

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, December 18, 2020

Santa pays a visit to Dudley

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – While the town of Dudley couldn’t celebrate the holiday season in traditional fashion, that didn’t stop them from inviting jolly old St. Nick himself to provide some Christmas joy to children throughout the town.

On Friday, Dec. 4, the Dudley Police and Fire Departments hosted their annual visit from Santa Claus which usually accompanies the yearly tree lighting. However, do to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2020 event had to be cancelled, but rather than going without any holiday cheer the town coordinated a visit from the Christmas icon and brought him to the kids putting him on board a fire engine with the Grinch and traveling the streets of town throughout the night. Locals were able to use a special phone app to follow Santa’s journey and greet him on his travels. His route was also posted on the social media.

The efforts of the Dudley Police and Fire Departments to continue Santa’s visit in spite



Courtesy

Santa arrives at the Dudley town hall during his ride around Dudley on Dec. 5

of the pandemic were commended during a meeting on Dec. 7 where selectmen called it a “larger than life event”

and thanked Police Chief Steve Wojnar, Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski and everyone involved to helping bring a smile

to the faces of families across the town. Chief Wojnar called the event a team effort and credited others who helped make

Santa’s visit a reality.

“George Patrinos did a very good job driving the ladder truck. The fire chief was there helping

out with everything. My guys and everyone else did a very good job helping

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Webster sets tax rate

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – Selectmen unanimously voted to continue the town’s single tax rate, setting this year’s property taxes at \$15.10 per \$1000 on Dec 7. That rate is four cents above last year’s level.

To Chair Randy Becker, having one rate for the last few years has been “a good thing for the town in our ability to attract business.”

His brother, Assessor Mark Becker, said Webster’s overall property value grew by 2.7 percent to about \$1.76 billion, with the biggest increases in two- and three-family home values. In general, he added, “a lot of people will stay the same, about a quarter will go down and about a quarter will go up” in their taxes this year.

But next year is likely to see a much bigger jump; Mark Becker expects an 8-10 percent increase in assessed values. While the rate will probably fall 5-7 percent, average bills will probably rise about 2.5 percent.

Beyond that, the selectmen spent much of their meeting discussing two “nuisance properties” – 124 High St and 168 Chase Ave.

Town Administrator Doug Willardson said he’s had “many conversations” with the previous owner but got “no cooperation.” The property sold recently, and the new owner contacted him the same day as their meeting. He said the person wants to save the property and has a contractor to do the work, which includes demolishing a garage, cleaning up “garbage strewn across the property,” and fixing the house itself.

He noted the town already has quotes to do that work (which would result in a lien on the property), but the board voted to give the new owner 14 days to finalize the sale and provide proof before doing it.

“It does seem legitimate, but until it’s final, there will be some questions,” Willardson observed, noting he doesn’t think the buyer and seller are related.

Regarding the second lot, he noted it’s next to the French River and was hit by the tornado last year. That owner has been difficult to reach, having moved “several times” before the town could finally serve him notice to act. The primary concern there is internal fire dangers, with Randy Becker adding, “we don’t want to be risking firemen’s lives or the public’s lives.” The board gave the owner 30 days to complete an evaluation of the building’s issues under MGL Chapter 34.

In other business, Selectman Earl Gabor proposed instituting fines for violations of Covid-related requirements after he and Andrew Jolda participated in a recent online Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission forum that examined Gov Baker’s recent Order #53.

Although Gabor said ABCC has found “most people are abiding by the governor’s regulations, but they did point to some problems.” One of them involved an establishment having 40 positive Covid tests, but the state couldn’t trace people because they didn’t keep an attendance list. None were in Webster, but he said

Turn To **TAX RATE** page **A7**

Dudley Planning Board approves DMA permit, site plan

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Planning Board has given their final seal of approval for a special permit and site plan for DMA Holdings to set up a new marijuana cultivation, manufacturing and retail space at the Chase Mill.

Members of the Planning Board met virtually on Dec. 9 with Attorney Nicholas Adamopoulos representing DMA Holdings to certify their approval of the site plan and special permit. After brief discussion the board unanimously approved the document while will allow DMA Holdings to progress with their plans to transform the histor-

ic mill property at 35-37 Chase Ave. The property is owned by Verde Organica, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of DMA Holdings.

The document presented during the meeting included 23 conditions DMA Holdings is expected to meet ranging from hour limitations for construction and renovation to requiring building plans be submitted for review once finalized. Among other items discussed were expectations for power supplies, street lighting, exterior building lighting, and ADA compliance all of which resulted in positive discussion between DMA representatives and the board. Attorney Adamopoulos confirmed

some changes to the property can be expected, such as an exterior door for the retail space, but the plan remains to try and maintain the historical looks of the mill.

“We stated that we were going to maintain the integrity of that old mill building so that it would fit in to its current scope and that we’re not going to touch that,” Antonopoulos said.

Probably the biggest item of discussion didn’t even involve the mill at all, but rather an off-shoot property across the street where selectmen are hoping recreational space will be set aside for those wishing to embrace the beauty of the French River. Adamopoulos said that DMA could potential-

ly work with the developers of the nearby Stevens Mill to help enhance the French River as a place of recreation and visitation in Dudley. He confirmed utilizing the added property they acquired with the mill is part of their discussions and planning.

Overall, the meeting was a positive one further solidifying DMA’s commitment to Dudley.

“We don’t see anything in these conditions that would hamper our goal to open this project here in town. We’ll make sure we meet all of these criteria as we move forward and ultimately, we’re going to be working closely with this board and the selectmen,” Antonopoulos concluded.

All Saints ornaments go to Washington

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy, a small Catholic school located in southern Worcester county, was chosen by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to represent the state in the America Celebrates ornament program, a collaborative effort between the U.S. Dept. of Education and the National Park Service and funded by the National Park Foundation. Fifty-six schools, one from each state and territory, are selected each year to create ornaments to adorn their state tree in President’s Park on the Ellipse in Washington, D.C.

Under the direction of Mrs. Crowley, the school’s art teacher, everyone was tasked to come up with a design that would represent our state in some way.

“I was so impressed with the amount of research the students did and the unique designs they came up with,” said Mrs. Crowley. “Given the short time frame in which to complete the project (only one week) the students worked through lunches and recess and every free minute they had in school to complete these designs and the workmanship and effort shows in every piece. Juliette Rizzo, Managing Director of Special Projects, Partnerships

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St. Joseph School students help others prepare their hearts for Christ



WEBSTER — It is a tradition at St. Joseph School that each Sunday during Advent, a different grade is responsible for the Liturgy of the Word and Prayer of the Faithful during the Sunday 9 a.m. Family Mass. This year, the Third Sunday of Advent required even more preparation because hay is distributed to all St. Joseph School students and Basilica families who attend the Mass. Therefore, Ms. Kelly Bailey’s Fifth Grade students graciously volunteered to assemble the packets.

During Advent, for each good deed, act of kindness, well-said prayer, or sacrifice performed in honor of Jesus, children are asked to take a piece of hay and place it in their manger to create a warm, welcome, and comfortable place for Baby Jesus. By reflecting on their good deeds, children are also preparing their hearts for Christ to enter on Christmas Day.

At the Christmas Vigil observance, Polish families prepare a simple meal containing twelve meatless dishes, all of which have a symbolic meaning. The table is covered with a white linen cloth that has a thin layer of hay and wheat grains beneath it. In addition to the hay and wheat germ reminding those present that the Infant Jesus was laid on hay in the manger, it is symbolic because hay is used as physical food for animals but also represents the feeding of our souls, God himself providing everlasting nourishment.

The 250 packets of hay prepared by the St. Joseph School Fifth Grade students were blessed by Rev. Allen Alexander, Campus Minister Marianapolis Preparatory School, who was the celebrant of the Family Mass at St. Joseph Basilica.

Courtesy
St. Joseph School Fifth Grade student, Alan Kulpa, assembles packets of hay to be distributed to students for use in their mangers as well as on their tables on Christmas Eve.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

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

DUDLEY

POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported only one arrest during the week of Dec. 4-11.

Aneudi Joel Perez Torres, age 27, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 8 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Number Plate Violation, and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.

Dudley selectmen commend employee for stepping up during storm

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Highway Department is receiving high praise after the first major snow event of the winter dropped several inches on areas of Southern Worcester County throughout Saturday, Dec. 5. Normally, it wouldn’t be much of a surprise that Dudley’s highway crew stepped up and handled the weather effectively, but what made Dec. 5 special was that they did so without the two leading figures on hand.

Town Administrator Jon Ruda revealed during a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Dec. 7 that due to an anomaly of a staffing scenarios heavy equipment operator M.J. Gatski had to step into a leadership role and lead the department through the snowstorm.

“We didn’t have a superintendent at the time, but we also had a foreman out on medical leave, and we had our heavy equipment operator who is our senior person in the highway department step up during our first significant winter snow storm and handle the crew for the entire duration of the storm. I think he did one heck of a good job,” Ruda told selectmen. “There was a little bit of anxiety going into it without a foreman or a superintendent, but I think the next morning we saw a pretty decent job was done. He was able to step up. I think he did a good job.”

Ruda provided a more personal compliment to the highway department and Gatski in a statement to the Webster Times.

“There is a lot to be said about the value of employees that are willing to step-up and lead when asked to do so. Not only is it a demonstration of the M.J. Gatski’s dedication to getting the job done, but it is also a testament to his past and present supervisors that he was able to internalize and be so familiar with the plan that when called-upon, he was able to execute it,” Ruda said. “The Board of Selectmen want to make it a point to publicly shed light on staff that come through and serve the public-often silently, and the cooperation and teamwork that goes on behind the scenes. It happens every day and often times goes unnoticed.”

Selectmen did take the time to commend Gatski and his crew for their determination and dedication for the work. Each selectman took a moment during the Dec. 7 meeting to commend the team for their efforts and Gatski for his leadership and ability to adapt to the situation when called upon.

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$470,000, 24 Ash Ln, Burke, Sean M, and Burke, Paula J, to Dunn, Carey, and Dunn, Kathryn.
\$390,000, 157 Baker Pond Rd, Mainini, Maria, to Livernoche, Steven J, and Livernoche, Jessie E.
\$350,000, 9 Ridge Dr, Hopkins, Taylor M, to Comptois, Sean R.
\$285,000, 114 Southbridge Rd, Livernoche, Steven J, and Livernoche, Jessie E, to DeSantiago, Marilyn.
\$280,000, 23 Oakwood Ave, Wadden, Joshua, and Mulhearn, Shelby, to Delaney, Patrick, and Delaney, Miranda.
\$250,000, 23 Pine St, Pupek, Izabela, to Lojewski, Dariusz.
\$50,000, 17 Southbridge Rd #2, Joyce, Kristen M, and US Bank NA Tr, to US Bank NA Tr.

Oxford

\$400,000, 148-R Old Webster Rd, Fugatt, Robert, to Eisenhauer, Stephen A, and Eisenhauer, Ashley L.
\$380,000, 345 Main St, Moynagh, Timothy, to Bujiriri, Mukamuliza L, and Bonagwa, Michael P.
\$359,900, 26 Walcott St, Casagrande LT, and Casagrande, Richard P, to Perry, Lisa M, and Wilbur-Kamien, Evan E.
\$356,000, 12 Forest St, Pereira, Curtis J, and Pereira, Evelyn R, to Arsenault, Thomas J, and Arsenault, Devan.
\$346,000, 14 Holly St, Salonia, Joseph, and Salonia, Alysia, to Nieves, Vilmarie.
\$340,000, 71 McIntyre Rd, Williams, James E, to Daniels, Trudy.
\$320,000, 2 Fort Hill Rd, Hanson, Richard G, and Hanson, Beverly A, to Loughlin, Cheryl.
\$307,300, 8 Pond St, Sirard, Joyce A, to Sirard, Jeffrey A, and Sirard, Sarah E.
\$300,000, 12 Sunset Ave, FNMA, to Negron, Ramon.
\$300,000, 296 Providence Rd, 296 Providence Road RT, and Douville, Thomas P, to Franmar RT, and Dagostino, John.
\$285,000, 109 Charlton St, Degnan, Robin M, to Oconnor, Kyle E.
\$203,000, 7 Depot Rd, Devault Mildred R Est, and Devault, David V, to Rheault, Christopher A, and Rheault, Nancy L.
\$160,000, Maple Rd, Moynagh, Timothy, to Cooper, Gary.
\$125,000, 6 Stone Creek Cir, Grady, Robert W, and Grady, Pamela, to Champagne, Jennifer, and Celli, Edward D.
\$93,172, 25 Lovett Rd, Trainor Elizabeth F Est, and Trainor, Shawn W, to Curtis, Blanca.
\$90,000, 13 Polonia Dr, Chojnacki, Richard, to Anger, Jeffrey.

Webster


\$475,000, 1005 Treasure Island Rd #1005, Ekberg, David R, and Ekberg, Priscilla A, to Snook, J Craig, and Barkey, Pamela J.
\$390,000, 20 Konkel Ave, McNally, Thomas P, and McNally, Constance E, to Fogwell, Katie N, and Papadopoulos, Demetre.
\$366,100, 7 Camile Rd, Gajewski, Mary A, and Gajewski, Michael N, to Cleveland, Leslie G, and Hornback, Robin.
\$325,000, 51 Myrtle Ave, Martins, Fernando C, to Vazquez, Maria E, and Alvarado, Jose M.
\$288,000, 8 Racicot Ave, Lienard, Paul, and Lienard, Nancy M, to Holt, Krystal, and Holt, Michael.
\$280,000, 9 Lake Pkwy, Therrien, Ellen, to Balderelli, Kelly A, and Howell, John R.
\$274,000, 27 Ash St, Surinder-Sharma, Robert, and Sharma, Jenna, to Desrosiers, Aidan, and Sutherland, Courtney.
\$250,000, 212 Beacon Park #212, Mroczka, Wesley J, to Dowse, John.
\$106,000, 249 N Main St, Grabowski, Cynthia, and HSBC Bank USA NA Tr, to Morgia, Medhat.

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Friday's Child

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Samantha
Age 14

Hi! My name is Samantha and I want to be a singer when I grow up!

Samantha is a creative teenage girl of Caucasian descent who wants to be a singer when she grows up. Those who know Samantha say she is a smart, resilient, empathetic child who truly cares about the well-being of others. She is also athletic, very practical and a strong advocate for herself. She is able to express her needs without any prompting. Samantha has been very interested in trying out new hair styles and those who are close to her say she is extremely stylish. Samantha likes school, particularly writing and recess. She is a great problem solver who works hard to achieve desired outcomes.


Legally free for adoption, Samantha would do best in a home with a single mom or a two-parent family. If there are other children in the home, they should not be close in age to Samantha. Samantha would thrive in a family that could give her a lot of attention and help her reach her fullest potential. A pre-adoptive family will need to maintain contact with Samantha's relatives and her visiting resource through phone and visitation. Samantha would like a family with pets (maybe a dog) and older siblings.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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





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School officials discuss COVID concerns

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – As it has for a long time now, Covid-19 dominated the School Committee’s business at their most recent meeting Dec 8. But the key item wasn’t formally on the agenda, so it was nearly forgotten until member Linda Millet raised it.

Just as they were about to adjourn, she brought up the fact a few teachers sent the board letters raising concerns about having in-person classes. Teacher Sara Cole attended, and said they were all similar except for a paragraph giving personal experiences.

As read by Chair Kelly Seddiki, the letters called in-person school “not scientifically sound” and urged going back to entirely remote classes. They cited the

fact the country has had more than 280,000 deaths and projects around 450,000 by Jan. 31, and evidence shows students can transmit the virus, although they tend to be asymptomatic. In school, they’re particularly concerned that Park Ave students spend roughly two hours a day without masks because of meals, “mask breaks,” and other things.

“[Known] cases are only the tip of the iceberg,” the writer of the one Seddiki read, Amanda Anderson, stated, noting she’s had several family members test positive.

Cole agreed, saying not having a serious discussion about this is “a big disservice to the entire community.” She said she “loves the job ... but it’s not worth having kids in school at all cost.”

Superintendent Ruthann Goguen said “there’s nothing more serious I take than safety.” If Webster does switch back to remote, she said, it’ll depend on the data plus input from the committee, Health Board, and state; at this point nobody’s sure what “the threshold” for doing so is.

That said, though, she acknowledged some teachers “are living in fear” because they don’t have the choice to stay home, while parents can choose to have their kids go to school remotely.

“Maintaining safety in our classroom will continue to be the guiding light,” she said, noting earlier that balancing all of the changes and growing case numbers is putting a lot of stress on everyone.

“Please be kind to each other and those who have to make tough decisions,” she said. “Nobody signed up for this.”

At that point, Goguen was specifically talking about the fact Webster is awaiting receipt of its BinaxNow rapid test kits, but it equally applies to other areas the district has faced lately. One that has also sparked concerns is planning for a basketball season. While signups happened after the meeting, Webster won’t know if the Southern Worcester County League will actually have a season until Jan. 4.

Goguen said Webster will “not isolate ourselves as the odd-man-out,” in saying no if the district opts for a season. She, Athletic Director Tony Perranto, other SWCL leaders, and Health Director Jen Sullivan have been talking about this repeatedly, trying to draft safety measures. Some leagues have already canceled, some have not.

“If SWCL’s moving forward, we’re moving forward, except of the Board of Health says no?” Seddiki asked for clarification.

“That’s my understanding,” Goguen replied.

“I am open to revisiting this Jan. 4 ... [but] right now, I cannot approve it as is,” Sullivan had said just before that. She noted she has to follow state public health rules, which differ from SWCL rules.

Perranto said a couple players in the recently-concluded sports season did “come down with cold symptoms” and were “shut down,” plus two soccer players who had to quarantine after the season, but nobody tested positive for Covid. He argued some kids that aren’t playing school sports are going instead to Amateur Athletic Union teams and other outside games where it could be far harder to ensure safety or to trace contacts if anyone does get sick.

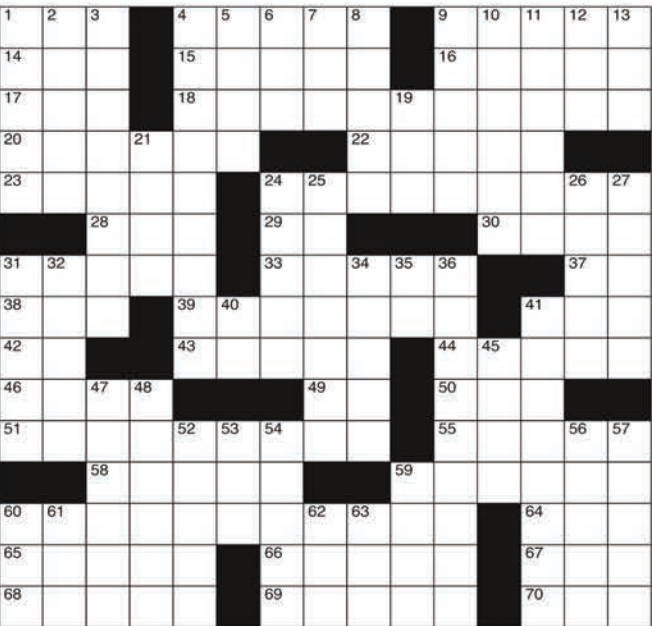
Earlier, Goguen had noted “we’re being forced to make decisions when the data is backwards.” For example, she said, the state doesn’t want to see contact sports, but MIAA is saying it’s OK outside schools. District leaders want the kids to be able to play and get the benefits of it, but are concerned about safety.

Sullivan praised the district’s nurses and staff for their cooperation and accurate information dissemination.

In other business, Business Manager Monique Pierangeli announced that the state’s MSBA panel chose Flansburgh Architects of Boston over two other firms to be the architects for the Bartlett renovation project. Although the firm was not the one the town’s panel members wanted, she said she’s “not disappointed with the quality of the architect we received.”

The School Building Committee favored Dore & Whittier of Newburyport, who scored just one point less in their review system, because of Webster’s history with them. Dore designed both the new Park Ave School and the Middle School renovation “on time and under budget,” so “we trust them,” she said.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular pickup truck
4. Profoundly wise men
9. Camera company
14. Folk singer DiFranco
15. Passerine birds
16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
17. Popular kids channel
18. Dodgers' skipper
20. Removes
22. The Atlantic is one
23. Badgerlike mammal
24. Foulness
28. Luke's mentor __-Wan
29. Commercial
30. A type of gin
31. Temptress
33. Shuts in an enclosed space
37. Milligram
38. Actress Adams
39. Strive to equal or match
41. Health insurance
42. A detective's source
43. Small American rails
44. Alfred __, Brit. poet
46. Crest of a hill
49. Atomic #52
50. __ Caesar, comedian
51. Breaks apart
55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
58. Worker
59. Chemical compound
60. Disgraced newsman
64. Born of
65. Chemical substance
66. Supernatural powers
67. Clothes
68. Indy footballers
69. Moves forward
70. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Driver
2. Bone cavities
3. Menacing
4. Where coaches patrol
5. Greek mythological figure
6. War-based board game
7. Midway between northeast and east
8. 18-year period in astronomy
9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
10. Large bodies of water
11. Eurasian ryegrass
12. Perform on stage
13. Greek island
19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One point east of southeast
24. Belgian city
25. Praise excessively
26. River in France
27. Edible lily bulbs
31. Quarterbacks take them
32. Organic compound
34. Tears down (Brit.)
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Unconscious
40. Missouri
41. Firemen use them
45. Pig noise
47. Greatly dismay
48. Imitator
52. Moves by turning over
53. Boxing's GOAT
54. Swarms with
56. Margarines
57. Feudal superior
59. As fast as can be done
60. Reciprocal of a sine
61. Chinese city
62. Tell on
63. United



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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.	First Honors: Lainey Lawrence, Matthew Monticelli, Lillian Morton	Emma Grochowski, Callum Park	Cinron-Perez, Hunter Coombs, Jenna Valby
Grade 4 Head of School Honors: Sophia Mackenzie, Charles Maglich High Honors: Isabella Benitez, Thomas Burren, Ella Campbell, Alexander Delgaudio, Lilly Kelly, Autumn Hibbard, Xavier Matthews, Malcolm Parmentier, Manual Rivero-Chiriac, Claudia Tetreault, Amelia Wentworth	Grade 5 Head of School Honors: Joe Chahine, James Ferguson, Thomotho Gardner High Honors: Kamryn Fasshauer, George Ann Gajewski, Patrick Hylka, Caitlyn Timlege, Danielle Vigeant First Honors: Meghan Baca, Kaylie Bageries, Aiden Collins, Kendyl Pales, Joey Gajewski, Colin Healey, Dylan Kelly Recognition: Maximos Boulmetis,	Grade 6 Head of School Honors: Samuel Guay, Emily Kelly, Jackson Meehan, Shayley Szela High Honors: Emerson Bernard, Haleigh Creighton First Honors: Nathan Coddington, Alicia Santora Recognition: Robert Hastings	Recognition: Manny Santos, Natalie Vigeant
		Grade 7 High Honors: Tiana Chahine, Maria	Grade 8 Head of School Honors: Lillian Maglich, Logan Mueller High Honors: Lara Boulmetis, Dylan Polinski First Honors: Joseph Santora, Reid Szela



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ORNAMENTS

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& Student Art Exhibit Program for the U.S. Department of Education concurred, “I cannot believe how quickly this collection of ornaments came together!”

Out of nearly 100 designs, only 12 could be selected and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in Washington. The designs represented many of the iconic places and events Massachusetts is known for throughout its rich history, from the founding of our first colony in Plymouth, to the American Revolution, to the beginning of modern rocketry and the Basketball Hall of Fame. Even the tiny of town of Webster was recognized for having Lake Chargo ggagoggmanchauggago ggchaubunagungamaug g – the longest name of any geographical feature in the state, the United

States, and arguably, the world.

The winning designs were submitted electronically to the US Dept. of Education and in turn to the National Park Service which created the weatherproof ornaments that adorn the Massachusetts tree. According to Ms. Rizzo, this year would be unique in that this would be the first time in the program’s history that a student’s ornament would be chosen to adorn the Christmas tree in the White House too.

The 12 students whose designs were chosen, were invited to apply to attend the ceremony and walk through President’s Park with the First Lady. Given the current COVID circumstances, the school was informed that the numbers would be limited. However, three students were selected to attend: Kendyl Fales, grade 5, Malcolm Parmentier, grade 4, and Lyla Meehan, grade 3.

Kendyl created and ornament to represent our Mayflowers, both ship and flower. Malcolm created a rocket design to represent Robert Goddard and the birthplace of modern rocketry (Worcester), and Lyla wanted to represent our frontline workers and heroes, incorporating the state’s motto, “By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty.” into the design.

The other students whose designs were chosen but who could not attend are: Logan Mueller, grade 8, The State House; Joey Santora, grade 8, The Old North Church; Shayley Szela, grade 6, Webster Lake; George Anne Gajewski, grade 5, 4 Seasons of the American Elm Tree; Hayley Giroux, grade 4, The Wayside Grist Mill; Kaylie Bageris, Grade 4, Smile Day and the 7 Hills of Worcester; Fordyce Ruggles, grade 3, Ladybug (state insect) on the Elm; Connor Shelburne, grade

3, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; Siena Vitale, grade 3. Massachusetts (the 6th state) - Plymouth Rock 1620 (400th Anniversary).

Mrs. Matys, head of school, is quite proud of her students and the school for their accomplishment, commenting “It was heart-warming to see these students take such pride in their work, and in their school... they represented not only All Saints Academy very well, but I believe our entire state too.”

Logan Mueller, an eighth grader created an impressive rendering of the state house “not only because of the importance of the building, but also for its beautiful architecture.”

Logan told Mrs. Matys that “I am very thankful and happy that my artwork was chosen, but it is bittersweet. So many students had such great designs that it is sad that

they all couldn’t be chosen too.”

Another student, sixth grader Shayley Szela created an intricate design representing a local landmark.

“I’m not from Webster, but I chose Webster Lake because I knew it is such a big part of the area’s history,” said Shayley.

Kendyl, Lyla and Malcolm were set to tour President’s Park on Monday, November 30, when they were informed the program venue was changed due to inclement weather. The ASA students and their parents were instead invited to the White House where the First Lady spent nearly an hour with them and other guests walking through the decorated rooms and seeking out their ornaments. The ornaments from All Saints Academy were found on the Christmas tree and tucked in the balsam adorning the

mantle over one fireplace. “It was pretty cool,” said Malcolm who was also impressed by the giant gingerbread White House on display. It was an incredible and magical experience for these young students, and one which they will likely never forget.

To visit the America Celebrates website to see the All Saints Academy ornaments, and those of the other states, please go to: <https://thenational-tree.org/visit-the-tree-2/america-celebrates-ornaments-from-across-the-usa-in-2020/>.

As a footnote to this story, the school has contracted a local artist to create ornaments from the students’ artwork. They are currently being sold individually and in sets of twelve as a fundraiser for the school. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Mrs. Ellen Tagg at etagg@allsaints-webster.org.

TAX RATE

continued from page A1

the town “should let license holders know this is serious ... before we have any calamities.”

Willardson noted the rules do allow towns to slap fines of up to \$500 on restaurants

and other licensees that violate curfew hours (9:30 p.m.). So far, Webster’s health department has seen “very good compliance” and had no reports of such violations, he said.

The board spent some time discussing whether Webster should create a “tiered” fine system starting with a warn-

ing that worked up to the \$500 level, but they did not end up doing so. Instead, they opted to send out what Jolda termed a “friendly reminder” letter of what the rules and potential fines are.

“I feel our businesses have suffered enough, and only if we have issues should we seriously enter-

tain going down that punitive route,” Jolda said. The others agreed, but Gabor noted he feels “if the town were to encounter a violation, we should not start with a warning.”

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

SANTA

continued from page A1

ing Santa and the Grinch get around. Everyone at the town hall did a good job too,” Chief Wojnar said. “We had a couple things we tried with that. The Glimpse app was activated and that was a method for people to track the procession as it went around town. At one point I think we had a thousand people that were on to that site, so it was pretty useful. We’re getting a lot of good feedback on it.”

Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski said he too thought the Santa ride was smooth and that everyone had a lot of fun making it happen.

“The Santa Claus tour went really well. It was a good collaborative effort by police, fire, town hall employees. I thought it was very good to see (everyone) working so good together as one cohesive unit. We had a good time and I think it was nice to see a little Christmas cheer in a difficult time,” the chief said.

Videos from Santa’s trip have circulated social media in the day since the ride. The town itself posted a video of Santa’s arrival at the town hall on the Town of Dudley Massachusetts YouTube channel.

State grants awarded to Dudley, Shepherd Hill

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Shepherd Hill Regional High School and the Town of Dudley were both announced as recipients of grants on Dec. 10 as Gov. Charlie Baker’s office issued several press releases revealing roughly \$14 million in funding for schools and communities throughout the state between two grant programs.

Shepherd Hill Regional High School is one of 47 schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts receiving a share of \$11.7 million in Skills Capital Grants. Shepherd Hill will receive \$100,000 to help providing funding for an innovations pathway program in manufacturing and environmental and life sciences. The program is designed to allow students access to industry-standard equipment in order to obtain cer-

tifications and credentials to work in a variety of industry sectors. The pathways program is initiated in partnership with several colleges and medical industry leaders in the state including Harrington Hospital, UMass and Quinsigamond Community College.

Dudley is one of 55 municipalities to receive a portion of \$3.7 million in funding through the Community Compact Cabinet (CCC) Information Technology grant program. The grant will provide the town of Dudley with \$75,000 earmarked for improving disas-

ter recovery and cybersecurity capabilities. Dudley’s inclusion on the list of recipients was not unexpected as Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda has revealed in November that he was optimistic Dudley would receive the funds. The money will help Dudley continue to invest in its cybersecurity which has become a primary focus for selectmen and Ruda especially after a security breach hit neighboring Charlton in 2019. Dudley last received grant funding from the program in 2016.

Santa is coming to town

OXFORD — The Oxford Lions Club is once again having Santa at the bandstand at Joslin Park on Main St. in Oxford on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for a drive-by event only. We will have a Santa Box at curbside for children’s letters to Santa and will also be collecting food for the food shelf for anyone who cares to donate.

Please do not exit the car. The letters can be dropped into the box and a masked Lion will come to your car, if you have food to donate. If not, please feel free to drive by and wave to Santa and wish him Merry Christmas. But, due to COVID, we are not allowing people to congregate, as it is not safe this year. Hopefully, next year we will be able to resume our normal Santa at the bandstand celebration. Thank you for understanding.

Happy Holidays from the Oxford Lions Club and stay safe.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

We all share responsibility for protecting the vulnerable

Something we’ve been hearing over the past few months with regard to COVID-19 deaths is the downplaying of elderly victims succumbing to the virus. When we look at the data and have conversations about the infection rate, and the numbers of those who actually pass away as a result, it seems to be dismissed in cases where the person is over the age of 65. “Well, they are old anyway, and in that age bracket” is often overheard. What an awful world view.

True, when we hear about an older person passing, we can find some sort of solace knowing that they were able to live for a fairly long time and enjoy life as such. However, isn’t the point to try to live as long and healthy as possible? Many of these elderly individuals who have fallen victim to this virus, would still be alive today, had COVID not come into all of our lives.

This outlook is a dangerous viewpoint to have, especially amidst a pandemic. Of course the younger, healthier population is less at risk; however the responsibility falls on all of us to protect the vulnerable, regardless of our odds of contracting a severe case ourselves. We may be fine if we catch it, and may decide not to take precautions, telling ourselves “I’ll be fine.” However, walking around asymptotically may infect someone who might not be OK. As a society of neighbors, co-workers, family and friends, it should always be our job to look out for each other. Despite our differences, we must always put humanity first and take care of one another. Whether that looks like helping someone with a flat tire, pulling someone out of a ditch who’s car slid off the road, helping someone in need with groceries, or taking precautions during a pandemic to keep each other safe, it’s our duty as decent human beings to do the right thing, not for ourselves but for each other.

In overhearing such statements regarding the elderly, we want to remind those that need to hear it, that these long lived lives are just as important as they always have been. Being elderly shouldn’t mean we are automatically dismissed as a member of society. The golden years should be protected as best they can as we all age, and we all will.

Our elderly community are just as valuable now as they were when they were in their twenties. Remember that senior citizens still pay taxes, grocery shop, take care of family members including grandchildren. It is our grandparents that make up the highest number of child care providers, allowing their own children to continue to work, which in turn boosts the economy.

Our elderly population provides friendship and support to everyone around them. In addition, the highest number of volunteers come from the senior citizen population. Again, this in turn helps to contribute to our economy.

It doesn’t seem like any of this hits home for some individuals, until they are affected personally. If you are not close with someone who is elderly, remember that many of us are. It is important to continue to value and protect the most vulnerable among us.

In an attempt to bridge recent political division, we want to remind everyone to look out for each other, despite your differences. What matters in the end is community and how we operate in our own small circles.

We have seen refreshing occurrences of both Republicans and Democrats, locally, who have joined forces to make our communities a better place...individuals who have not lost sight of what really matters in life.

VIEWPOINT

Good news of great joy for challenging times

God Rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan’s power e’re we have gone astray,
O tiding of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

This beautiful Christmas carol, like so many of the traditional Christmas carols, summarizes the essence of Christmas. Christmas is about Good News of comfort and joy! No matter what’s happening in the world and no matter how much it seems like darkness and evil may be all around us, we are reminded not to be afraid! Too many people hold on to uncertainty and fear during this pandemic. Be careful of listening to the politicians and media who play off current events and stoke people’s fears. Instead, listen to the Good News of Christmas when the angel proclaimed to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people. For there is born for you this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

The darkness of the world and threats of violence and danger have always been a part of the world. That is why the author of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” wrote these words 250 years ago, and why the angel proclaimed the good news 2,000 years ago. Our fallen world hasn’t change too much with sins and shortcomings, darkness and evil, violence and self-centeredness still present. Yet with Christmas, we remember that a light has shined in the midst of darkness!

The Jews understood this throughout their history of suffering as they waited for the coming of a Messiah. They waited under oppression and injustice. They waited in poverty and hunger. They waited in confusion and fear. They waited centuries and never lost hope! God promised a Messiah, the Anointed One to come and usher in a new kingdom. So, they waited with hope and faith under extremely difficult and dark circumstances.

The event of Christmas fulfilled their wait! As St. Paul explained “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son...so we may receive adoption as His children!” The fullness of time came and God decisively acted!

In times of uncertainty and fear, like times of today, Christmas reminds us that God has not forgotten us, nor has He abandoned us. In fact, God has come to us, and even become one of us! The unfathomable mystery of Christmas is how Almighty God, the Eternal One, the Creator of heaven and earth accepted to become human and enter a fallen world where evil prevailed. He tasted the darkness of life – as a poor child born in a cave, as a refugee, as a simple villager, and as an oppressed people. He witnessed the suffering of the masses. He faced violence, oppression, and death itself. He understood the evil that our world can produce – He tasted it, He confronted it, and ultimately, He overcame it!

Christmas is about “Good news of great joy” - and the good news is that

Jesus not only showed us the way to live under a different reign than the kingdom of this world, but He promised to walk with us, be in us, and guide us throughout life. While others choose to live in darkness, we live in the light of God. While others choose a path of violence, we act as agents of peace. While others are tempted by greed, we live in love and charity. While others choose to live under the delusion of power and authority, we live in simplicity and humility. While others choose to live with hatred and vengeance and violence, we live in mercy and forgiveness and grace. While others choose to live in the fear of death, we live life to its fullest, never fearing death, because we know that death is not the end!

The “good news of great joy” that Christmas brings is nothing less than a new way of living, a new way of becoming truly human in the deepest sense of the word. The Christian path means becoming human as Jesus was human – lifting humanity to a new level, the original level it was meant to be lived. St. Athanasios summed this up by saying, “God became human that we may become divine.” God became one of us, so that we could become united to Him and live in Him!

When we look around at the darkness of our world –the violence, the extremism, the greed, the impurity, the superficial and empty claims to fame – we must realize that these images on the internet are only one side of the human story. We can choose to follow these meaningless paths and end up in similar disappointment, despair and emptiness, or we can choose to follow a completely different road, with an entirely different ending. Christmas, and the coming of Christ reveals to us a new way of life that He invites us to follow – the way of divine love, the way of mercy and forgiveness, the way of humility and service, the way of meaning and purpose, the way of abundance that leads to eternal life.

Now, this way of Jesus is not an easy path! It is a way that begins in a humble cave in a simple manger in the poor village of Bethlehem, continues in a life of sacrifice and service to others throughout Galilee, and ultimately ends on a Cross on Calvary. Yet if we choose, in our own lives, to walk this narrow and difficult path of Christ, we choose to live with the Christmas spirit throughout the year. We will live a life of wonder and joy because we are miraculously transformed by the truth that “God is with us.” As Archbishop Anastasios writes, “Our lives will be transfigured in a joyous feast breathing and moving in the atmosphere that “God is with us.”

No matter what the pandemic brings, don’t be anxious or afraid. The feast of Christmas proclaims to us loudly that God has acted decisively in the world, and if we choose – it’s up to us – if we choose to invite Christ to be born anew in our hearts, and live under his reign and in His kingdom, than we can be assured that “God is with us” and He will help us remain victorious over any and every dark evil that the world offers. There is never anything to be afraid of, for God is with us.

Investment lessons from 2020

As the year draws to a close, it’s fair to say that we’ve all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Here are some to consider:


The markets look ahead. Here’s something many investors discovered in 2020: Investment prices don’t always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing.

What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product (GDP), reflect what’s happening today, but the markets are always looking toward tomorrow, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market’s opinion by its performance.

Opportunities will always exist for investors. Although the coronavirus seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well.

For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it’s probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here’s the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress – and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their portfolios in a way that’s appropriate.

Now is the time for vigilance



CHIEF’S CORNER
STEVE WOJNAR

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and cases are increasing in our area, as well as throughout the country. Many can be attributed to Thanksgiving gatherings and increases in indoor activities. Our town offices meet, at minimum, weekly to discuss the trends and impacts of this virus. I wanted to take this opportunity to pass along some of the information on this subject provided by our Board of Health.


Much of the information on this topic can be found on the www.mass.gov and Town of Dudley Web site, www.dudley-ma.gov, and the Town Facebook pages. The Town of Dudley is amid a surge. As difficult as it is, everyone is asked to please remain vigilant. Wash your hands, maintain social distances, and wear your mask. Household spread is the number one cluster that has been identified. Please make decisions that will protect your household. There are many uncertainties with this virus. A person may have no symptoms, possibly even test negative, and still can pass it along to others. In some cases, it may take three to five days or longer to show a positive test. People are encouraged to get tested if they may have had a close contact with a positive case or are feeling any commonly associated symptoms (Fever, congestion, loss of taste / smell, etc.). For testing sites, you can contact your doctor or look for information from the Town or State at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>.

The Governor has also rolled back some of the provisions in the Phased Re-opening plan. The state will return to Phase 3 Step 1. This limits outdoor gatherings to 50 people and indoor capacity for businesses, that are currently open, will be at 40 percent. Many of the other requirements can be found at the web sites listed above. In response to dealing with the increased cases, while still providing service to the public, the Town Hall’s public access is being altered. Starting Monday, December 14th and until further notice, the Town Hall will be available to the public by appointment only. There remains a drop box for bills, applications, and other general paperwork inside the Police Lobby. There will also be an outdoor kiosk located at the West Entrance of the building for drive / walk up service. The hours of operation are like the previous public hours, Monday 12p-4p, and Tuesday and Wednesday from 8a-12p. Board of Health information can be found at the web site above or by calling 508-949-8017.

As the pandemic continues and case rise, we ask everyone to stay safe and continue to take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves. The work of the Town Officials, particularly our Administrator and most importantly, the Board of Health officials, is greatly appreciated. The rules regarding this virus seem to change constantly, and more pressure is placed on local governments to respond, all with limited resources. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, health care, government and all other “essential” personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

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Brothers on the hunt

The final day of the Massachusetts shotgun season was a good one, according to hunters that I spoke with. The weather was perfect during the morning hours. It was comfortable to sit on a deer run that had high hopes for this writer and many others. I hunted with my brother Ken, as I do every year. We both drew a doe permit for Zone 8, so we hunted in the town of Douglas. I met Ken at our usual spot at 8 a.m., which is a bit late because of our elderly status.

We do not hunt hard, and often have one of us take a stand on a good deer run, that also showed signs of deer activity like acorn feeding. My brother decided on taking a slow walk through the area, hoping to push a deer to my stand. I sat comfortably on my hotseat up against a large oak tree, waiting for my brother to come through. As I waited, I was being entertained by a couple of gray squirrels scampering across the ground, looking for acorns to sustain them through the winter months.

A couple of times one of the squirrel's scampered down a small log that was only a few feet from me,



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

when he noticed something wrong. He let out a loud screeching noise, alerting every form of wildlife in the area of my presence. A few red squirrels also joined in with their chatter. I spotted my brother walking towards me, and I slowly lifted my ageing body off from the ground, with the help of the large tree, and a couple of smaller trees. After we discussed the situation, we decided to hunt the lower part of the property, where I had left one of my tree stands that I no longer use.

I left Ken on the ridge and headed down to my tree stand to sit on the lower part. At least I could get up to shoot if the situation arises. I slowly walked down to my tree stand, but needed to cross the small stream to get to where I was going. Lucky I had my Muck boots on. I found an old stick that was laying on the ground, and used it to steady my age-

ing body, hoping to navigate the water without falling in. "Whew!" "I Made it." I slowly walked over to my tree stand and placed my cushion on the lower part before I sat down. "This is a lot more comfortable."

There were all kinds of fresh deer sign in the area, and I just felt sure I was in a good spot. I called my brother on our two-way radio and told him to take a slow walk through the brush towards my position. I watched the area pretty good for a while, and then suddenly out of nowhere, this huge deer came gliding through the brush in slow but huge jumps. I quickly stood up and took aim at the large deer, but it disappeared into some thick brush. I spotted the deer again and let one round go on my 12-gauge shotgun. The discharged shell echoed through the woods.

I waited a few minutes to stop my heart from racing and to let my brother know of the situation. He stayed where he was because the deer could very well circle and head back in his direction. I was not so sure about my shot being productive, but I spent a while making sure there was no blood trail. It was as I had



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Ken & Mark True ice fishing on one of our favorite spots in years past. We are all hoping for some ice this year.

figured. A clean miss! I guess I will need to borrow some venison from one of my buddies again this year! We worked our way back to the car and headed for the nearest coffee shop. There is still black powder season that ends on Dec. 31 in Massachusetts! But I am not to encouraged about scoring on some venison this year.

With Christmas only

days away, we need to brace ourselves as families, that it will be like no other Christmas that we have ever encountered. That does not mean as families that the celebration cannot be meaningful as it has always been; it is just that the celebration should be done in smaller groups of family members & friends. We all need to hope and pray that the recently

approved vaccine to combat Covid-19 is safe, and will work to eradicate this terrible disease that has cost thousands of lives, and threatens thousands more. Our faith is being tested, and we better be ready. God bless!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Are we still a beacon of democracy?

I'm a lifestyle columnist that promotes optimism and positivity in our daily lives. I'm not a political pundit. Occasionally a subject arises that connects the two areas of positivity and politics and I feel it's important to address. We have a problem.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
.....
GARY W.
MOORE

Depending on which poll you believe, almost 40 percent of all Americans believe our recent election was either dishonestly counted or was unfair, while seventy-seven percent of Republican voters say their candidate was fraudulently defeated. There has never been so much distrust in our voting system.

Former US Congressman and retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Allen West is now floating the idea of secession for those states who feel election laws were broken to elect Joe Biden.

This was an unprecedented election, with new rules and extreme methods, designed to accommodate voters due to our current Covid-19 pandemic. Former President Jimmy Carter, a long-time global advocate and judge for free elections, a Democrat, says that mail-in ballots are wrought with the opportunity for fraud. Never in our history have we had the massive number of vote-by-mail ballots as we did in this 2020 election.

The Beacon of Democracy? The Land of the Free and Home of (because) of the Brave now floating a break-up of our Union?

Yes. I believe our Union is at risk, but let me be clear. I do not advocate overturning the recent election. I accept the results based upon the election rules that were in place. The problem I see,

and it should disturb both sides, is that the looseness of rules, methods, techniques, and monitoring of the last election places our democracy at risk. This isn't about Trump or Biden. This is about election security. We can and must do better.

You may say Allen West isn't representative of most voters on the right, but I'd say you may be wrong. This shouldn't be a left or right issue, it's an American issue. We should be united in preserving the integrity of our elections.

I'm born and raised in Illinois, and for as long as I can remember, there has been, and continues to be, a desire for the Illinois "outside of Chicago" to separate from the Windy City. The Chicago Machine rules Illinois with an iron fist and has for almost one-hundred years. Look no further than the 1960 presidential election if you want to understand the power of the machine and how a small dishonest group can impact an entire nation.

There has been a movement over the last few years for the vast expanses of red California to break away from the influence and control of blue Los Angeles and San Francisco. And red Western Washington and Oregon could not be more polarized from their fellow statesmen in Seattle and Portland. They are now discussing breaking away and joining Idaho. Then back to Texas, there's been a group calling themselves the "Republic of Texas" that has been pushing secession from the U.S. for years. And now a former congressman, retired Lt. Colonel (Army) and head of the GOP in Texas, calling for a discussion of secession.

The secession movement is growing and gaining momentum. It's fueled by a large minority (upwards of forty percent) that believe their candidate

was cheated and the rightful winner was denied. Yes, the country is divided almost perfectly down the middle by a different ideology but that alone isn't enough to fuel a dissolution of our Union that has lasted since 1776. A lack of trust in our elections ... just might be. If we believe our elections are not honest and fair ... how can we possibly be the Beacon of Democracy? Why should we vote if every legal vote isn't counted? It is a National dilemma.

To those calling for secession, let me remind you how well it worked for our nation last time this idea reared its ugly head. The southern states paid a devastating price, while the whole nation suffered the massive losses of our civil war. I cannot believe anyone would want to risk a second American Civil War, but there are those who do, and the numbers are growing. Ideology alone will not cause this break-up, but a lack of a reliable, honest, and trustworthy voting system can and maybe will.

If we want to secure our Union, we must secure our voting system.

How do we do it?

We must show picture identification for many less important reasons in our states and our nation. What's more important than voting? Picture ID must be shown to vote. And no ... this is not voter suppression but reasonable election security.

Absentee ballots must be used for legitimate reasons for being absent on Election Day and should not be available to the masses because they don't want to vote in person. If you care about the future of your nation, show up at the voting booth, show your ID and vote. How is this asking too much?

Counting of every single vote must be done with poll watchers from each party. Any vote that is illegally counted under the view of only one side must

be either thrown out or counted again, with proper witnesses.

As for voting machines and the allegations they are easily open to fraud, I don't know enough to comment, but I've heard enough to believe they must be examined before they are used again.

Then you have our tech giants who I believe clearly favor one side over another and influence voters by their bias. Why is this allowed and how do we stop this?

Want to preserve our Union? Secure our elections. Taking the steps to secure our elections is not voter suppression but election security. Without election security, everything we say we stand for is a lie.

I love my blue friends and love my red friends. If we love our Union, we must join hands and engage in election systems we can all trust. The risk of not doing so is unfathomable.

My prayer for our nation this Christmas is that we can come together and reflect the values that have held us together for almost 250 years. If we only agree upon one thing, let's agree that our United States of America is worth preserving and saving. Imagining the world without our influence creates a frightening picture. Let's set aside our political and ideological differences and preserve our nation.

God bless America, and may God save and preserve our troubled Union.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMOore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

FINANCE

continued from page A8

ate for their goals and risk tolerance.

Patience and discipline can pay dividends. As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon – investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's unlikely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year – so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond.

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

www.StonebridgePress.com

Merry Christmas

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

Dennis Antonopoulos
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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Strategies for “Living by the List”

Few simple tasks bring order to chaos better than making a list. Creating a list of “pros and cons” vividly illustrates points for contrast and evaluation, while crossing off a daily list of accomplishments (no matter how mundane) can be a powerful motivator. In fact, most avid list makers take great satisfaction in viewing their options and/or daily successes literally laid out before them.

Numerous studies reveal lists can greatly benefit the writer far beyond short term satisfaction. Writing a list not only has the power to help save time and money, but the act of “listing” has been shown to aid memory, prevent procrastination and boost decision making skills.

Whether you want to pay down debt, tackle a new project or just lay out the pros and cons of an issue, making a visual list sorts it all out for easy review and action. The following listing strategies, ideas, and suggestions reveal how list making list (and maybe even checking it twice) can be a valuable tool to everyday success.

Writing it Out: While today’s world offers an abundance of internet downloads and phone applications to help us track our accomplishments and get our lives in order, perhaps none is more practical and effective than the old fashioned pen and paper list. The advantage over electronic apps is that you

can simply jot down a list whenever and wherever the mood strikes. Not to mention a paper list can be folded and tucked away for easy retrieval and review.

If checking off a completed task in a “to do” list is a satisfying act, crossing it off in a big, bold way is even more effective. To make an impressive visual impact, line out items on a written list with a bright red marker. Or, make a list on a wall size whiteboard and check off items with a thick black marker. These “in your face” visuals of tracking each accomplishment throughout the day serve to motivate.

For those who need a jump start to begin a manual list, a few simple tracking tools may be all it takes to inspire “listing.” Some people enlist the help of a day planner or other calendar based notebook to record daily diet, fitness or work goals. A fresh legal sized pad or lined notebook also inspires pen to paper as do long, narrow pads of paper made for listing. A good, comfortable pen is another valuable aid. In the home office or gym, a white board calendar that displays daily, weekly and monthly goals, commands attention and successes can be easily checked off when achieved.

Free List Maker Software: If you prefer to “type it out,” there are many applications that support making, sharing and prioritizing lists. Here are some free ones



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

to check out:

- Google Docs is perhaps the most familiar way to make everything from simple, personal lists to multilevel lists you can share and use as business task tools.
- Online list maker Scribbless.com is another free and easy list maker to build lists to share with your friends and family.
- iPhone apps to help you organize and create lists are plentiful online. Some are free, such as Remember the Milk, a capable to-do-list app with some sharing options included at no cost, making it good for household use.
- For serious list makers, a social network for goal achievers, www.mylifelist.org, offers an interactive web destination that challenges people to fulfill their major aspirations by creating a life list. Through the website, members can create a life list, and are motivated to take action and encouraged to inspire others by sharing their successes through stories, photos and video.
- ****
- Rx for Brain Clutter: Research reveals lists can relieve stress by organizing items and/or tasks. Listing items

into order not only calms mental clutter, but cuts tasks down to a manageable size.

Making a list can also be good news for procrastinators as a list can be valuable call to action. From tracking a diet program to monitoring career success, listing can break down goals into workable segments. “Listing out” is often all that’s needed to jump start a bigger project.

Studies show writing and using lists exercises the brain and builds memory. In today’s busy world, trying to remember everything is stressful! Placing items from your mental memory to a list alleviates stress and offers peace of mind that the important issues are “backed up” on paper (or computer).

According Cynthia R. Green, PhD, a nationally recognized clinical psychologist and brain health/memory fitness expert, making and using a list is a memory tool that can “save your brain.”

“Using lists, just like using any technique to boost your brainpower, will focus your attention more actively on the information you need to remember. Why? When we work with information, we pay closer attention to it,” she said.

In addition, Ms. Green notes that making a list is good for overall well being:

“Lists help us feel better. When we are organized we forget less and do more and generally are more effective and productive. Feeling effective

is important to our self-esteem, since we feel better about ourselves when we see ourselves as capable. Being more productive means we are making the most out of our time, so we have more time to do things we really want to do. This is how list making can help us.”

From Grocery Lists to Bucket Lists: Lists can serve as great organizers. Whether you want to recall past accomplishments for a resume, or simply need to write a weekly grocery shopping list, a simple list is a clear and concise tool to get the job done.

Those who “live by the list” advise making both short term and long term lists. Short term lists, which are completed daily or within a week include grocery lists, daily “to do” lists, diet meals, exercise tracking, etc. Long term lists typically include “bucket lists” of future accomplishments, work projects, home improvement plans, career goals, etc.

When writing a list, it’s important to keep an open mind. While creating a list can boost enthusiasm, it’s important not to get carried away and “over-list.” For example, when making a pros and cons list, each point should be short and concise. Stick to basic positive and negative points only, to keep it simple and clear.

When making a “to do” list avoid listing more than can be accom-

plished. List only tasks that are manageable in the time allotted. It’s often better to complete a shorter list than to carry over an uncompleted one. That said, a list is a tool to get jobs done, so don’t be tempted to undercut the tasks. “To do” lists should be challenging, but do-able!

Win Dinner for Two at the Publiick House

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

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

What makes estate personal property valuable?

There are many components of estate assets, with home and land typically being the most valuable. Stocks, bonds, or bank accounts may be worth more in certain situations. Personal property is typically the least valuable, but there are times when there are some very desirable items in the estate.

Being an antique estate auctioneer, I focus on antiques, collectibles and other estate personal property and will explain in this column what we look for in determining whether estate contents are potentially valuable.

One factor is how long the family has been in the country. We’ve handled at least one estate where the family came over on the Mayflower. There were books and documents dating back to the 18th century. In an estate where items have been passed down through generations, you can usually expect to find some valuable objects.

The family’s wealth is another important factor. Some families have the financial means to buy Rolex instead of Timex watches and to buy large sterling silver flatware sets instead of silverplate or stainless steel. Even though



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

formal dining isn’t as popular today, sterling silver flatware can be worth thousands.

One of the rules that most collectors follow is to collect what you like. Collectors typically don’t look at their collections as an investment. However, when the collection is auctioned and converted to cash, having collected popular items will benefit the collector or their heirs. Some common collectibles like coins, 1960s and earlier baseball and other trading cards, and comic books can be worth a considerable amount. We recently sold a collection of mainly gold and silver coins that brought nearly \$40,000 and sold a baseball card collection a few years ago that sold for over \$20,000.

The time period that the person collected their items also impacts the value of personal property. Over 20 years ago, we were contacted by a woman who had a large collection of Barbie dolls and other toys. She was at the age where she could’ve begun collecting when some of the first Barbies were manufactured and we had high hopes for selling her items after our conversation with her.

Unfortunately for her and us, she collected all of her toys later in her adult life and they had little value. When you’ve collected something in your youth, you don’t have to worry about fakes and reproductions in your collection that have become more prevalent now.

Many people are uncomfortable when we first meet if the estate they are handling is packed with items. I assure them that there are never too many items as far as an auctioneer is concerned. Even if there aren’t a lot of valuable objects, sometimes the sheer volume of items can make an auction or estate sale profitable. Around 15 years ago, we auctioned a collection of items from the 1920s through 1960s that a collector had acquired over many years. There was enough material to fill a box truck. Although there weren’t any big-ticket items, 1950s hair dryers, 1940s household items and even circa 1930s rolls of toilet paper combined to bring in tens of thousands for the consignor.

We have a small online auction taking place with items from a Worcester estate. Included is a commercial tractor, dump truck, motorcycles, other vehicles, a large Coke sign and Ford Mustang pedal car. The first session of the large toy collection from a West



Boylston estate will soon be ready for online bidding. Session I will contain diecast toys. Antique and vintage toys will be in later sessions. You will also be able to bid online for equestrian and other paintings from artist Fay Moore’s estate after the holidays.

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

Dress up your landscape with winter-inspired container gardens



Melinda Myers

Winter container gardens brighten up the landscape all season long.

Clear out your fall containers and make room for some winter greenery. These planters are sure to brighten those dreary winter days and add life to your landscape.

Transform weatherproof summer and fall containers for winter. Fiberglass, plastic, cement and wood will

hold up to the cold, ice and snow. Don’t subject terra cotta and glazed pots to the harsh elements that can cause them to crack. Remove faded fall flowers and add a bit of potting mix to fill the container within two inches of the top. Or select a new weatherproof container and fill it with potting

mix.

Consider your overall landscape design and other outdoor winter decorations when creating or purchasing a holiday planter. Place a couple of winter planters on your front steps or dress up your patio, deck or balcony and enjoy the view from the comfort of your

home. Don’t overlook those hanging baskets. Fill them with winter greenery to elevate your winter containers to a fun new level.

Fresh-cut needled evergreens like spruce, white pine, fir and broadleaf evergreen boxwood and holly combine nicely to form the backbone of your container design. Make it easy by using spruce tips to create vertical interest in a container. You only need to set a few in the center of the pot to look like a pro. Surround these with graceful white pine boughs to anchor the arrangement to the container.

Add sprigs of other evergreens for additional texture and shades of green. Next, it’s time to put your creativity to work. For those that prefer a natural look, consider white birch branches and stems of red twig dogwood, corkscrew willow or contorted hazelnut. Add a bit more color with berry laden winter holly branches and dried seed rudbeckias, allium, and coneflower seed heads



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •
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or hydrangea flowers. Finish off your arrangement with a few evergreen cones and a bow.

Or add a bit of glitz with painted and glittered cones, twigs, ornaments, or other holiday adornments. You can purchase these or create your own with a bit of paint and glitter. Just make sure your materials will hold up to the winter weather.

Once your arrangement is complete, water thoroughly. The moist soil helps keep greenery fresh and in place. Once the soil is frozen you can stop watering. The cold weather will help keep your greens looking good throughout the holidays and beyond.

Extend the life of your greenery with an organic biodegradable anti-transpirant. These mate-

rials help seal in the moisture, delaying the browning of cut greens. Always read and follow label directions carefully. Most need to be applied to evergreen boughs outdoors and allowed to dry before bringing it indoors or beginning your arrangement.

For additional ideas and a bit of inspiration, watch my Create Beautiful Outdoor Evergreen Containers video. You will find more ways to enhance your landscape with winter containers.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener’s Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

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Courtesy

DUDLEY LITTLE LEAGUE SUPPORTS POLICE TOY AND CLOTHING DRIVE

Members of the Dudley Little League organized donations to this year’s Dudley Police Annual Toy and Clothing Drive. The league brought in several items which will be distributed to local families this holiday season. Their Mascot “Dinger” and League officials presented these donations to Chief Wojnar and Officer Chandler Boyd who, along with Sgt. Karłowicz, organizes this annual event. We thank the Little League for their efforts, generosity, and support of this important program, which hopes to brighten the holidays for many of our residents. The Drive is continuing for the next two plus weeks, with distributions planned for a few days before Christmas.

Abby Karalus of Dudley elected secretary to Nichols Student Government Association

DUDLEY — Abby Karalus of Dudley is elected as the secretary for the class of 2023 for the Nichols College Student Government Association. When asked what prompted the run for office Karalus shares, “I wanted to try something I have never done before! Running for office was out of my comfort zone, but I had a lot of encouragement and support from my mentors and peers.”

Karalus is looking forward to learning from her fellow student leaders as part of the Student Government Association. About Nichols College Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learn-

ing and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols also offers master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counter-terrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.

Oxford resident joins new iCons class at UMass

AMHERST — Anne Christelle S. Cajuste, Oxford, is among 72 undergraduates selected for the newest class of the Integrated Concentration in Science, or iCons, program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

More than 156 first-year and sophomore students applied for one of the coveted iCons spots through a process open to roughly 5,000 undergraduate students, mostly majoring in

science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

The current iCons cohort, the 11th to participate, will graduate the program in 2024. The UMass Amherst College of Natural Sciences’ iCons program builds on students’ course of study by providing them with further skills needed to enter the modern scientific workforce.

In 2020, iCons admitted

students from Isenberg School of Management to create well-rounded discipline-diverse teams who will collaborate, identify and study innovative solutions to global problems making headlines today, such as climate change and antibiotic resistance. www.icons.cns.umass.edu

For more information on the UMass iCons program, visit: <https://icons.cns.umass.edu/>.

FOOD

Holiday baking pointers



The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Baking is one tradition that comes with the holiday territory. Many people may only bake in November and December, so it’s understandable if they’re a lit-

tle rusty come the holiday season. These baking tips can lead to successful yields of cookies, cakes and other holiday treats. Follow the recipe carefully When cooking, it is

easy to add an extra dash of this or a pinch of that. But baking is a science and the ingredients are used in a ratio to produce a desired chemical reaction while cooking. To ensure success, do not substitute ingredients

unless the recipe tells you how to do so, and measure each addition carefully.

Spoon out your measurements It can be tempting to dig a measuring cup right into a bag of flour, but scooping packs the ingredients down — potentially causing you to use more than the recipe calls for. Instead, spoon the flour into your measuring cup gently and use a straight edge to level it out. Even better, use a scale and metric measurements to ensure exact amounts of wet and dry ingredients.

Read up on temperature Certain ingredients, like butter and eggs, are temperature-dependent. Cold butter in biscuits helps them to rise up flaky and delicious. Eggs

brought to room temperature enable the emulsification process to work more readily. The difference in temperature can mean a completely different chemical reaction, so follow the recipe accordingly.

Calibrate the oven Purchase an oven thermometer, set your oven to 350 F, the standard baking temperature, and see what the thermometer reads. If it is different, adjust cooking times accordingly or have the oven repaired. Cooking at the wrong temperature might mean the recipe doesn’t turn out right.

Use unsalted butter Most recipes will call for unsalted butter so you aren’t adding unwanted sodium to the recipe, affecting dough consistency and flavor.

Position pans centrally Pans should be on the center rack of the oven. If the oven isn’t wide enough to put multiple pans side by side, place them on different racks and slightly offset them to enable air circulation.

Use parchment paper This unsung hero of baking can keep cookies from spreading out on baking sheets, prevent cakes from sticking to pans and may even help batter and dough bake evenly.

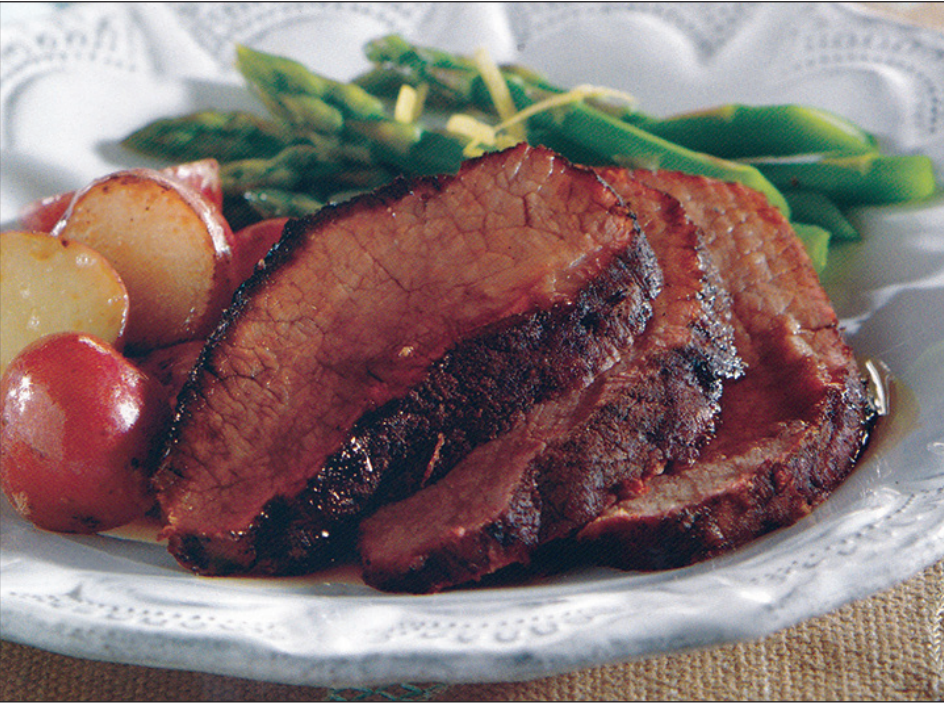
Flip cakes Cool cakes upside down on a cooling rack. This will help flatten out the tops, which makes it easier to stack and level cakes for layered cakes. A few tips can go a long way to helping holiday baking go more smoothly.

Slow cooker meal makes holiday entertaining a breeze

The holidays wouldn’t be complete without a delicious meal to share with family and friends. A holiday roast is often the centerpiece of festive occasions. Having a go-to recipe for this classic main course makes holiday preparations that much easier. Utilizing a slow cooker to make a beef roast reduces time spent in the kitchen, affording hosts more opportunities to mingle with their guests. That’s just the idea behind this recipe for “Beef Roast With Dark Rum Sauce” from “Crock•Pot® 356 Year-Round Recipes” (Publications International, Ltd) by Crock•Pot Kitchens.

- BEEF ROAST WITH DARK RUM SAUCE**
Makes 6 servings
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
 - 1 beef rump roast (about 3 pounds)
 - 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1 cup dark rum, divided
 - 1/2 cup beef broth
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 whole bay leaves, broken in half
 - 1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup lime juice

1. In a small bowl, combine allspice, salt, pepper, and cloves. Rub spices onto all sides of roast.
2. Heat oil in skillet over medium heat until hot. Sear beef on all sides, turning as it browns. Transfer to a slow cooker. Add 1/2 cup rum, broth, garlic, and bay leaves. Cover; cook on low 1 hour.
3. In a small bowl, combine remaining 1/2 cup rum, brown sugar and lime juice, stirring well. Pour over roast. Continue cooking on low 4 to 6 hours, or until beef is fork-tender. Baste beef occasionally with sauce.
4. Remove and slice roast. Spoon sauce over beef to serve.



All Saints Academy Knights of the Month

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy congratulates the following students on being named Knights of the Month during the first quarter.

Junior Knights of the Month — September
PK-3: Bryce Treadwell
PK4: Shane Stewart

Kindergarten: Kaleb Goulet
Grade 1: Norah Healy
Grade 2C: Gavin Tetreault
Grade 2D: Lucy Messenger
Grade 3: Connor Shelburne
Grade 4: Matthew Monticelli

Knights of the Month – September
Grade 5: Kaylie Bageris
Grade 6: Haleigh Creighton

Grade 7: Marianelys Cintron-Perez
Grade 8: Dylan Polinski

Junior Knights of the Month – October
PK-3: Abigail Gillis
PK4: Olivia Guinto
Kindergarten: Lydia Vienneau
Grade 1: Olive Wilson
Grade 2C: Trevor Gould
Grade 2D: Sophia Nolle

Grade 3: Fordyce Ruggles
Grade 4: Sophia MacKenzie

Knights of the Month — October
Grade 5: Dylan Kelly
Grade 6: Samuel Guay
Grade 7: Tiana Chahine
Grade 8: Lillian Maglich

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. WO20P3276EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Wanda Antos
Date of Death: 02/14/2017**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Ronald Antos of Dudley MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Ronald Antos of Dudley MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2021**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 07, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020

**A.C. 78A
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS
PROBATE COURT
18P2191PM**

To all persons interested in the estate of
Gail C. Brochu of Webster in said County, person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell at – private sale – certain real estate of said Gail C. Brochu for her maintenance.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the fifth day of January 2021, the return day of this citation.
Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this third day of December 2020.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020

**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. WO20P3344EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Mysti Lyn Campbell
Date of Death: 10/29/2020**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cheri L Behrens of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Cheri L Behrens of Webster MA** be appointed

as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 01, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020

**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. WO20P3312EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Marie Jeanne Lester
Date of Death: 11/01/2015**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Elizabeth Hackett of Gilmanton NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Elizabeth Hackett of Gilmanton NH** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 30, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020

**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. WO20P3402EA**

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Albert G Pinard
Date of Death: 06/16/2020**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 04, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020

**(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 20 SM 001864
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: Michael K. Schold a/k/a Michael Schold
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee on behalf of and with respect to
Ajax Mortgage Loan Trust 2018-A Mortgage-Backed Notes
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 10 Pebble Beach Road, given by Michael K. Schold and Christine M. Schold to World Savings Bank, FSB, dated March 12, 2007, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds
in Book 40841, Page 278, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 1/18/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 12/2/2020
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
December 18, 2020

**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. WO20P3319EA**

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
William R Tittle
Date of Death: 08/30/2017**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Lale and limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Jane M Tittle of Dudley MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Jane M Tittle of Dudley MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 30, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020

**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. WO20P2640EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Edward S. Whiterell
Date of Death: 03/04/2014**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and limited Formal Testacy** has been filed by **Kathy J. Berube of Milbury MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2021**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 08, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 18, 2020



Merry Christmas
to all from all of us at the



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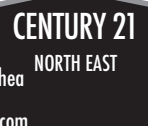
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Novembers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market

	November 2019	November 2020	Trend
DUDLEY			
Median Price	\$244,950	\$297,450	▲
Market Volume	\$2,583,300	\$3,133,407	▲
# of Homes Sold	10	10	►
Avg Days on Market	73	25	▼
AUBURN			
Median Price	\$259,000	\$339,000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,008,000	\$7,929,500	▲
# of Homes Sold	14	24	▲
Avg Days on Market	48	28	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth!
Happy Holidays from our family to yours!



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Angela Clark
(508) 410-1319



Jillian DeGrace
(860) 315-3636



Doreen Gagliastro
(774) 757-2313



Mary McCarthy
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What our employees have to say...

"One of my favorite things about working at Quaboag is that you can tell the staff is here because they care about the patients. I have also found that my supervisor and administrator are very approachable when I have any concern. There are a lot of places where someone in a supervisor position is not that approachable." — Nicole F. (CNA)

"I am Definitely glad to be a part of the team as well. I feel like I'm home and everyone has been wonderful." — Nicole V. (LPN)

"In the time that I have been working at Quaboag I have witnessed the well-being and comfort of the residents as the main priority of the facility. The facility is centered around patient care and is designed in the best interest of the residents." — Lynnea T. (CNA)

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