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©2025, Issue #47

Friday, November 21, 2025



U14 Charlton-Dudley Rams Cheer team heads to AYC Nationals after dominant season

CHARLTON — The U14 Charlton-Dudley Rams cheer team is officially headed to the American Youth Cheer (AYC) National Championships in Orlando, Florida, after an outstanding competition season that saw them consistently place among the best teams in the region.

To earn their coveted nationals bid, the team needed to place in the top three at three separate competitions. These girls only have 2 minutes and 30 seconds at each event to prove themselves or see their season come to an end.

Their journey began in October at the Central Massachusetts Locals Competition, where they placed 2nd, securing their spot at the next level. They then went on to the Massachusetts State Competition, where they delivered a standout performance and earned the title of State Champions, placing 1st overall. Most recently, on Nov. 8, the U14 Rams competed at Regionals, once again rising to the occasion and finishing 2nd in New England, officially punching their ticket to Nationals.

The U14 team is made up of 31 dedicated cheerleaders from Charlton and Dudley who have been training together since July. Over months of practices, conditioning, and choreography, they have sharpened their skills, strengthened their bonds as teammates, and demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their sport.

“We are incredibly proud of this U14 team,” said Erika Lundy, Charlton-Dudley Rams Cheer Program Director. “They have shown grit, resilience, and heart every step of the way. To qualify for AYC Nationals is an amazing accomplishment, but what makes me most proud is how they support one another, push through challenges, and represent our community with such sportsmanship and pride.”

With Nationals quickly approaching, the team is rapidly fundraising to help cover travel and competition expenses for the athletes and their families. The team has just two weeks to raise the necessary funds to ensure that every cheerleader who earned this opportunity is able to attend.

Community members, local businesses, and supporters who are interested in contributing to the Rams’ Nationals journey are encouraged to reach out.

To support the U14 Charlton-Dudley Rams Cheer Team, please contact Erika Lundy, Charlton-Dudley Rams Cheer Program Director, at elundy11@live.com.

Bartlett wins Mass Manufacturing MASH-UP \$1,000 Grand Prize!

WEBSTER — The BVHub Warehouse Challenge, in collaboration with True Robotics, provided students with a hands-on, engaging experience that mirrors real-world warehouse and manufacturing processes. Bartlett High School’s Innovation Career Pathway (ICP) and PLTW students in Principles of Engineering (POE) and Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) worked in teams the week before the event to design and build True Robotics Pilot robots with the Add-On Kit, capable of performing real-world manufacturing tasks. The challenge followed the theme “Automation in Modern Manufacturing.”

The event culminated on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at Gillette Stadium during the Manufacturing Mash-UP, where students:

- Demonstrated their robots in a simulated manufacturing environment
- Competed in performance-based tasks inspired by industry
- Presented their design process and teamwork in an elevator pitch to a panel of judges, including educators, industry professionals, and state leaders

Bartlett High School earned the \$1,000 Grand Prize for achieving the highest overall score in the challenge! Student teams were recognized for their exceptional teamwork, organization, and communication skills throughout the event. Well done, kids — we’re proud of you!

Students who participated in this experience included Abdulrahman Alshammari, Jared Archambault, Jayden Azu, Xavian Bailey, Alexander Baker, Izayah Barjolo, Pablo Caceres Lucas, Nathan Casper, Alex Charron, Nathan Cole, Shane Coveney, Jayden Cruz, Matthew Czernicki, Willow Dennis, Madisyn Derie, Nathan Drew, Aaron Johnson, Elijah McKenna, Michael Pagan, Dhyey Patel, Eryk Piwowarczyk, Makayla Place, Aoife Pyke, Angela Sarfo, Don Ta, Jonsue Tolentino, Joziyah Williams.

Dudley receives funds for Town Hall enhancements

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley has received notice of \$50,000 earmarked for the town to invest in improvements to the police station and other areas within the town hall, also colloquially referred to as the municipal complex.

Town officials were informed by State Rep. John Marsi’s office that the \$50,000 has been reserved within the state’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda made the announcement official during a Board of Selectmen meeting in November explaining that at least half of the funds will be invested in the police department while other funds will continue improvements throughout the rest of the building.

“These funds will support repairs and upgrades to the police department who will get \$25,000 in much needed primarily cosmetic upgrades — and to the town hall and senior center,” explained Ruda.

The condition and needs of the police department have been a talking point among town officials in the past while the money being allocated to the senior center continues a longstanding improvement effort in one of the most regularly utilized portions of the town hall. The center, housed on the first floor of the Town Hall alongside the police department and Veterans Services offices, recently received extensive upgrades thanks to a \$30,000 donation from the Dudley Women’s Club to modernize the facility. The town held an open house to celebrate the “refreshed” space in September but work still needs to be completed to see the full renovations come to fruition. Ruda said the town would work closely with program leaders to help the center where needed.

“We’re looking at completing that project in the Senior

Turn To **FUNDS** page **A14**

Oxford Middle School eighth graders “Kiss the Fish” for a good cause

OXFORD — The eighth graders at Oxford Middle School recently held a hilarious and unforgettable fundraiser — the “Kiss the Fish” Challenge! Students were invited to place money into buckets labeled with the names of staff members they most wanted to see pucker up and kiss a (thankfully dead) fish.

As the buckets filled throughout the week, excitement built across the grade level. When the final totals were counted, one brave staff member’s name stood out at the top — earning them the honor of kissing the fish in front of the entire 8th grade during a lively cafeteria assembly. Sixth and seventh graders also got to enjoy the show!

The moment of truth brought laughter, cheers, and a few gasps as the crowd erupted in applause. The staff showed amazing sportsmanship, participating with enthusiasm and good humor, making it a moment students won’t soon forget.

The “Kiss the Fish” Challenge not only raised money for eighth grade upcoming activities, but also brought the school community together through fun, teamwork, and plenty of school spirit.

Way to go, Oxford Middle School 8th graders — and kudos to the brave staff who took one for the team!



Holiday makes for early deadlines

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in our Nov. 28 will be Thursday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff wishes our readers a safe and happy Thanksgiving.



Big Bunny shoppers come through again!



Left to right: Brother Chris St. Cyr, Brother Clay Tull, sitting Brother Paul Davidson, Brother Will Proper and Brother Larry Burbridge. We Master Masons thank the community for all their support.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE
MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge (MGST) Community Outreach Program was in full swing at Big Bunny Supermarket in Southbridge. This event was a Food Drive to collect food donations for the Food Share pantry located at 446 Hamilton St. in Southbridge.

Volunteers from the MGST Masonic Lodge in Southbridge weathered the cool windy

morning for five hours to collect food donations. The food share services are the towns of Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton. Big Bunny Market was buzzing with shoppers that morning and people were very generous and supportive of the food drive.

The shoppers from Big Bunny market and people from the community dropped off food were bringing all kinds of donations. For example, a case of cereal, a case of peanut butter, several cases of canned Chef Boyardee ravioli, one gentleman stop his car in front

of our booth and gave us a case of baby formula. Another lady stopped her car and gave us bags from Walmart, and so many boxes of pasta and canned goods items from big bunny shoppers. By the time the MGST Masonic Lodge members put all these single items in paper bags, along with the paper bags already full of what the shoppers have given us, we were able to collect and donate 156 bags of groceries to the food share three pick-up trucks full of food. We also collected \$308 in cash donations thanks to the generosity

of the Big Bunny shoppers. The lodge volunteers unanimously decided to take the \$308 dollars and went back into the supermarket and purchased a lot more groceries for the Southbridge Food Share Pantry. A special thank you to Big Bunny market owners Pete and Jon Cournoyer and the staff at Big Bunny for supporting their community and allowing us Master Masons to run this food drive.

The volunteers of

the Southbridge Food Share were all smiles and very, very happy to see 3 pickup trucks full of grocery bags that were collected from the food drive. Kathy Vancamp one of the volunteers from the food share, was so appreciative and grateful to see those trucks full of food collected by us Master Masons and for doing this food drive. The way this community came together to meet our challenge we Masons made to the community, to fill 3 pickup trucks full of food was amazing. Times are tough in this economy right now with the government shutdown and families not getting food assistance. The Food Share was very grateful to the

Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge of Southbridge for picking the Southbridge Food Share as part of their Community Outreach Program for this year. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to massfreemasonry.org to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 21-28

Friday, Nov. 21
Start the weekend close to home, Where laughter fills Samuel Slater's dome. Comedy Night's at 7:30 p.m. sharp, doors at 6:30, fun till late, At Samuel Slater's Hall, 200 Gore Road, Webster.

If live tunes are more your thrill, Catch The Ruiners rocking 7 p.m. at The Mill, At The Mill at French River, 9 Frederick St., Webster.

Saturday, Nov. 22
Crafters gather, tables bright, At Shepherd Hill from morn to night. The Festival of Crafts, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., is set, At Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley.

Stones and fossils gleam in rows, Where every sparkled geode glows. The 48th Worcester Mineral Club Show, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., At St. Joseph School / 50 Lincoln St., Webster.

Sunday, Nov. 23
Day two, the crystals still shine bright, A weekend-long, kid-friendly sight. Minerals, gems and fossils galore, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. once more, At Worcester Mineral Club's show, 50 Lincoln St., Webster.

Monday, Nov. 24
In Auburn, stories lead the way, For little ones who love to stay. Preschool Storytime, 1:30-2:15 p.m., then Lego play At Auburn Public Library, 369 Southbridge St., Auburn.

That evening brings a civic scene, Where wetlands, woods and maps convene. The Webster Conservation Commission meets 6-8 p.m. At Webster Police Community Room, 357 Main St., Webster.

Tuesday, Nov. 25
Grab your paddle, find your pace, Pickleball keeps a lively space. Donna Murphy Pickleball, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., lively play, At Oxford Community Center, 4 Maple Road, Oxford.

Wednesday, Nov. 26
Art and coffee pair up right, Mixed media colors catching light. Browse Lisa Onderdonk's show all day At Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster, during café hours.

Thursday, Nov. 27 — Thanksgiving
Town halls rest, the phones stay still, Dudley's doors are quiet on the hill. Dudley Town Hall is closed all day; Business will wait for another day.

Oxford's gyms and fields take pause, As Thanksgiving closes OCC by clause. The Oxford Community Center marks Thanksgiving Day as "closed, no rentals today."

Friday, Nov. 28
Morning calm with gentle flow, Stretch and breathe, let tension go. Yoga Classes, 9-10:30 a.m., unfold serene At Camp Gleason, 261 Central St., Auburn.

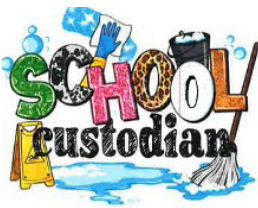
Dudley's offices stay dark, Town Hall closed, a quiet mark. Another day of holiday rest, Before the rush returns in earnest.

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The Library will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28

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Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmar.org

Adult Programming
Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)
This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess and Ompractice for a 45 minute relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

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

Cozy Wednesdays: Sticker Scenes – Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00pm
Looking to unwind? Join us in creating your own cozy sticker scenes. We'll provide everything you need for a peaceful, creative evening. Registration is required.

Book Release Talk Featuring Michael E. Neagle – Thursday, November 20th at 6:30pm
Join us in welcoming Dr. Michael E. Neagle to celebrate the release of his book, Chasing Bandits: America's Long War on Terror. He will speak about the book and do a Q and A.

Trivia Palooza 4 – Monday, November 24th at 6:00pm
Join Evan and Jess for General Knowledge Trivia. Assemble your team (up to 5 people) and put your thinking caps on! Registration is required. The winning team gets a prize!

Computer Basics: Google Suite – Tuesday, November 25th at 2:00pm
Join Evan and Jess for a one hour class on how to navigate the Google Suite of programs. This won't be a deep dive into any particular program, but you will leave with an overview of Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, and Google Sheets.

The Chatty Chapter (A Genre Book Club) – Tuesday, November 25th at 6:00pm
Join our Genre Book Group! Each month we'll read a different genre. November's genre is thriller: Blood Sisters by

Vanessa Lillie. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group list, please email Jess at jfontaine@cwmar.org

Programming for All Ages
Tiny Art Show Canvas Pickup ALL DAY November 3rd-21st
Calling all art lovers! The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show, showcasing miniature pieces of art from our community. All creators are invited to participate -- no matter their age or skill level! Pick up your 3 in. x 3 in. canvas from the main Circulation Desk or the Children's Desk. All mediums are strongly encouraged! For example, if you want to submit a 3 in. x 3 in. photograph or a 3 in. sculpture that is welcome. Art Submission Deadline: Monday, November 24th! Please be sure to complete the submission form with your artwork.

Tiny Art Show: Mini Bookcases – Thursday, November 20th (2 sessions) 5pm and 6pm
Join Paige and Jess in creating a miniature bookshelf. You tell us some of your favorite books in advance, and we'll have them ready for you to create your own mini library. This project will be small enough to enter into our Tiny Art Show!

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM
We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! November's theme is Leaf Rubbing - use the fallen leaves of Autumn for Art! Place a leaf under a piece of paper and rub the paper with a crayon to make the leaf appear on the paper. Artwork left behind will be displayed in the children's program room for the rest of the month.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays at 3:30pm
Play with magnets, marble mazes, and LEGO.

Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:00am
Join us for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy songs, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover – Thursday, November 13th at 6:00pm
It's that time of year again! Bring your favorite stuffed animal and join us for a craft event in the Children's Program Room. Enjoy some tasty snacks while decorating your very own 3 in. x 3 in. canvas to be featured in our Tiny Art Show. Then, say goodnight to your stuffed friend as they spend the night at the library! Pick up will be the following morning, and you can see your friends' adventures on our Facebook page.

Mini Chefs Club: Baked Potatoes – Wednesday, November 19th at 5:30pm
Welcome to Mini Chefs Club! This new food focused series offers kids 7-12 the opportunity to learn how to create easy, tasty meals right at home using simple ingredients and step-by-step guidance. Each class will require kids to use different kitchen tools. Due to limited supplies, registration is required.
Me and My Mini – Thursday, November 20th at 10:00am
Me and My Mini: A 45 minute creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Senior Center hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with one Thursday a month 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

THE SENIOR ENTER WILL BE CLOSIG AT 1:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY (Nov. 26), AND WILL BE CLOSED ON BOTH THURSDAY (Nov. 27) AND FRIDAY (11/28) FOR THANKSGIVING!

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 11/25: Pork Rib-I-Cue, mac and cheese, green beans, cinnamon pears. Wednesday, 11/26: Beef stir fry, steamed rice, roasted broccoli, vanilla mousse.

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

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

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

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

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

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10 am to 12 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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

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

A community built on stone — Worcester Mineral Club continues its tradition in 2025

WEBSTER — In an age when screens glow brighter than campfires and nature feels increasingly distant, it is no small triumph that the Worcester Mineral Club continues to gather people around the ancient wonders buried beneath our feet.

With the arrival of the 48th Annual Mineral, Gem, Fossil & Jewelry Show, returning Nov. 22 & 23, the club once again invites Central Massachusetts to reconnect with the earth—and with each other. The show will take place inside the St. Joseph School's Richard Nowak Gymnasium, at 50 Lincoln St., Webster, where colorful new signage is already

reminding locals that the weekend before Thanksgiving belongs to minerals, fossils, gems, and community.

Show hours are welcoming to families and collectors alike: Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Children will be greeted with free grab bags, a tradition that has launched countless young collectors into a lifelong fascination with geology. Their excitement is matched only by the patient expertise of club members, who staff a variety of educational displays designed to explain mineral formation, fossil preservation, and the remarkable geological history of New England.

This year promises an expanded focus on lapidary teachings, giving visitors a rare chance to watch skilled cutters and polishers transform rough stone into sparkling works of art. For many, this is the moment when geology becomes personal—when a simple rock becomes a gemstone through knowledge, practice, and human creativity.

And for those who arrive with questions (and perhaps a mystery stone in hand), the beloved mineral identification table will once again be a centerpiece of the show. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own specimens from backyard gardens, hiking trails, and long-forgotten boxes in the attic. The thrill of finally naming a rock often sparks more conversation than the minerals themselves.

Of course, the vendor floor remains a highlight: rows of tables filled with crystals, fossils, jewelry, and specimens from around the world. But the show has always been more than commerce—it is a gathering of curiosity. A place where experienced collectors and first-time visitors meet over a shared appreciation for the stories locked inside every stone.

Admission is modest—\$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, and free for both children 12 and under and scouts in uniform—ensuring that the event remains accessible to the entire community.

As the Worcester Mineral Club approaches nearly nine decades of existence, it stands as a reminder of something timeless: that wonder does not expire. That learning does not end. That holding a piece of the earth's ancient past can still inspire awe in a world moving far too fast.

The minerals may be ancient, but the curiosity they spark feels forever new. And that, above all, is why this annual show continues to endure.

Auburn's Peg Tayler named 2025 Medique Leadership Award recipient

AUBURN — The Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses (MaAOHN) has named Peg Tayler, MS, MEd, RN, of Auburn, Massachusetts, as the 2025 Medique Leadership Award recipient.

This annual award honors an occupational health nurse whose leadership, creativity, and innovation have meaningfully advanced the profession and inspired colleagues across the state.

Tayler's professional journey is marked by her ability to lead with compassion and vision, motivating those around her to reach new levels of excellence. Her commitment to collaboration and education has strengthened workplace health and nursing practice across Massachusetts.

"Peg serves as Treasurer of our organization. She is a joy to work with, highly responsible, and kind hearted! Congratulations to Peg!" said Donna Ferriera, MaAOHN President.

Tayler will be recognized at the MaAOHN Annual Awards Luncheon on Dec. 5 at the Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center in Westford.

The Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses (MaAOHN) is a professional organization committed to supporting leadership, education, and networking opportunities for nurses in occupational and environmental health. MaAOHN promotes excellence in practice, advances workplace health and safety, and recognizes outstanding professional achievements. Learn more at www.maaohn.org.



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Saint Joseph School honors veterans through service, fundraising, and Field of Flags



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School veterans or spouses of active-duty military and their children gather after placing flags in the school’s Field of Flags, a tribute honoring and remembering the service and sacrifice of all who served.

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\$470,000, 57 Appleton Rd, Chesnis, Michael T, and Chesnis, Amy M, to Sudar, Ross C, and Fullagar, Victoria A.
\$435,000, 32 Field St, Coyne, Matthew J, and Coyne, Amanda, to Dooley, Kayla, and Fassett, Michael.
\$416,667, 9 Robertson Rd, Gilmartin Lt, and Gilmartin, Brian C, to Prunier Jr, Adrien L, and Prunier, Kathleen M.
\$389,900, 801 Forest Park Dr #801, Ferguson, Colleen, and Ferguson, Carrie, to Tarlow, Karen A, and Montanari, Abilee J.
\$270,000, 43 Chestnut Ave, Costin, Joseph J, and Zerella, Danyel, to South Investments LLC.
\$250,000, 223 Oxford St N, Champagne, Patricia E, to Babci Ft, and Champagne, Patricia E.
\$200,000, 111 Old Meetinghouse Rd #111, David, Alex, to Edwards, Ingrid.
\$190,000, 10 Bancroft St, Jean M Dowd RET, and Dowd Jr, John F, to Dowd Jr, John F, and Dowd, Sara E.
\$182,900, 61 Federal Hill Rd #61, Lillie, Jeanne B, to Barr, Xaalyin.

DUDLEY

\$528,900, 14 Elizabeth St, Bender Jr, Robert L, and Carter, Sarah, to Tasos, Kalliope, and Sands, David.
\$107,500, 4 Wysocki Dr #25, Fasshauer, Laura L, and Selene Finance LP, to New Eng Rlty & Auctions L.

OXFORD

\$605,000, 19 Hudson Rd, Johnson, Russell W, and Johnson, Kelly D, to Casey, Jessica.
\$595,000, 4 Pine St, Davis, Zachary J, to Donovan, Melinda.
\$401,500, 35 Pleasant St, Dadah, Ryan M, to Lundberg, Joshua, and Lundberg, Raymond T.
\$400,000, 20 Marcam Village Rd #20, Pham, Vinh, to Ngo, Juliann, and Monahan, Justin.
\$325,000, 1 Carlton Ct, Hatch, Maureen A, and Hatch, Harry D, to Melanson, Timothy D.
\$270,000, 25 Comins Rd #25, Leblanc, Ryan M, to Harvey, Patrick R, and Ruiz-Harvey, Robert L.
\$65,000, 20 Old Cudworth Rd, Czubaj, Bartlomiej T, to Mahmudov, Mirzohidjon.
\$40,000, Mount Pleasant St (off), Hanley Tully Ft 2016, and Hanley, Amy F, to 29 Mt Pleasant Street LLC.

WEBSTER

\$760,000, 148 Gore Rd, Moussa, Elias N, to Ycb Properties LLC.
\$627,000, 52 Whitcomb St, Jmin LLC, to Dixon Tremblay Prop LLC.
\$612,000, 42 Colonial Rd, Kathleen Revane Irt, and Revane, Thomas, to Sandstrom, Donald R, and Sandstrom, Tammy L.
\$575,000, 103 Lakeside Ave, Hayes 3rd, Charles H, to Mary H Raeman RET, and Granger, Mary.
\$575,000, 140 Sutton Rd, Hackenson, Robert T, and Panagiotou, Konstantina C, to Sanchez, Jorge A.
\$289,000, 22-24 Hartley St, Gasparik, John, and Gasparik, Arlene F, to Annese, Michael.
\$245,000, 27 Dresser St, Crowd Lending Inc, and Crowd Lending Fund One LL, to Crowd Lending Fund One LL.
\$170,000, 25 Valley St, Marrier, Gloria A, to Berthiaume, Barry A.
\$110,000, 1 E Main St, Green Tree Insurance LLC, to Nayfeh, Ghassan K, and Chamoun, Raja.

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School recently observed a meaningful Veteran’s Week, combining prayer, service, and community involvement to honor those who have served our country. In the days leading up to Veterans Day, students participated in a school-wide good deeds initiative to benefit the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). By completing extra chores at home, helping neighbors, and performing acts of kindness, students were encouraged to “earn” donations in support of veterans. The project culminated in a \$2 Patriotic Dress Down Day, where students and staff traded uniforms for red, white, and blue attire. Together, these efforts raised more than \$500, which Saint Joseph School donated to the DAV. In gratitude, the DAV provided the school with 48 American flags. On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the school community celebrated the success of the fundraiser with a group photo in the gymnasium showcasing their patriotic outfits and school spirit. On Friday, Nov. 14, the focus turned from fundraising to visible tribute. Parents who are veterans or spouses of active-duty military,

their children, and members of the Saint Joseph School National Junior Honor Society gathered in front of the Nowak Gymnasium to assemble the school’s Field of Flags. Each flag placed in the ground served as a visible reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and selfless service of the men and women who have worn our nation’s uniform. As an additional sign of appreciation, military personnel in attendance were given red, white, and blue ribbons from the school. These small tokens symbolized Saint Joseph School’s ongoing gratitude for the sacrifices made not only by service members themselves, but also by the families who support them. The purpose of the Field of Flags is twofold: to honor veterans in a public and prayerful way, and to educate students about the importance of remembering and supporting those who have served. Throughout the week, teachers and staff encouraged students to reflect on the freedoms they enjoy and the responsibilities that come with them. This Veteran’s Week initiative is closely tied to Saint Joseph School’s mission state-

ment, which emphasizes Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Religion: Students prayed for veterans and their families, asking God to watch over them and to bring healing to those who carry visible and invisible wounds of service. Respect: By learning about the experiences of veterans, students were taught to honor the dignity of each person and the sacrifices made on their behalf. Responsibility: Participating in the fundraiser, contributing good deeds at home, and helping to build the Field of Flags reminded students that they have an active role to play as citizens and people of faith—called to serve others, give back, and support those in need. Through these Veteran’s Week activities, Saint Joseph School not only raised funds for the Disabled American Veterans but also formed hearts and minds. The Field of Flags now standing in front of the Nowak Gymnasium serves as a powerful, daily reminder to students, families, and visitors that freedom is never free—and that gratitude must be shown not only in words, but in action.

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25 ELM STREET, SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550
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www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Carving out
space for
community
in a
fast-moving
season

Late November has a way of arriving suddenly, as if the rush of the school year and the swirl of early cold fronts combine to push us headlong into the holiday season. By the time Thanksgiving week appears on the calendar, many of us are already running — planning meals, managing work, checking on relatives, preparing houses for company, juggling school schedules, and responding to the steady stream of obligations that come with this time of year. It is a season that can fill the heart, but it can also drain it.

In towns like Webster, Dudley, and Oxford, the coming week reminds us of something that often gets overlooked in the seasonal scramble: the genuine value of slowing down long enough to notice one another. Holidays mean traditions, but they also bring quieter moments that reinforce why small communities matter.

You can see it in places that rarely earn headlines. Senior center staff preparing warm meals for those who would otherwise spend the holiday alone. Local libraries making room for families who need a few peaceful hours together. Police and fire departments adjusting their shifts so someone else can be home with their children. Volunteers at churches, civic clubs, and food pantries sorting donations until long after the lights in most businesses have gone dark.

Those efforts aren't dramatic. They don't make for splashy announcements. But they are the threads that keep a community tied together—steady acts of generosity that form the foundation of a place where people truly look after one another.

This is also the time of year when many residents start to feel the pinch of rising costs—groceries, fuel, utilities, even basic household goods. It's a reminder that for many families, "holiday preparations" are not about finding the perfect recipe but about making sure there is enough to put on the table. Local service organizations report the same trend: more families seeking assistance, more seniors struggling with fixed incomes, more young people trying to balance work and school responsibilities.

That is why community matters even more now. A shared meal at a church, a donation to a food drive, a visit with a neighbor who lives alone—none of these actions solve every problem, but each one eases the load for someone else. And when enough small acts combine, they begin to shift the tone of a town.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it may be worth taking a moment to carve out space—not only for tradition, but for connection. Attend a local event. Check in on someone who might appreciate a visit. Support a local business working hard to keep Main Street vibrant. Pause long enough to notice the efforts of the people around you who strengthen our towns in ways that rarely receive credit.

The seasonal rush will always be there. But so will the opportunity to choose something different: to reach out, to slow down, and to remember that a community is strongest when its members see one another fully.

In the days ahead, amid the preparations and the travel and the long to-do lists, may we hold onto the simple truth at the center of Thanksgiving: gratitude is most meaningful when it leads to action, and a town is at its best when its people look out for one another.

Letter submission
policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

Thank God at all times

Each day, we have a choice to make when we wake up — will we express gratitude and thanksgiving to God for this particular day with all the blessings that await us, or will we choose to focus on the problems and uncertainties of life, allowing our particular worries to control our worldview?

We all know positive and uplifting people who live life with a grateful, vibrant spirit and thus, radiate contagious joy, inner contentment and a deep happiness. These people encourage, build up and nourish all those whom they encounter. They stand in stark contrast to others who choose to focus on the negative, who complain about the unfairness of life, grumble about all that they don't have, and who drain the spirit out of life.

We must realize, though, that the choice we make each day clearly reflects the authenticity of our relationship with Jesus Christ and our understanding and living out of our Orthodox Christian faith. To live in Christ and have His Spirit dwelling within us automatically implies a life of gratitude and thanksgiving!

If we strive to walk with our Lord, from the moment we wake up until the end of each day, and consciously try to dwell in His loving presence, our entire outlook in life cannot but be one of appreciation and gratefulness.

We have our loving, merciful and compassionate Creator and Father watching over us, walking with us, guiding us in all our steps, carrying us when we are tired or afraid, comforting us in our moments of distress, and ultimately filling us with His abundant Spirit and continual presence. If we understand and believe all of His precious promises to us, His beloved children, how can we not express unceasing gratitude and thanksgiving for all life brings!

Our Christian faith proclaims Good News of God's unconditional, unending, personal love — a divine love which surpasses all other blessings. A love that forgives us our countless and continual sins. A love that values us and cherishes us in our uniqueness. A love that heals us from our deepest brokenness, loneliness and illness. A love that doesn't abandon us in our final moments of life and death but give us hope and even victory over death itself. A love that continues into eternity!

When we understand our Christian faith, and sincerely strive to walk with Jesus Christ and allow His Spirit to dwell richly within our hearts and minds, a positive and grateful attitude becomes a beautiful and apparent fruit of our faith.

Saints throughout history displayed this joyous and gracious spirit despite any and every injustice, difficulty, and challenge they faced. They understood the fundamental element of an authentic Christian life — that God is with us always, and will never abandon us. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ! And understanding this created a grateful heart!

The Apostle Paul was one who was unjustly beaten, imprisoned, ridiculed, rejected, and



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

I know what it is to have nothing, and I know what it is to have much. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... And my God shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4,11-13, 19)

St. Paul even thanks God for "a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan which buffeted me," because he learned the invaluable lesson that "God's grace is sufficient for me, and God's strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

St. John Chrysostom, who preached before thousands of people who loved him as the Bishop of Antioch back in the 4th century, and then reached the highest position in the Church as the Archbishop of Constantinople, ended his life in exile when the Byzantine Empress turned against him. He was forced to march through the bitter winter snows to his death, and yet the last recorded words of his were, "Glory to God for all things!" Despite his situation, he understood that "in all things God works together for good to those who love Him," and thus, he could face his suffering end even with gratitude and thanksgiving!

As we prepare to celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving, it's a great time to reflect on what role gratitude plays in our daily lives, and think about how we can make thanksgiving a more central part of who we are.

One simple yet powerful habit each of us can begin with is to start our day with an attitude of gratitude. Before we get up out of our bed each morning, let's make our cross and then thank God for 5 things in our lives. Each morning throughout the week, try to thank God for 5 different things. If we begin each day and week in this manner, it will help cultivate and nourish that spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Learn to thank God at all times!

Veterans Day at the Auburn
Historical Museum

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society & Museum would like to thank those who came to the museum on Veterans Day and the special evening open house on Thursday, Nov. 13 to experience the stories and items that were on display from Auburn Veterans as a way to honor and remember those military people with a connection with Auburn. Children who visited on Tuesday, because they had the day off from school, did a military scavenger hunt and went home with a "We Love Our Veterans" coloring page.

Thursday was special in that the newest acquisition of a woman's navy uniform belonging to Wand J. (Writer) Miller, that was donated by her daughters Christine Miller and Carol Miller Kaufman. It is a wonderful addition to the collection of uniforms spanning from the Civil

War to WWII with all branches of the military being represented. Also, a thank you to all who have helped with the new Auburn Veterans History Project that has been started to remember those served. This ongoing project had over 75 names added to the database which will be used for future research and genealogy help.

If you were unable to visit the museum on Veterans Day or Thursday night, the exhibits will be available through January. If you would like to help with the Auburn Veterans History Project, you can come to the museum or visit the website for more information.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A call to action

To the Editor:
A courageous patriot named Paul Craney from Mass Fiscal Alliance has initiated a ballot petition program to gather 75,000 signatures. The signatures are necessary to place five questions on the ballot for voters to consider in November of 2026. Taxpayers and registered voters will have the chance to make their voices heard.

Petition #8 sets a 5 percent annual cap on utility rate increases and revenue transparency.

Petition #9 protects utility rate payers from being forced to install a "smart meter" on their home without their consent.

Petition #1A prevents utilities from charging a base amount from ratepayers regardless of

usage.

Petition V mandates voter registration databases be available to the public.

Petition W requires a voter ID to vote in all Massachusetts elections.

If you wish to be a part of this effort or want to sign this petition, you may contact Paul Craney at paul@massfiscal.org or their Web site, Massfiscal.org. These signatures are needed only to place these questions on the ballot. Please consider signing this position if you feel strongly about these questions.

Thank you,

Eric Spahl
Dudley

Lanterns
Along
Main
Street

There is something about small-town Massachusetts that encourages a person to slow down, even when they hadn't planned to. You can be in the middle of an ordinary errand—a stop at the hardware store, a walk to the post office, a loaf of bread from the market—and suddenly you catch a moment that makes you pause. A porch flag stirring in the breeze. The smell of woodsmoke from a chimney. Two neighbors comparing notes on their tomato

plants as if they're discussing national policy. Life settles into a gentler rhythm when you let it.

Not long ago, while waiting at a stoplight, I saw a teenager jog across the crosswalk. Halfway through, he stopped to pick up a mitten someone had dropped and set it neatly on

the railing where it could be found. He didn't look around to see if anyone noticed. He wasn't performing kindness; he was practicing it. The light turned green, and traffic moved on, but the gesture stayed with me far longer than the delay.

These small courtesies are one of the things that define towns with real Main Streets. They're places where errands happen on foot, conversations happen by accident, and people notice what's around them because life isn't rushing past at 55 miles an hour. That slower pace doesn't mean people have less to do. It simply means they don't mind taking a moment to do it well.

I've always believed that kindness grows best in places where people expect to see each other again. In small towns, anonymity is limited. If you cut someone off in traffic, you may find yourself behind them in line at the bakery. If you hold the door for someone juggling packages, you might see them again at the town meeting. That kind of continuity creates a gentle accountability, the sort that nudges us toward our better selves.

Much of the kindness I see around here is practical rather than poetic. I once watched two strangers push a stalled car out of an intersection before anyone behind them honked. I saw someone sprint after a receipt whisked away by the wind. And once, I passed a man kneeling on the sidewalk helping a child fix a slipped bicycle chain while the child's mother looked on with exhausted relief. None of these moments were dramatic. Yet each one was a reminder that goodwill doesn't always require a spotlight.

Patience plays a part, too. People here wait an extra moment when someone is counting out coins. They give space to a driver trying to back out of a tight spot. They don't mutter when the person ahead at the counter is sorting through envelopes. These gestures may seem small, but they make daily life feel lighter.

My grandfather used to say that a community shows its character in the quiet hours. I think he was right. The kindness you see in small-town Massachusetts isn't flashy. It's steady. It's intentional. And it adds up.

This week, if you find a chance to brighten someone's day—even briefly—take it. With enough of those moments, Main Street glows a little brighter for everyone.

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‘Tis the season for collecting



The holiday season is fast approaching, which means people are preparing to decorate. Sometimes decorations are handed down through generations. People might also reminisce about the holidays of their youth or appreciate the craftsmanship of holiday decorations made during Victorian times, leading them to seek out vintage pieces.

I'll start with a look back at a holiday that has already passed. Many people have fond memories of dressing in costumes and trick-or-treating when they were younger. Some collectors like the nostalgia and history of Halloween. Others like the scary element, including images of jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts, and skeletons. Whatever the reason, Halloween is one of the

most popular holidays for collectors.

Halloween collectibles can go for anywhere from a dollar to tens of thousands of dollars. Vintage postcards are among the most inexpensive collectibles and you may find some for a dollar or less. Of course, an advanced collector may pay much more. A rare postcard signed by the artist had all the things that collectors are looking for with a witch, broom, and cauldron, mice, snake, black cat, bats, and a full moon. It sold for \$2,600 in 2022. Other items that Halloween collectors look for include figurative pieces, candy containers, vintage masks, costumes, and metal noisemakers. Older decorations made from papier mache, cardboard and crepe paper, metal, porcelain, and ceramics are all popular with collectors. Rare and unique items can even lead to bidding wars. A cast iron doorstep depicting a

girl in costume holding a jack-o-lantern was said to be one of four known to exist. It sold for over \$34,000 in 2016.

Moving ahead on the calendar, Abraham Lincoln's October 3, 1863, proclamation declared the last Thursday of November to be a day of national Thanksgiving. In 1941, Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the fourth Thursday of November a federal holiday. Despite its history, Thanksgiving collectibles aren't as popular as those of other holidays. However, a turn of the century skittles game with cast iron wheels in the shape of a Thanksgiving turkey sold for over \$2,600 in 2013.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNETUISKULA

Christmas collectibles are so popular that there is a collectors group called "the Golden Glow of Christmas past." Like Halloween, there are a wide variety of Christmas collectibles. Some items on the Golden Glow of Christmas Past website include "antique glass and spun cotton ornaments, Belsnickle figures, and vintage lights like bubble lights and blow molds." Vintage and antique Christmas figures and aluminum trees with color wheels are also sought after. We've sold ornaments that have brought strong prices. Sixteen clip-on birds that went on a Christmas tree brought \$480, nine glass Santa and elf ornaments sold for over \$500, and 12 other figural ornaments went for over \$600 in one

of our auctions last year. Of course, older and rarer pieces can bring some huge prices. A German made nodding Father Christmas store display from the turn of the century reached \$28,000 at an auction house in 2017. That definitely brought both the buyer and seller some Christmas cheer.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place later this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit our Web site, <https://central-massauctions.com>, for links to 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).

Create your own winter containers

Add a bit of seasonal beauty to your front steps, window boxes, and other outdoor spaces with winter containers. Fill them with greenery, berries, cones, baubles and more. You'll find many of these items in your own backyard and more at your favorite garden retailer.

Collect a few evergreen stems, interesting seedheads and pods, colorful stems, and fruit and berry covered branches from your landscape. Plants you enjoy in the winter garden are good candidates to include.

Many native plants make excellent additions to winter containers. Include berry-laden stems of plants like winterberry, dried flowers of smooth hydrangea, colorful stems of red twig dogwood, branches of paper bark birches and fruit from native crabapples, hawthorns and roses.

Collect a few evergreen cones and harvest some stems topped with seedheads and



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •

MELINDA
MYERS

pod from gardens and native plantings. Add some airy texture and motion to your winter containers with native and ornamental grasses. Leave them in their natural state or add some paint and glitter for a bit of bling.

Do not include invasive plants like phragmites, teasel and oriental bittersweet. These will drop seeds in your landscape and soon become a problem in your gardens and surrounding natural spaces.

Convert one or two of your summer or fall containers into a winter display or start with an empty planter. Make sure the container you select can tolerate winter weather. Concrete,

iron, metal, wood and fiberglass containers are best suited for year-round use. Even plastic pots will last for a few years when left outside and kept safe from damage by snow shovels and snow blowers.

Make sure the pot has drainage holes to prevent waterlogged soil and water from overflowing the pot. Fill the container, up to an inch below the rim, with a well-drained potting mix, sand or topsoil. The soil helps hold the greenery, twigs and other materials in place and adds weight to keep the pot upright throughout the winter. Add a rock to the bottom of lightweight containers to prevent them from blowing over in the wind.

Use a mix of evergreens to provide a variety of textures, various shades of green and a backdrop for the items. Pine, spruce, arborvitae, boxwood and junipers may be growing in your landscape and most of these are available at garden centers. Spruce tips make it easy to create vertical accents in your containers. Select fresh greenery with pliable branches and firmly attached needles. Secure the stems by placing them at least four inches into the soil.

Next, add the other materials you purchased or collected from your landscape. Create vertical interest with colorful and fruit-laden stems



Melinda Myers

Winter containers filled with greenery, colorful stems, cones, berries and more can brighten the landscape all winter long.

and branches. Tuck in seedheads, pods, cones and colorful branches for added interest throughout the arrangement. Depending on your style, add artificial materials such as ribbon and outdoor ornaments. It's your opportunity to be creative.

Water thoroughly to remove air pockets and lock your ingredients in place. Keep the soil moist until the potting mix

freezes to extend the beauty of your winter arrangement. If possible, set your planter in a sheltered location out of drying winter winds and sunlight to keep it looking good even longer.

Once your container is complete, it's time to relax and enjoy your favorite winter activities and celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening

books, including the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, *2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Oxford High School announces honor foll

OXFORD — Oxford High School would like to announce its Honor Roll for Quarter 1 of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Seniors: Justine Anderson, Sarah Arndt, Zack Bond, Alanna Borelli, Cassidy Burke, Delaney Burke, Jaelynne Caracciolo, Keegan Comeau, Lilyan Daoust, Zoey Durand, Michaela Dwyer, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Alexander Hamilton, Matthew Hilman, Abigail Hoyt, Abigail Kimball, Rosy Krantz, Madison Labay, Addisen Monsen, Andrew Nieber, Samuel Paradise, Nolan Remington, Amaya Rosario-Green, Ethan White

Juniors: Isabella Amorim, Shayla Boliver, Abigail Davis, Randi Flynn, Kate Mayo

Sophomores: Haniya Awais, Samantha Bouley, Andrew Collins, Isabella Costa, Calleigh Furtado, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Caroline Harty, Noel Jandrow, Zachary MacDonald, Brooke Nitti, Alejandro Shaver, Torin Stone, Mia Urbacz, Keagan Vanarsdalen

Freshman: Bella Coghlan, Ashlyn Halliday, Ali Johnson, Chloe Lavallee, Brooke O'Connor, Haley Odom, Samuel Yogarathnam

Honors

Seniors: Muhammad Anees, Hailey Angell, Rachel Arndt, Connor Benway, Gianna Boucher, Christian Burke, Alyssa Carrier, Savannah Cioppa, Anna Costa Heroux, Conner Dawe, Sarah Fonseca, Lily Gosselin, Craige Grenier, Jeffrey Guzman, Ava Liberis, Matthew Lorre, Kaius Monson, Patrick Shilale, Hannah Taranto, Ava Vincent, Vanessa Walker, Maddysyn Wilson, Hannah Wood, Abigail Worster

Juniors: Michelle Annancy, Chloe Antonioli, Gabrielle Bartlett, Ava Benway, Makaligh Boyle-Muniz, Leah Brown, Audri Chalifoux, Jillian Chevalier, Marie Cosentino, Grace Crouch, Zaria Edison, Lilli Falkenhainer, Angeliz Felix, Turner Goyette, Maja Kulczynski, Daymyin Lopez, Leighya McDowell, Huckleberry McQuillan, Riley Moody, Ethan Odom, Chase Paul, Akira Shenette, Braden Stone, Jarheed Verduzco Lopez

Sophomores: Sabrina Adamiak, Gwenyth Auger, Travis Beaudette, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Davi Fracalossi, Benjamin Francis, Myles Francis, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Xavier Higgins, Ella Kasprzycki, Keith Kirkpatrick, Wyatt McQuillan, Adalisse Mercado Montanez, Aaron Oveka, Lukas Palin, Lacey Parker, Devyn Quarshie, Joseph Ricard, Adam Sliwoski, Krystiana Sobocinski, Lucas Staniunas, Julia Suklis, Abby Vignali

Freshman: Michael Annancy, Liam Bazin, Aaron Briggs, Brenna Burke, Ethan Campbell, Mary-Jane Carey, Chase Checkoway, Viktorya Davis, Michael Forbes, Sophia Francis, Ethan Hamilton, Alex Holt, Tabbitha Jyringi-Langevin, Sophia Kinhan, Riley Maki, Lily Margoupis, Audianna Marino, Samantha Marrier, Olivia Martinez, Nathan Mayo, Logan McEvoy, Tyler Melton, Agnes Molloy, Anthony Nadeau, Kaliyana Padilla, Nathan Paquette, Noah Poirier, David-James Purkis, Dionne Quarshie, Harper Shoblom, Alexander Skeates, Amanda Torres

UPTON — In keeping with its mission statement, Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild has chosen "Creating Comfort" for the theme of its upcoming quilt show theme. The guild members involve themselves in various outreach charity programs both locally and nationally that create comfort for others. For many years, the members have been visiting local nursing and assisted living facilities to work with the residents in designing their own lap quilts. These lap quilts are then sewn by the guild members and returned to the residents during a Reveal Party. From February to October of this year the guild made a total of 136 lap quilts for these residents and many more extra lap quilts made for residents who were not able to attend the design session.

In addition to lap quilts members also make fidget quilts that are distributed to nursing homes as well as to members' family and friends who might need them. Placemats are also made in the spring and for the winter holidays and given to a local Senior Centers. The receiving Senior Centers is done by a drawing held during a guild meeting. Chemo caps are made and donated to UMass Memorial Hospital or given to local residents who are undergoing chemo therapy and in need of these caps. Brian's

Quilts, flannel-backed small quilts made for children, are given to local police departments to carry in their cruisers to comfort a child in need due to accident, fire or family need.

Nationally, the guild participates in distributing Kennel Quilts to rescue leagues working in disaster stricken areas. Kennel Quilts are sent out to areas of our country that are rescuing animals from forest fires, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, or blizzards. More than 50 Kennel quilts have been distributed this year to these areas.

A new project, Kitten Bags, is providing cotton drawstring bags filled kitten toys and treats and given when a kitten is adopted from the Blackstone Valley Regional Animal Shelter.

In addition to these projects the guild also donates full-sized quilts through its Comfort Quilt program. These quilts are given to those in need and to people whose story has touched our members with joy, loss, stress, illness, and in many other ways. These quilts are also donated to support groups such as the End of Life

Program at Milford Regional Medical Center. Many quilts have also been sent to the Ukraine to support refugees there as well as to areas of the United States which have experienced disasters.

Examples of all these projects can be seen at the Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild biennial quilt show on March 15 & 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School in Upton. A display and demonstrations of the making of these items will also take place at the show.



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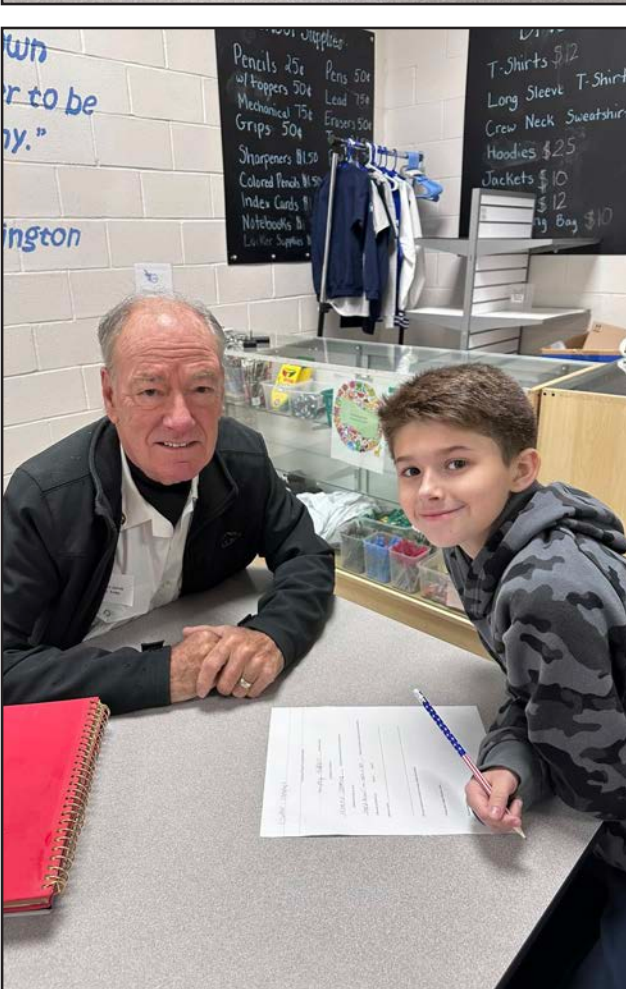
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Courtesy

On Monday, Nov. 10, the fifth grade students at Dudley Middle School hosted more than 40 local veterans for a performance, interviews, and homemade lunch. The students asked wonderful questions and learned a lot about U.S. history and what it means to serve.

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A shift in tradition

ALL SAINTS
ACADEMY
STUDENTS
EXPRESS
FAITH THROUGH
PRAYER
WALL

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy usually marks World Drawing God Day with its namesake activity: students visually express their personal understanding of God, sharing their faith in a creative and engaging way. This year, the tradition took a meaningful turn.

Instead of sketches, students were asked to celebrate the day by writing prayers. Every student, during their religion class, composed a heartfelt prayer for an individual or a group, whether local or global. These diverse prayers will be assembled to create a “prayer wall” within the school, a physical representation of the community’s collective hopes and intentions.

Students in seventh and eighth grades shared moving, personal reflections. Their prayers encompassed a variety of causes, from addressing food insecurity and homelessness to supporting those affected by global events like Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica.

Many students focused on personal and family life, asking God to watch over their parents or to protect single mothers working tirelessly for their children. Others looked outward with a broader spiritual message, asking God to pray for those who do not yet know or believe in Jesus Christ, or for those who have lost their faith journey.

This poignant collection of prayers sends a powerful message, demonstrating a deep sense of empathy and spiritual connection among the students as they celebrate their faith journey alongside others across the world.



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Holiday Specials



Cornerstone Bank kicks off annual toy drive to benefit local children

WORCESTER— Cornerstone Bank is once again inviting the community to join in the spirit of giving with its annual toy drive, running now through Saturday, Dec. 6. All Cornerstone Bank branch locations are collecting new, unwrapped toys to benefit local children in need this holiday season.

Since its founding in 2017, Cornerstone has proudly partnered with local charities to brighten the holidays for families in its communities. This year, all branches except the Southbridge location will donate collected toys to Planting the Seed Foundation, a Worcester-based nonprofit that supports underprivileged children and families. The Southbridge Branch will continue its long-standing tradition of supporting the Cops ‘N’ Kids Toy Drive, a local program that has received donations from Cornerstone Bank for more than five years.

“Our Annual Toy Drive is one of our favorite traditions,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “It’s inspiring to see our customers, employees and neighbors come together to make the holidays brighter for local children. These donations represent more than just gifts; they reflect the care and generosity that make our communities so special.”

Unwrapped toys for children of all ages can be dropped off at any Cornerstone Bank branch during regular business hours

through Saturday, Dec. 6.

To find a list of Cornerstone Bank locations, please visit cornerstonebank.com/locations.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P2234EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate Of:
Jesse Aaron Brooks
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Erin Bradbury of Holden MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, the allowance of a proposed distribution, 1st and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **12/02/2025** . This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 03, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 21, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3708EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Steven P. Ozaniak
Also Known As:
Steven Paul Ozaniak
Date of Death: August 31, 2025
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Petitioner Jennifer M. Marciniak of Millbury MA**
Petitioner Candice A. Lapierre of Webster MA
a Will has been admitted to Informal probate.
Petitioner Jennifer M. Marciniak of Millbury MA
Petitioner Candice A. Lapierre of Webster MA
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

November 21, 2025

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 Stella J. Derderian, David W. Lovitt to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated April 28, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44188, Page 154, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC, recorded on August 2, 2022, in Book No. 68010, at Page 250
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 December 8, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 21 Central Avenue, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
THE LAND IN DUDLEY, SAID WORCESTER COUNTY, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT:
A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON STANDING SITUATED IN THE EASTERLY PART OF SAID DUDLBY IN THE MERINO VILLAGE, SO-CALLED. AND IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBBD AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER THEREOF; THENCE EASTERLY FORTY-TWO (42) FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF JOHN P. DZIURGOT TO A STONE POST; THENCE NORTHERLY FIFTY (50) FEET BY LAND OP SAID DZIURGOTTO A STONE POST; THENCE WESTERLY FIFTY-EIGHT (58) FEET TO A STONE POST BY THE ROAD BY LAND OF SAID DZIURGOT; THENCE ON SAID ROAD FIFTY (50) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SAID DUDLEY IN THE MERINO VILLAGE, SO-CALLED, AND IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT; BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID KEATING PREMISES AND AT LAND OF SAID DZIURGOT; THENCE RUNNING EASTERLY THIRTY-ONE (31) FEET TO A STONE POST AT LAND OF SAID DZIURGOT; THENCE SOUTHERLY BY LAND OP SAID DZIURGOT EIGHTY-ONE (81) FEET TO A STONE POST; THENCE WESTERLY BY LAND OF SAID DZUIRGOT ABOUT SEVENTY-THREE (73) FEET TO THE ROAD; THENCE BY SAID ROAD THIRTY-ONE (31) FEET TO LAND OF SAID KEATING; THENCE BY SAID KEATING LAND EASTERLY ABOUT FORTY-TWO (42) FEET; THENCE BY SAID KEATING LAND ABOUT FIFTY (50) FEET NORTHERLY TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31910, Page 204.
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

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

NEWREZ LLC, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
24557
November 7, 2025
November 14, 2025
November 21, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT
Docket No. WO25P3821PO
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court –
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200
Anthony P. Abruzzise Family Trust
To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by Mary L. Abruzzise of Albany, NY requesting allowance of the First and Final Account(s) as Trustee and any other relief as requested in the Petition. 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 12/02/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 03, 2025
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
November 21, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. **WO24P0983EA**
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200
Estate of: Anthony P. Abruzzise, Jr., also known as Anthony P. Abruzzise
Date of Death: 07/26/2023
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Mary Lou Abruzzise of Albany, NY**, requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, 1st and such other relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceed-

ing. 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 12/02/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 4, 2025
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
November 21, 2025

Town of Dudley
Notice of Public Hearing
Order for Joint or Identical Pole Locations
National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 166, § 22, a Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, December 1, 2025 beginning at 6:35pm** at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA in Room 321A The Purpose of this Hearing: To Act on a National Grid and Verizon New England Pole Petition No.31203278.

Schofield Avenue – National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Schofield Ave. beginning at a point approximately 115' feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Brandon Road and Schofield Ave. Installing a midspan pole with supporting anchor in right of way to bring electricity over to new residence at 19 Brandon Road, Dudley, MA.

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and building as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes. Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the date and times specified or forward concerns in writing.

Jana Deschense, Chair
Dudley Board of Selectmen
November 21, 2025

Town of Dudley
Notice of Public Hearing
Order for Joint or Identical Pole Locations
National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 166, § 22, a Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, December 1, 2025 beginning at 6:35pm** at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA in Room 321A The Purpose of this Hearing: To Act on a National Grid and Verizon New England Pole Petition No.31143328

Deary Lane – National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Deary Lane beginning at a point approximately 255' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Elizabeth Street. National Grid to install one new 40 foot pole, numbered P1-2-50, on Deary Lane to provide power to a customer.

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and building as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes. Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the date and times specified or forward concerns in writing.

Jana Deschense, Chair
Dudley Board of Selectmen
November 21, 2025

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OBITUARIES

Gertrude L. Wonoski, 98



WEBSTER – Gertrude Loretta (Laferriere) Wonoski, 98, passed away Thursday, October 30, 2025 in UMass at Harrington, Southbridge, with family at her side. Her beloved husband of 71 years, Victor Joseph Wonoski, also passed away in November of 2018. May their reunion be full of light and joy. She leaves a son, Victor J. Wonoski, Jr., and his wife Joyce of Dayville, CT; two daughters, Sandra A. Wonoski with whom she lived, and Nancy C. Voutour and her partner David of Uxbridge; two grandchildren, Victoria N. Voutour and her spouse Caroline Calder of London, England, and Joshua Henries and his wife Colleen of Billerica; many beloved nieces and nephews including her godchildren, Joan Christenson and Lisa Keogh. She was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Catino, and her brother, Joseph Laferriere. Gertrude was born on July 14, 1927 in Southbridge, a daughter of Leland and Anna (Vincelette) Laferriere. She lived in Webster and Dudley all her life. Mrs. Wonoski first worked as a floor lady at the

Key Department Store (later Mammouth Mart) in Webster and then was a packer at the former American Optical Company in Southbridge for 18 years before retiring in 1989. The moments that truly brought her joy were Sunday night spaghetti dinners with her family...and successfully out-bowling several champions back in her prime!

She was a member of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dudley. Her funeral will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Road, Dudley (please meet at the church). The burial will be in Saint Anthony’s Cemetery, Webster, with military honors for her husband, Victor (who served in World War II), provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. To honor Gertrude’s love of birds – she always watched for them in the trees outside her window and believed that if a Cardinal appeared then her husband had come to visit her – please, consider supporting Mass Audubon Pierpont Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary in Dudley, MA. (<https://www.massaudubon.org/places-to-explore/wildlife-sanctuaries/pierpont-meadow>) Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street.

Paul Joseph Beaudette

Paul Joseph Beaudette died on November 14, 2025 in Oregon where he had lived for two years. Paul was born on April 6, 1953 in Southbridge, Massachusetts and grew up in Oxford, Massachusetts. He attended Delgado in Louisiana where he met his wife and they were married on June 6 1973. Paul and his wife lived in Iowa, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and then finally ended up in Louisiana. He loved the outdoors and was happiest when he was hunting or fishing or just walking in the woods. He enjoyed many different kinds of jobs, some were building camps or decks or porch tops or sheds or whatever family or friends would ask of him. He was a natural at hands on and a jack of all trades. Paul’s professional job was an orthotist-prosthetist for over fifty years. He is loved deeply by his family and will be greatly missed. He is preceded in death by his parents Albert Joseph Beaudette and Roselyn Edith Mitchell Beaudette. He is survived by his wife of fifty-two years: Judith (Judy) Kay McDavid Beaudette, two daughters Amy LaPorte (Nathan) and Lisa Dickinson (Jimmy), and six amazing grandchildren. They are Landon, Abigail, London, Noah, Hannah, and Andrew. Also his sisters Rhonda and Robin

and a brother Peter. Paul will be buried in a graveside ceremony at Red Star Cemetery located at 2155 Mormon Trail NW, Wesson, MS 39191 on November 29, 2025 at 11:00AM. To honor Paul’s life and in memory of him go forth and be a peacemaker unto the world and help somebody. On behalf of Paul and his family much gratitude is given to all who called Paul a friend or an acquaintance or worked with him professionally. Enjoy Life and Stay Happy and keep love for all in your heart.

John 11:35
Jesus wept.
D&C 18:10
Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God.
Moroni 7:45-47
And Charity suffereth long and is kind and envieth not and is not puffed up seeketh not her own is not easily provoked thinketh no evil and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth beareth all things believeth all things hopeth all things endureth all things.
But charity is the pure love of Christ and it endures forever. Amen.
God be with you ‘til we meet again.



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Bay Path Nursing graduate’s inspiring journey

FROM 911 DISPATCHER TO UNIT MANAGER,
OVERCOMING OBSTACLES WITH COMPASSION



Lauren Locke

CHARLTON — For Lauren A. Locke of Lisbon, Conn., nursing is more than a profession—it is the fulfillment of a lifelong calling shaped by resilience, service, and unwavering

compassion. After years of personal challenges, Locke made the decision to return to school in 2019, enrolling at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, and has since forged a remarkably fast-moving, remarkable, and influential career. Locke’s dedication to nursing has propelled her from a 911 dispatcher to a respected healthcare professional and community role model. Returning to school in 2019 after years of personal challenges, Locke has since built a fast-advancing career and now serves as a pediatric home care nurse while preparing to enter an LPN-to-RN program. “Nursing has been a passion and life goal of mine for as long as I can remember,” Locke said. “After years of life getting in the way and obstacles, a friend of mine convinced me to go back to school with her.” Rapid career progression during a critical time Locke began working as an LPN prior to graduation and quickly advanced to Unit Manager at Odd Fellows Home of Worcester shortly after passing her NCLEX-PN. Her hiring occurred during the Massachusetts state of emergency, earning her the unique recognition of being: “First hired as LPN undergrad, under-board with Hero’s Pay under Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker Order #24.” Her leadership and clinical skill during this unprecedented time demonstrated the resilience and commitment that have defined her professional growth. Excellence in specialized pediatric care

Locke currently provides highly specialized pediatric home care through Aveanna HealthCare, delivering complex treatments including medication administration, nebulizer therapy, chest vest and chest PT, and oral, nasal, and tracheostomy suctioning—often for medically fragile or nonverbal children. Her prior roles include service at Villa Maria Skilled Nursing Facility and earlier leadership as an LPN Unit Manager at Odd Fellows Home. Before entering nursing, Locke spent eight years as a 911 dispatcher for American Ambulance in Norwich, CT, building critical crisis communication and emergency response skills. Honored through the national #gameonhero program In 2020, Locke was a proud recipient of the Yasso Game On Hero Award, part of the company’s nationwide #gameonhero Program, which recognized individuals whose compassion and service uplift their communities during difficult times. Yasso’s Experiential Marketing Associate, Taylor Hunt, shared that the company received an overwhelming number of moving hero nominations nationwide, each demonstrating extraordinary positivity and care. Among those honored by the program was Locke, then a Bay Path Practical Nursing student whose story exemplified the spirit of resilience celebrated by the initiative—caring for an 83-year-old client, assisting in making fabric masks for hospitals, caring for her grandmother, and completing her education through remote learning and Digital Clinical Experience (DCE).

“It’s wonderful to see and be recognized by such a great company doing great things for the healthcare system and community,” Locke said. “Such an inspiring thing to be a part of during a traumatic time.” Locke’s own recognition through the program reflects her dedication to patient care, kindness, and community service. Additional recognitions & certifications Locke has also been nominated for: Feed Inc. Kindness Award, Kate Spade Hero Award, and the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2020 Clinical Excellence Award. Her professional development includes training and certifications in Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, and Stop the Bleed. Continuing her educational journey Despite navigating personal health obstacles, Locke is currently completing science prerequisite courses at Three Rivers Community College in preparation for an LPN-to-RN program. She continues working as a pediatric home care nurse, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to her patients and future in nursing. “Lauren embodies the perseverance, compassion, and professionalism that define Bay Path nurses,” Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, retired Academy Director shared. “Her journey is both inspiring and deeply reflective of the impact a dedicated nurse can have on families, communities, and the healthcare system.”



Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3			4
5							
				6			
	7						

ACROSS

1. Parcels
5. Tidy a space
7. Liquid turning into a gas

DOWN

1. Nuts that are not a nut
2. Transparent
3. Pain
4. Trying things out
6. Liquid fat

1. Peanut butter 2. Clear 3. Ache 4. Sampling 5. Boiling 6. Oil 7. Packages 8. Neaten up 9. Boiling 10. Packages 11. Neaten up 12. Boiling 13. Packages 14. Neaten up 15. Boiling 16. Packages 17. Neaten up 18. Boiling 19. Packages 20. Neaten up 21. Boiling 22. Packages 23. Neaten up 24. Boiling 25. Packages 26. Neaten up 27. Boiling 28. Packages 29. Neaten up 30. Boiling 31. Packages 32. Neaten up 33. Boiling 34. Packages 35. Neaten up 36. Boiling 37. Packages 38. Neaten up 39. Boiling 40. Packages 41. Neaten up 42. Boiling 43. Packages 44. Neaten up 45. Boiling 46. Packages 47. Neaten up 48. Boiling 49. Packages 50. Neaten up 51. Boiling 52. Packages 53. Neaten up 54. Boiling 55. Packages 56. Neaten up 57. Boiling 58. Packages 59. Neaten up 60. Boiling 61. Packages 62. Neaten up 63. Boiling 64. Packages 65. Neaten up 66. Boiling 67. Packages 68. Neaten up 69. Boiling 70. Packages 71. Neaten up 72. Boiling 73. Packages 74. Neaten up 75. Boiling 76. Packages 77. Neaten up 78. 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Auburn High School alum named LEC Rookie of the Year

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Little East Conference (LEC) has released its year-end major awards for women’s soccer, with UMass Dartmouth first year forward Natalie Frazier named the 2025 LEC Rookie of the Year, as announced by the conference on Wednesday.

Frazier, who graduated from Auburn High School earlier this year, becomes the fifth Corsair in program history to be named LEC Rookie of the Year, which was last awarded to a UMass Dartmouth student-athlete more than 30 years ago, Jill Cook in 1993.

Frazier garnered All-LEC First Team honors after a breakout rookie season for the Corsairs. In 17 games played, including 16 starts, Frazier finished the year with 12 goals and one assist for 25 total points. She fired 76 total shots with 35 on target for 46.1 on-goal shooting percentage in 2025. She also notched three game-winners for UMass Dartmouth including two in Little East Conference action.

Frazier became just the third Corsair since 2010 to tally 10-or-more goals in a single-season. Furthermore, Frazier matched the most goals scored since 2010 which was last accomplished by Erica Jonasson during the 2011 season with 12 goals.

Among the Little East, Frazier ranked second overall in the league in goals (12) and goals per game (70.6) while also being tied for second with three game-winning goals. She averaged 4.47 shots per game, good for third most in the conference, and sat sixth overall in total shots (76) and shots on-goal (35).

Additionally, her 25 total points on the season ranked fifth most in the Little East.

Frazier recorded her first pair of collegiate goals at Elms College on August 30 to help secure the first win of the season by a final score of 4-1. On September 5 against Curry College, the rookie forward scored her second brace of the year along with her first career game-winner to lift the Corsairs over the Colonels, 2-1, from Cressy Field. Midway through the season, Frazier went on a five-game scoring streak that started at Keene State on September 20 and finished on October 11 against Eastern Connecticut State University. She recorded six games with seven-or-more shots and found the back of the net in nine of the 18 contests for UMass Dartmouth.

Dudley church offers guided tours of Tiffany windows during Christmas Fair

DUDLEY — Step into history and beauty at the First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ (135 Center Rd.) during the Annual Christmas Craft Fair (Dec. 6)! Join us for exclusive guided tours of the stunning Tiffany windows.

The tours will be led by educator and church member Tom Boyd, Church Historian, and his team of specially trained docents, these 20-minute tours will reveal the fascinating story behind the windows’ creation — and the remarkable connection between famed inventor Hezekiah Conant and the legendary Louis Comfort Tiffany himself.

Come celebrate the rich history of Dudley, be inspired by the breathtaking stained-glass windows, and join a meaningful effort to preserve these irreplaceable treasures as we look ahead to the Church’s 300th anniversary in 2032! During the Christmas Fair (10 a.m.–2 p.m.), enjoy delicious food such as clam chowder, chili, pulled chicken sandwiches, and hot dogs. Take in the festive entertainment, visit the famous Cookie Corner, try your luck at the basket and quilt raffles, and browse the work of talented local crafters.

Be sure to stop by the Tiffany 300 Gift Table, where Scott Donovan’s stunning handcrafted jewelry captures the beauty of the windows—

offering a one-of-a-kind holiday gift that lets you take a piece of this cherished heritage home (see photos below).

The day concludes with a live auction at 1:30 p.m.—a fun and exciting way to wrap up the celebration!

Tours begin at 10 a.m., and depart every half hour until noon. No reservations needed — just bring your curiosity and sense of wonder!

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to see, learn, and fall in love with a piece of living history!

And don’t forget to stop at the gift shop.

FUNDS
continued from page A1

Center that the Women’s Club so generously donated. There are a few counters that remain undone, so I’m getting a quote on that through the Director,” Ruda said.

Other repairs planned throughout the town hall include flooring and ceiling tiles, wall repairs and enhancements, new chairs and furniture, and more; all items Ruda noted are generally not in the town budget.

Donation to fund book vending machines

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — This month, the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee welcomed a donation that will help increase literacy at Dudley Elementary School in the name of a beloved teacher two decades after her passing.

Joseph DeSantis, Director of Finance and Operations for the Dudley Charlton Regional School District, revealed the \$2,500 donation during a Nov. 12 meeting of the School Committee as a contribution from Amy Fox and the Ruda family in honor of Elaine Ruda.

“Mrs. Ruda was a beloved Dudley Elementary teacher for many years, who passed away in 2005. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Mrs. Ruda’s passing the family would like to make a donation to DCRSD and Dudley Elementary School specifically,” explained DeSantis.

The donation is specifically earmarked for an initiative geared towards literacy. DeSantis explained that the money will play a role in pushing the district into the future in terms of access to books and other reading materials.

“The impact of the many years of second grade instruction from Elaine Ruda will continue via these donated funds, and will be embodied in the form of a book vending machine materials designed to directly impact student reading and literacy,” DeSantis explained.

Book vending machines are, as the name implies, machines that allow students access to different books as both rewards for good behavior and deeds and as an accessible resource to increase their access to literacy of all kinds. DeSantis did not clarify the extent to which the vending machines would be rolled out in the schools.

The School Committee welcomed the donation with open arms, thanking the Ruda family for their contribution.

Worcester Talking Book Library presents “Channeling Rachel Carson”

WORCESTER — On Saturday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m., the Worcester Talking Book Library will host theatrical performer and NPR storyteller Diane Edgecomb portraying Rachel Carson. Free and open to the Public, this empowering one-woman show shines light on the many ways we can find our way home to the wonder of the natural world.

Maine cottage where she wrote Silent Spring to channeling powerful memories of our own key nature experiences, this performance brings to life the sense of wonder Rachel wrote about so movingly at the end of her life. The ability to wonder is a sense that brings renewal and a gift from those that take us by the hand and bring us back to our love and delight in nature. Oracle-award winning author and storyteller Diane Edgecomb skillfully weaves a hauntingly beautiful tale of her own journey of poignancy, joy and light.

Rachel Carson was the founding spirit of the environmental movement. Her accessible nature writings transformed the understanding of a generation, opening eyes to the miraculous stories unfolding every moment in the living biosphere of this natural world. “The Edge of the Sea,” “The Sea Around Us,” and “Silent Spring” — the book that challenged the entire petrochemical industry — placed her as the foremost nature writer of her time and as a true visionary. No reservations required.

Abigayle Simpson of Auburn begins first semester at Lasell University

NEWTON — Abigayle Simpson, a student from Auburn, began their first semester in the Fall of 2025 at Lasell University.

This program will take place in the Banx Meeting Room at Worcester Public Library, located at 3 Salem Sq., Worcester.



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Jaxen Age 6 Registration #8858

Jaxen is a happy, loving, and affectionate child who brightens every room he’s in. He has a joyful personality and loves to give hugs and cuddle with those he feels close to. Jaxen finds happiness in simple pleasures—playing games, listening to music, singing, and reading interactive books that let him engage with stories in a hands-on way. Curious and full of energy, Jaxen loves to explore the world around him. He enjoys spending time outdoors, running, climbing, and discovering new adventures. The park is one of his favorite places to be, especially when he can find new challenges to climb and conquer. Jaxen is also a little songbird—he adores music and has an incredible memory for tunes. He can quickly pick up songs he hears, especially ones with catchy or repetitive rhythms, and he loves to sing along with enthusiasm and joy. When it comes to food, Jaxen enjoys classic favorites like macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, and pasta. He’s also making great progress in learning to try new foods, including vegetables, as he continues to grow and explore new tastes. Jaxen thrives in environments filled with warmth, patience, and encouragement. His playful nature, curiosity, and love of connection make him a delightful child who brings smiles and laughter to everyone around him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21181580426>

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

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



REAL ESTATE

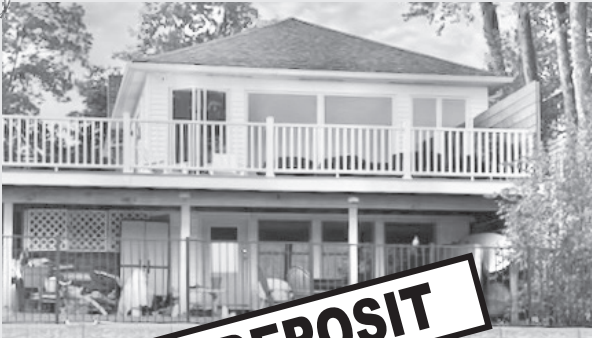


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Featured Listing
DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE
2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$399,900.

Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island
PANORAMIC VIEWS!



ON DEPOSIT

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/ cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath, Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates. \$775,000

Featured New Listing!!!
WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET



Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in! \$304,900



WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings, Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.

WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



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Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre. assisted sale **\$365,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD



ON DEPOSIT

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular view! 2 bedrooms - 3rd bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Backhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront! \$799,000.

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale \$1,199,900

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop. Patio! Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline. \$595,000



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Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our Be The 3 goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety, as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship, and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month, OMS celebrates Ella Gasasira, Liam Valipour, Eli Dexter, Jayanah Mason, and, not pictured, Jazziebel Gonzalez as our October Students of the Month.

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A photograph of the exterior of the Auburn Package store at night. The store has a sign that says "OPEN" and "196". There are yellow railings on the steps leading to the entrance. The store is illuminated by red and green lights.

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