PBIS has been successful and sustainable at the Elementary School. The students all received leis as they entered The Park Ave Rainforest from the Student Leadership Team members and a huge thanks to the cafeteria staff as the students also received a tropical ice cream and a tropical fruit juice.



Emma DiBonnaventure and Nilla Wakatam set up a water display.

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Courtesy

Fourth graders make their way into the rainforest wearing there leis.



Ms. Puliafico (the building principal) helped a student put her straw into her tropical fruit drink served by the cafeteria.

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