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Superintendent search accelerated

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The School Committee's focus for its last couple meetings has been the ongoing superintendent search, in a few different ways.

On Feb. 24, an eight-minute session unanimously approved the elevation of Monique Pierangeli to interim superintendent after Chair Kelly Seddiki announced that Ruthann Goguen was taking her remaining leave to conclude her tenure as superintendent.

The committee's original plan was to vote on an interim on Feb. 28, but had to do it sooner due to state law. Seddiki said districts must have a superintendent and the committee is "obliged to provide stability to staff and families" and to "ensure the day to day work of the district continues."

She noted the interim would be in that role until the permanent superintendent takes over, which might be as late as July 1. The committee will be interviewing four finalists next week in separate 75 minute public sessions – Pierangeli, Steven Lamarche, Karrie Allen and Deanna Leblanc. Those candidates all visited Webster recently and committee members visited their home districts.

In her first session as interim, Pierangeli announced the fact the district would be receiving \$2.3 million more in state Chapter 70 aid than last year, and thus get an extra \$616,000 in its budget after the town takes its share.

"We are in really good shape," she said. "... We're seeing benefits from the adjustment of our Chapter 70 formula."

She noted that aid was "more than we anticipated" and qualifies as "a win-win for both of us" (the

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Courtesy

OFF TO THE FRONT

A local regiment poses for a photo in front of the Webster Post Office before heading off to the front lines in Europe during the First World War. Photo Courtesy of the Webster and Dudley Massachusetts Past, Present, and Future Facebook page.

Oxford School Committee sets 40 as minimum score

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — By a 4-1 vote, the School Committee approved the high school's new Program of Studies after lengthy debate over one key item – a plan to make 40 the minimum quarterly grade.

Palmina Griffin was the lone opponent, saying her research led her to believe that "a lot of resentment builds up with students, staff and parents in the community" with such a system. Specifically, she argued it'd be an issue for those who earned grades slightly above that 40 to see peers who did less just given a 40.

"I think it's fair that a

student gets a score they earn," she said.

Early in her teaching career, Griffin said, she'd tried allowing students to "rewrite their tests" and other kind of approaches, but "didn't see the growth, I'd expected to see." After trying other things, she decided "I think I need to teach my students how to study," and saw that work better.

She also said she didn't like comparing Oxford to academically similar districts, but would prefer using "the districts that have the best performance."

That last part was largely in reference to an item high school Principal Rebecca Czernicki brought up.

She cited four area districts that similarly boost really low failing grades. Southbridge and David Prouty both have a minimum of 45 (Southbridge has done it a few years; Prouty just started); Bartlett has done 40 since 2015, and Uxbridge has "no formal policy" but uses "a rule of 50," she said.

Czernicki said she was "part of the push to get this into Bartlett," where she saw "more pushback" from teachers than she's seen proposing it in Oxford. Several here "do this already," and make a point of talking to both students and parents about what their real scores were and what they need to do to

pass, she said. She said she encourages them not to score less than 50 in the first quarter, and has heard some students say they later did well but needed that 50 to graduate or pass for the year.

"I think it's worth a try," September Forbes agreed, "... because we want our students to be successful and graduate from high school."

Forbes said a lot of the data against this practice dates to about 2013, while most of that supporting it is more recent. She also argued against Griffin's "resentment" concern, saying, "I think students are much more compassionate to each other"

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Workshop presents harsh realities of Dudley's budget

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — It's no secret that this will be a tough budget season for the town of Dudley, but on Feb. 27, the public got a good look at just how important these decisions will be over the next few months.

The Dudley Board of Selectmen and Finance Authority met for a budget workshop that delved deeper into a budget situation that, to that point, had mainly been addressed on a surface level in public forums. The situation regarding the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District has been heavily discussed over the past few months, but at the budget workshop Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda officially declared the sobering determination that a pending Proposition 2 ½ override concerns not just the schools, but the municipal government as well. It was confirmed that neither a level funded municipal government, nor the significant increase proposed by the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District can be supported by forecasted revenues.

In 2018, Dudley approved a \$1.5 million override to fund a portion of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District's budget assessment. At the time, that amount was expected to meet Dudley's district assessment for three years raising taxes to \$13.33 per thousand or \$3,256.23 annually for an average single-family home. However, five years later, the tax rate has seen a 2.4 percent annual increase and adding in price increases and inflation as well as the impacts from the pandemic, unearthing numerous compliance and regulatory issues, and the need for building and vehicle improvements and Dudley finds itself in a precarious position going into the next budget year. While Ruda touted the town's ability to find alternative forms of funding and adapt, it's no longer feasible that the town can continue to provide level services and support the school district needs without an override.

"We, as a town, made a mistake in 2018 when we passed the override. We, as a town, never provided for our municipal needs," Ruda said. "We never asked for anything for the municipal side of the budget. We never considered the impact that inflation would have on our ability to maintain the appropriate level of services. We ignored our regulatory and compliance mandates and under-funded our maintenance needs. I mentioned a 2.4 percent annual increase in taxes since 2018. Neighboring town average single family tax rates range from \$2 more per thousand to \$8 more per thousand. I won't go through them all—we've all heard the argument for years. I will be requesting \$1.6 million be sent to an override vote by residents at a special election on April 25 of this year."

The budget workshop gave insight into the realities that could result from cuts to the municipal and education spending plans if the override fails. Ruda requested each department head present their budgets with a potential 10% cut in mind. Over the course of the evening each department leader revealed their potential losses including personnel, accreditation, and equipment or software cuts.

The police department predicted the cuts would result in the layoff of two full-time officers and a full-time administrative assistant, the elimination of the School Resource Program at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, and the loss of the police reserve program

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Webster Middle School celebrates Student of the Month honorees



—WEBSTER — Student of the Month was created this year at Webster Middle School to focus our efforts to recognize those students who best exhibit qualities and values in line with our school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). We wanted to create a platform that was inclusive to all students being well rounded individuals as well as recognizing those who create a positive atmosphere for con-

ducive learning to occur.

Each month, there was a focus for teachers to be mindful of and they would use that criteria to nominate a student from their grade. The students were excited because they were being recognized for more than just academics and were proud to hear their names announced during morning announcements. To date, there have been 175 students celebrated in their efforts to make themselves remarkable

assets to our school community. We have also had a Student of the Month breakfast here at the school each quarter where friends and families have joined us to celebrate the amazing students. The first quarter breakfast hosted approximately 60 parents/guardians/families. The second quarter breakfast had approximately 100 parents/guardians/families! The tremendous cafeteria staff hosted us with a plethora of deli-

cious food for everyone.

Some of the focus areas over the past few months have been:

*September criteria to think about when choosing the SOMs: Responsibility. For coming to school on time, getting work done on time, doing what is needed to succeed.

*For October Student of the Month the focus will be on ownership: of actions, words, thoughts and themselves.

*For November SOM the focus should be about attitude-positive attitude towards others, respectful attitude towards adults and supportive attitude towards peers.

*The criteria for December Student of the Month will be respect: Respect towards others, respect towards property and respect towards themselves.

*For the Student of the Month in January, let the focus be on personal responsibility of grades and making others feel like they belong. As we

Turn To **STUDENT** page **A13**

Cornerstone Bank welcomes two new vice presidents

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently welcomed Mark Lussier as its new vice president of retail sales, and Patricia Smith as its new Webster branch vice president, senior market manager.

“We’re delighted to welcome both Mark and Pat to leadership roles on our team,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “Mark brings a depth of experience leading and developing teams across several industries

including banking, retail and sales, and Pat has deep roots within our community as well as an abundance of banking experience she will bring to bear for our customers.”

Lussier, a New England native with nearly two decades of banking and financial services experience, has a bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. He has held senior roles in other financial institutions, most recently in Philadelphia. He also has 25 years of retail and sales leadership experience.

Now residing in Worcester, Lussier said, “I’m excited to be back in Massachusetts and to join the Cornerstone Bank team. I look forward to helping our retail teams deepen customer relationships and help meet their financial goals.”



Mark Lussier



Patricia Smith

Smith, a Worcester native, joined Cornerstone with nearly four decades of banking experience. She has a bachelor’s degree from Assumption College in Worcester and

has held leadership roles in other local financial institutions, most recently in Bolton.

A long-term resident of Westborough, Smith said, “I’m so excited to be part of such a great bank with such a strong presence in its community and strong bonds with its customers and employees.”

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Department of Education to conduct Tiered Focused Monitoring Review at Bay Path

CHARLTON — During the week of April 10, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE’s) Office of Language Acquisition (OLA) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district’s and charter school’s ELLE program every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners’ student assessments, identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in, parent and community involvement, curriculum and instruction, student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration, program plans, and evaluation and

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The district will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team examines with. The survey focuses on key areas of their child’s English learner education program. Survey results will be reviewed by OLA and they will contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may call Andy McDonie, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at (781) 338-3541 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The report will be available to the public at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/cpr/>.



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Multi-lingual Bay Path LPN on wound care



Edgine Pierre-Paul

CHARLTON — Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN of Dudley has native or bilingual proficiency in English, French, and Haitian Creole plus a professional working proficiency in Spanish. The 2019 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy includes general studies: healthcare from Quinsigamond Community College in her academic background. The multi-lingual Bay Path LPN provides direct care, emotional, psychosocial, and mental health support to her clients at Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Webster.

In a conversation with Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Pierre-Paul says, “I’ve been really passionate about wound healing. I consider it a true privilege to be able to care for clients with wounds and watching the wound healing process. It makes me happy when I get to discontinue the wound orders because the wound is healed.”

Pierre-Paul’s clinical experience as a nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy included clinical observations at the Harrington Wound Care Center in Charlton. Wound care management is one among many of Pierre-Paul’s skills which includes but not limited to Tracheostomy care & management, Intravenous care & management, pain management, and post-surgical care. Aside from multi-lingual proficiency and skills competency, Pierre-Paul cares from the heart.

“I value my relationships with my patients and I love that they trust me,” said Pierre-Paul.

“I learned about building relationships with patients during my clinical rotation at the Overlook in Charlton,” she added. “I met a resident at the Overlook, and I remember how she trusted me with her life story. It really helps when you know your patients then you know how to care for them.”

Bolandrina stated, “Edgine was a diligent nursing student and it is not surprising that she is continuing to excel as an LPN.”

While at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pierre-Paul was an active member of the UNICEF Club, attended SafeTALK, and the Innovation Summit at Northeastern University in Boston. She was a district champion for SkillsUSA in Practical Nursing earning a Silver Medal. Pierre-Paul was also a nominee for the Clinical Excellence Award.

Pierre-Paul stated, “I also love urology and I hope I get to work in urology in the future. They call me ‘the catheter whisperer’ at work because I never miss.”

She maintains her certification in Mental Health First Aid, Infusion Therapy/Central Line Care, Dementia Care, and First Aid/CPR. She also completed sexual abuse and domestic violence training.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing, 239 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges, 209 Burlington Rd., Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org



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PRE-K POWER STORYTIME

Tuesdays @ 11:00AM
Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time! We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

TODDLER TIME

Wednesdays @ 11:00AM
Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs! This program is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

QUILTING GROUP

Wednesdays @ 1:30PM – beginning March 8th
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

LEARN TO PLAY DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Thursdays @ 6:00PM
«Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? We have an experienced Dungeon Master ready to run a new game of Dungeons and Dragons, the world's number one role playing game. We are missing just one thing ... YOU! This is for those that are looking to learn more about playing and do some short adventures!

Open to ages 10+, children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for this free program.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

Thursday 5:30PM – 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

LEGO CLUB

Mondays @4:00PM
Come join us each week for a different Lego challenge, from writing your name in Legos to making a Lego zipline. Ages 5+

POKEMON CARD TRADING

Tuesdays @ 4:00PM
Children are invited to bring their Pokemon cards for informal card trading and discussion.

ART EXHIBIT: DOLORES POTTER

March 1-March 31 during regular library hours
Local artist Dolores Potter will display her works in the Fels Room through the month of March.
YOUNG SCIENTISTS
Monday, March 6 10:00AM-11:00AM
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Class size is limited to 12 children, ages 3-6, and registration is required each week at the link on our website.

Sponsored by the South County Community Partnership

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, March 6 5:00PM-6:00PM
All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join.
Why join? You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form).
Pizza and drinks will be served!
All children 12 and under must be accompanied by an

BAD MOVIE OF THE MONTH: ZOMBEAVERS

Thursday, March 9 6:00PM-7:30PM
There are thousands of wonderful movies in the world. Movies that will make you cry, lift your spirits, and inspire you. These are not those movies.

Join us for a showing of “Zombeavers” (2014). When beavers are exposed to toxic chemicals, they become zombified. When zombified beavers bite you, you become...a werebeaver.
Free. Popcorn and bottled water provided.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

DROP IN SLIME MAKING

Friday, March 10 3:30PM-4:30PM
Make your own Slime!!! All materials provided!
Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Monday, March 13 10:00AM-11:00AM
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Class size is limited to 12 children, ages 3-6, and registration is required each week at the link on our website.

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INDOOR SEED STARTING

Thursday, March 16 6:00PM-7:30PM
There are so many more varieties of vegetables than what the garden centers offer, and the experts from Blackstone

Valley Veggie Gardens will show you everything you need to know to take advantage of this by starting your own plants from seeds indoors.

Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Monday, March 20 10:00AM-11:00AM
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Class size is limited to 12 children, ages 3-6, and registration is required each week at the link on our website.

Sponsored by the South County Community Partnership

INTRODUCTION TO BLOCK PRINTING

Saturday, March 25 10:00AM-2:00PM
Join Allison Pettingill to learn the basics of block printing in this in-depth class for teens (over age 14, please) and adults. Use the skills you gain to make your own custom patterns on textiles and paper.

All supplies provided and no experience necessary.

Space is limited, so registration is required at crawfordlibrary.org

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

ADULT BOOK GROUP

Monday, March 27 6:00PM-7:00PM
All are welcome to join our adult book group for a discussion of this month's title, Razorblade Tears, by S A Cosby
Copies of the current title are available at the circulation desk one month prior to the meeting.

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Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website, or by reaching out to our Library Director, Sondra Murphy, at smurphy@cwmar.org.

Adult Programming SPICE CLUB – In the lobby

A five-month series, each month will feature a new spice, recipes, and cookbooks. Stop by the lobby to grab a sample of that month's spice, then take it home and cook! February's spice is Star Anise.

FRIENDS FEATURED AUTHORBOOKSALE – Ongoing

A small touch of the Irish! Featured authors include Andrew Greeley, Ralph McInerney, and Larry McMurtry. Still only \$3.00 a bag!

VHS TO DVD EXCHANGE- Week of March 6th

Do you have old memories on VHS that you would like to preserve? Participants can bring 1 tape per family for DVD conversion starting Monday, March 6th through Thursday the 9th. Conversion will be done by Melodious Zach! Tapes and DVDs will be available to pick up on April 13th, 2023. This program is free thanks to the Friends of the library.

Friends Spring Concert Blackstone Valley Music presents Meet the Beetles- March 9th 6:30 PM

This multi-generational band is composed of Mark Mandeville (bass, vocals), Vito Caccavelli

(guitar, vocals), James Briand (guitar, vocals), and current Uxbridge High School student Aiden Joyce (drums). The musicians are all members of Blackstone Valley Music, a community music school located in downtown Uxbridge Massachusetts. Caccavelli and Briand had begun performing tribute concerts as students of BVM's popular rock band camp program, and have inspired us to continue the tradition.

BEEKEEPING 101 – March 16th – 6:00 PM

Hedly Honey will be in to give a talk about how to start a beehive, the bee colony, collecting honey, the importance of bees in pollination and more.

YOGA WITH JULIE – March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 9:30 AM

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

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – March 20th at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be on Monday, March 20th at 6:30 PM in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing Gift from the Sea by Anne Marrow Lindbergh Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmar.org for inquiries.

COOKBOOK BOOK CLUB – March 28th at 6:00 PM

A book club for people

who like to cook- and eat! Each month will feature a new cookbook. Take home this month's pick, choose a recipe and bring what you make to the next meeting! We welcome all cooking abilities! This month's cookbook is 5 Ingredients: Quick & Easy Food. Swing by the front desk to pick one up

Children's and Young Adult Programming

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

MINI STEM-CHALLENGE – Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Join us every Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmar.org for more details.

STEM THURSDAY--SELF INFLATING BALLOON-- March 9th 3:30 PM

Mix chemicals together to cause a reaction that will blow up a balloon!

ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM – March 20th--- 3:30 PM

Students will tinker with electricity and magnets in stations as well as see some electrifying demonstrations.

STEM BEGINNINGS MAKE UP CLASSES – March 9th and 16th at 10:00 AM

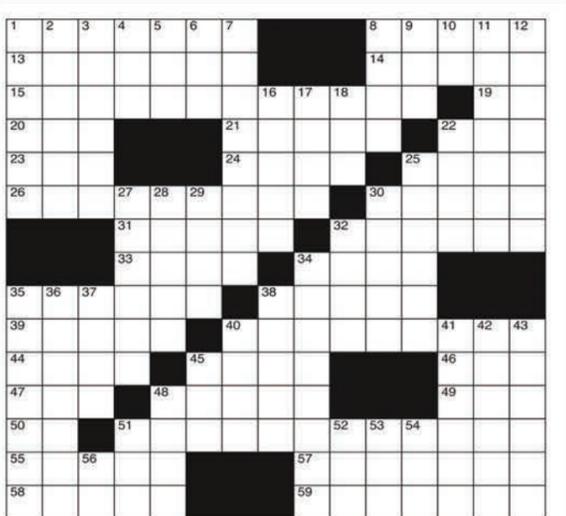
With each class, the children will learn STEM concepts through hands-on activities, engaging stories, music and movement, challenges, and even simple experiments ideal for little hands

MUSIC TOGETHER – Every Saturday in March at 11:15 AM

Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

MOM'S DROP-IN GROUP – Tuesday Mornings March 21st and 28th 10 AM to 12 PM

Moms and caregivers, bring your children, ages 0-5, to our drop-in open play time. In this community-building event, we set out toys for your children to play with as you get to see and know other parents from the area who have children of similar ages. Stop in any time between 10am and 12pm and stay as long or as little as you like.

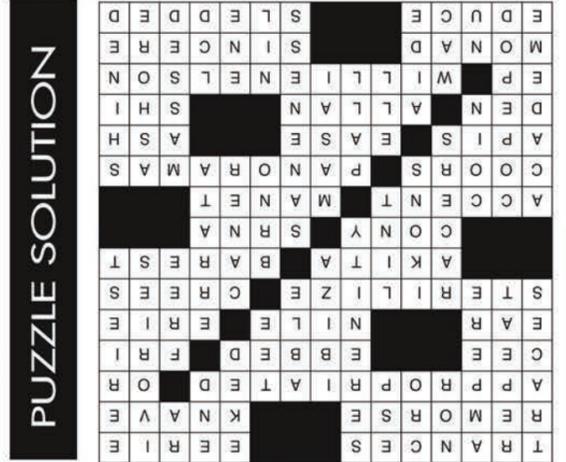


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Half-conscious states
- 8. Unnatural
- 13. Deep regret
- 14. Rogue
- 15. Taken without permission
- 19. An alternative
- 20. After B
- 21. Partner to flowed
- 22. Weekday
- 23. Body part
- 24. World's longest river
- 25. One of the Greats
- 26. Make clean
- 30. C. Canada indigenous peoples
- 31. Japanese seaport
- 32. Most unclothed
- 33. Small grouper fish
- 34. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 35. Distinguishing sound
- 38. French realist painter
- 39. Popular beer brand
- 40. Views
- 44. God depicted as a bull
- 45. Relieve
- 46. Residue after burning
- 47. Habitation
- 48. Poe's middle name
- 49. Japanese title
- 50. TV series installation (abbr.)
- 51. Beloved country singer
- 55. Single unit
- 57. Genuine
- 58. Develop
- 59. Traveled through the snow

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Clues
- 2. Do again
- 3. Current unit
- 4. Neither
- 5. Corporate exec (abbr.)
- 6. Second sight
- 7. The absence of mental stress
- 8. Supplemented with difficulty
- 9. Stop for good
- 10. College dorm worker
- 11. Bones
- 12. Most supernatural
- 16. Spanish island
- 17. Unlimited
- 18. Where golfers begin
- 22. No charge
- 25. Print errors
- 27. Professional drivers
- 28. Kiss box set
- 29. Short, fine fibers
- 30. Administers punishment
- 32. Czech city
- 34. Normal or sound powers of mind
- 35. The academic world
- 36. Crustacean
- 37. Currency
- 38. Pastoral people of Tanzania or Kenya
- 40. Cloth spread over a coffin
- 41. Grouped together
- 42. On land
- 43. Glistened
- 45. A type of extension
- 48. One who assists
- 51. College sports conference
- 52. Zero
- 53. Midway between northeast and east
- 54. Type of screen
- 56. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewsnewspapers.com

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WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tues. 3/14 Greek Chicken, steamed rice, broccoli. Wednesday 3/15 Meatloaf w/gravy, garlic mashed potatoes. Thursday 3/16 Corned Beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage & carrots. 3/17 Lemon Pepper Haddock, seasoned potatoes, brussels sprouts.

New Covid-19 Treatment Hotline: Have you tested positive for Covid-19? Telehealth is a quick and free way to see if you're eligible for Covid-19 treatment. Just call 1-833-273-6330. Clinicians are available every day from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm EST.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Senior Center to assist you. Please call (508) 949-3845 for more information.

The Regional Environmental Council has scheduled their Winter

Mobile Fresh Produce Markets for Thursdays at the Webster Senior Center, starting Thursday, January 19th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Markets are held every Thursday from January 19th through May 11, 2023.

Understanding Medicare – Bill Bjerke from Fallon Health will present an educational workshop designed for you if Medicare is on your to-do list. Don't delay, come to the Webster Senior Center on Friday, March 10th at 9:30 am. You will learn what you need to know or what you need to do as you approach Medicare eligibility age 65. Not a sales meeting, no marketing materials will be available.

Come create your own dessert with various toppings and pound cake on Monday, March 13th at 12:00 pm. Our Pound Cake Bar is being sponsored by the Life Care Center of Auburn. Please sign up at Senior Center front desk.

Join us for a Happy St. Patrick's Day Root Beer Floats celebration on Friday, March 17th at 12:00 pm. Please sign up at Senior Center front desk.

Join the Friends of the Webster Senior Center for an Island Vacation Luau on Monday, March 20th at 1:00 pm. Live music and refreshments! You must sign up at the Senior Center front desk by Friday, March 17th.

Join us for an afternoon movie matinee. We will be showing The Good House movie with Sigourney Weaver and Kevin Kline on Monday, March 27th at 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please sign up in advance at the

Senior Center front desk.

Are you interested in playing chess? We now have an informal chess club meeting on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm. All skill levels are welcomed!

Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! 9:30-10:30 am. Cost: \$3.00 per class.

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

Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm. Why not sign up for lunch, come early and spend the day!

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

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

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

Trip 1: The Amante Experience starring Michael Amante, the Peoples Tenor, at Castleton Conference Center, Windham, NH on Wednesday, April 18th. Trip price of \$109.00 includes transport-

tation, luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity and show ticket. You must reserve your tickets by April 6th. Trip 2: Staying Alive, Tribute to the Bee Gees at Lake Pearl, Wrentham, MA on Wednesday, May 24th. Trip price of \$119.00 includes transportation, luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity and show ticket. Our trips sell out quickly so don't wait to reserve your seat! Trip prices do not include bus driver gratuity. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 for more information.

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

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

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

Bryant University students named to Fall 2022 Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the fall 2022 Deans' List. To earn a place on the Deans' List students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement!

Cameron Bolduc of Auburn
Coleman Picard of Auburn
Jordan Grady of Webster
Eric Lavoie of Dudley
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University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 19 to March 4.

Danielle Yvonne Preves, age 51, of Barre was arrested on Feb. 19 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Jared Michael Washburn, age 21, of Dudley was arrested on Feb. 19 in connection with a warrant.

Mariah Marie Adair, age 27, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 21 in connection with multiple warrants.

Oscar J. Rivera, age 26, of Worcester was arrested on Feb. 22 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License.

Jeremy W. Nason, age 39, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on Feb. 22 for Possession of a Class B Drug and Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended Registration. Destiny J. Spencer, age 38, also of Putnam was arrested during the same incident in connection with a warrant.

Madsen Louissaint, age 35, of Worcester was arrested on Feb. 23 in connection with a warrant.

Richard Michael Berry, age 60, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 23 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order and in connection with a warrant.

Jose Luis Santos, age 35, of Woonsocket, R.I. was arrested on Feb. 23 in connection with a warrant.

David Joseph Dittmar, age 34, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 24 in connection with multiple warrants.

Robert W. Decosta, Jr., age 50, of North Brookfield was arrested on Feb. 24 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Ileena Dreama Merrimon, age 19, of Belchertown was arrested on Feb. 24 in connection with a warrant.

Josiah Steward, age 22, of Fall River was arrested on Feb. 26 for Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle, Conspiracy, and in connection with multiple warrants. Micayl Maruee Rodgers, age 21, also of Fall River was arrested during the same incident for Operating a Motor Vehicle after having License Revoked, a Motor Vehicle Lights violation, Receiving a Stolen Vehicle, and Conspiracy.

Karol Milewski, age 46, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 28 for Disorderly Conduct (subsequent offense) and Disturbing the Peace.

Andrew F. Edney, age 28, of Webster was arrested on March 1 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, and Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (second offense).

Juan Gabriel Robles Ramos, Jr., age 24, of Webster was arrested on March 3 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and in connection with a warrant.

Joseph T. Murphy, age 27, of Webster was arrested on March 4 in connection with a warrant.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$450,000, 135 Bryn Mawr Ave, Shrewsbury Montessori Sch, to Mom-135llc.

\$415,000, 8 Lorna Dr, Dascanio, Samantha R, to Goldberg, Jessica M, and Cashman, Anthony M.

\$385,000, 2 Diane Ave, Girouard Nancy N Est, and Convery, Pamela J, to Clockedile, Jeremy.

\$360,000, 10 Wentworth Dr, Howard, Marion D, and Wright, Kelli-Ann, to Wright, William S.

\$295,000, 3 Tuck Farm Rd #2, Legendre, Sarah J, to Keshishian, Karina.

\$140,000, 1 Field St, Macadams, Keith A, to Adams, David P.

DUDLEY

\$469,150, 13 Country Club Blvd #13, Country Club Acres LLC, to Gorman, John J, and Gorman, Elaine A.

\$430,000, 9 Brookstone Dr, Martin, William L, and Martin, Pamela J, to Trebilcock, Joseph J, and Johnson, Sarah N.

OXFORD

\$482,000, 1 Dolge Ct, All Surface Technology Inc, to Desouza Santos, Viviane F.

\$363,000, 25 Oxbow Rd, Knutson, Stephen R, and Knutson, Kristina N, to Ault, Tracy L, and Rivera, Jenna L.

WEBSTER

\$388,000, 794 School St, Federal Natl Mtg Assn, to Boutillette, Patrick, and Boutillette, Emily.

\$350,900, 36 Wakefield Ave, Hardell, James D, and Hardell, Casey B, to Bailey, Joseph, and Mellor-Bailey, Carolyn.

\$190,000, 18 3rd St, Konicki Edwin Paul Est, and Konicki, Sherrie, to Bmt Capital LLC.

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TOWN OF SPENCER

Minutes Clerk/Recording Secretary: The Town of Spencer is seeking a Minutes Clerk (up to 12 hours/month) to transcribe minutes for the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Position requires three years of clerical experience, excellent writing and typing skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office applications.

Submit resume and standard town employment application form, available at www.spencerma.gov to the Office of Town Administrator, Town of Spencer, 157 Main St., Spencer, MA 01562. Starting salary is \$16.85 per hour. EEO Employer. Position will remain open until filled.

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March 17th
11:30a - 7:00p

*Same restrictions as in previous years apply

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Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Yomiah and I love music!

Yomiah is a happy and inquisitive boy of Hispanic descent who is described by those who know him best as sweet and kind with a love of music. He sings a variety of songs, from B-I-N-G-O to Lady Gaga, and will often listen to musical toys by holding them up to his ears. Yomiah is an active child who likes to play independently, and will also engage with adults by reaching for their hands and sitting in their laps.

Yomiah receives supportive services to assist him in all areas of development, and has a complex medical history. He communicates using a combination of words, signs and augmentative communication and is also working with tactile symbols and Braille. Yomiah benefits from individualized attention and support within a predictable and stable routine. He often sings specific songs to specific people, showing an awareness and familiarity with them.

Legally freed for adoption, Yomiah will be best supported by a family who has a medical background or a willingness to learn and who is prepared to support and advocate for him throughout his life. Caregivers who are patient, nurturing, affectionate and strong advocates would be the best match for him.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/5871>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

Antique duck decoys



for our major spring online auction. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.
 Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services www.central-massauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Antique wooden duck decoys became popular collectibles beginning in the 1950s and 1960s and continue to increase in popularity. Collectors compete with institutional buyers at auction for some of the best examples. Duck decoys are featured in many museums including the Havre De Grace Decoy Museum in Maryland, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum in North Carolina and the Shelburne Museum in Vermont.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

 WAYNE TUISKULA

duck meat was a delicacy in the late 1800s and 1900s. Hunters learned how to make their own duck decoys from Native Americans, who made them out of reeds. Duck hunting became popular and celebrities and presidents joined duck hunt clubs. Club members wanted more realistic decoys, so they started having their own made. The decoys turned into an artform and there are many carvers still producing high quality decoys today.

Size
 The “strength of maker attribution” refers to the provenance of the decoy. It’s unlikely that you’ll find a maker name for an older duck. The more evidence showing it was made by a particular maker, the more likely buyers will feel comfortable buying it and the higher the value will be. Shore bird hunting was outlawed in 1928, so these decoys are more valuable. Wood quality varied by location, making region an important factor. Scarce decoys and larger sized ones also are more valuable.

Here are some examples of decoys that brought high prices at auction. A Surace Cobb Black Duck Decoy by Nathan F. Cobb, Jr. of Cobb Island, Va. sold for \$36,000 in February 2021. An early Humpback Black Duck Decoy by The Ward Brothers of Crisfield, Maryland brought \$75,000 in 2023. Painted Greater Yellowlegs by William Bowman of Lawrence, Long Island went

for \$78,000 in 2007. A Canvasback Hen by Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Mass. sold for \$79,000 in 2008. A Ruddy Turnstone by John Dilley of Quogue, Long Island, N.Y. reached \$85,000 in 2013. A Widgeon Drake by Joseph Lincoln of Accord, Mass. (a section of Norwell) brought \$97,750 in 2014. A Massachusetts carver’s decoy set a record in 2007. An exceptional and rare red-breasted merganser hen by Lothrop Holmes of Kingston, Mass. sold for \$856,000, providing the consignor with a substantial nest-egg.

We will be offering duck decoys from two local estates in one of our upcoming spring auctions. Our next auction is another online auction (session 7) of model trains, diecast cars and other toys from a West Boylston estate. Our Beacon Street, Boston online estate will also begin this month. We are accepting consignments

Duck decoys have a long history. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that the oldest known duck decoys were discovered in 1912 inside of Lovelock Cave in Lovelock, Nevada. The decoys were used by the Northern Paiutes and date back to 400 BC to 100 AD. The Smithsonian reported that

The auction site invaluable.com lists the following factors in determining duck decoy value:
 Maker
 Region
 Decoy species
 Condition
 Scarcity
 Strength of maker attribution

Webster resident to have role in Dean College’s “Pippin”

FRANKLIN — Paige Evora of Webster has earned the role of Sound Crew in the Dean College production of “Pippin,” beginning Wednesday, March 22 through Sunday, March 26.

Studded with pop-style musical gems, “Pippin” is an allegory of a young prince in search of himself. Longing to find passion, adventure, or anything else that will make him feel extraordinary, Prince Pippin goes to war to prove his loyalty to his distracted father, King Charles. The prince falls in love with Catherine, a widow with a young son, and struggles to decide whether he should settle down and pursue a peaceful life or continue to make magic with a dazzling troupe of performers.

“Pippin” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

The Dean College production of “Pippin” will take place in the Main Stage in the Dr. Paula M. Rooney Student Center at Dean College, 109 West Central St., Franklin, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Dean College welcomes children and families to all of our performances, provided patrons have complied with all safety guidelines. However, infants and children under 2 years of age are not allowed in the theatre, and children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All patrons must have their own ticketed seats; lap sitting is not permitted.

To learn more about the show and to purchase tickets, visit www.dean.edu/boxoffice.

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

State report projects 21st century climate impact

BY GUS STEEVES
 CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Going forward, the Bay State will be “vulnerable to all kinds of climate risks,” new Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper told the annual Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions online conference.

In her brief keynote speech last Saturday, she summarized those concerns and what the Healey administration is hoping to do about them, noting the agency is “prioritizing” getting more citizen input on the various related issues by, among other things, creating its first Undersecretary for Environmental Justice and Equity, Maria Belen Power.

Tepper noted the Department of Environmental Protection is also updating its regulations regarding stormwater management, water quality and other issues, and releasing what she dubbed “MVP 2.0,” to update the Municipal Vulnerability Program, which includes 97 percent of Mass communities.

Overall, Tepper cited certain key goals, one of the biggest being a statewide land protection target of 30 percent by 2030 and 40 percent by

2050. Others include a “no net loss of carbon wetland strategy” when it comes to replicating wetlands to preserve their flood capacity and “keep[ing] carbon sequestered in trees, soils and wetlands.”

“We simply cannot afford to take permitting lightly,” she said. “... We need to avoid development that will be at risk due to climate change.”

To lay out such risks, the state recently released its Climate Change Assessment report, and will issue its first five-year climate plan this fall. That report is available online, and the executive summary shows some changes from previous projections. Most notably, prior studies predicted the state’s climate would become like that of South Carolina by 2090, but the new one pushes our state a little farther south into southern Georgia by then. That’s likely to include 55 days above 90 degrees annually for inland communities, with 25 days by 2050. The average before 2013 was just four.

As the changes mount, the report projects a wide range of impacts, many of them disproportionately hitting areas now home to minorities and environmental justice communities. It breaks them into five key areas: human, infrastructure, environment,

governance and economic impacts, many of which in practice overlap.

Statewide, the report foresees all regions experiencing increased electrical transmission damage, freshwater ecosystem degradation, reduced affordable housing, increases to response costs and increased demand for key government services (particularly emergency response, health and food security related ones). Western parts of the state are likely to see more of the stresses from “forced and voluntary human migration” because of the fact they have “a lower level of exposure to some acute climate hazards,” while those from the east are more likely to be migrating.

Southbridge is at the easternmost edge of its Greater Connecticut River Valley region, and thus likely to see some factors combining that area with its Central region. The report foresees two major “unique regional impacts” for each – reduced agricultural production and increased storms and power outages in the valley and reduced urban tree cover and reduced food safety and security in central Mass.

Because it’s an urbanized, low-income, environmental justice community, reading the findings indicates

Southbridge may see certain things with higher frequency than wealthier places. Among those cited were the fact such areas are “28 percent more likely to experience extreme heat mortality” and also see higher than average loss of wages from heat illnesses. They are likely to see worse food security, higher increases in asthma and other respiratory ills, and disproportionate impacts from emergency response delays, which will cause “a doubling of effects on mortality and morbidity by 2050,” it states.

“Low income and linguistically isolated populations” are also likely to see a larger increase than the projected 44 percent average the report foresees for inland storm and flood damage to buildings. Such structural damage pops up in several places in the report, under different guises. Those include damage to governmental facilities, economic impact from business facility damage, the loss of housing, and harm to cultural and recreational sites, among others.

The full report is at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-climate-change-assessment#read-the-report>.

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



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Located at CVS Plaza

School District adds accountant position

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District is adding a new part-time certified governmental accountant position for the remainder of the school year to meet the demands of an audit conducted in the 2022 fiscal year. The committee voted in favor of the measure on March 1 with the acknowledgement that the position would help with the ongoing budgetary season and would not bring added cost to the taxpayers of the district. District Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu explained that this new position is a vital need for the district and would be paid for through school choice funds. “Our district office, much like the rest of the district, lacks a certain level of resources that are found in other schools

and districts. This is the least impactful financial approach that we can take that will provide a level of response to that letter and provide a little help in the business office with the transition in the payroll position and the extraordinary amount of work that’s gone into the Dudley override and the work coming up preparing multiple budgets for multiple scenarios. I think this is a critically important piece to add to the district office,” said Mathieu. The School Committee posed some questions with the understanding that the district’s financial situation is being closely monitored by both town officials and taxpayers. Lamarche stressed that this will not be paid for with additional taxpayer funds and Superintendent Steven Lamarche explained that adding the position will help offset some of the workload employees have absorbed due to a lack of

staffing in the district. “I know there are some people who have expressed to me that they’re frustrated and tired of hearing this, but once again out of 319 reporting districts in the state of Massachusetts, Dudley-Charlton is the lowest, 319 out of 319, when it comes to the operations of a school district from an administrative perspective,” said Lamarche. “Everything is relative, every community has different staff and positions, and titles, but the reality of Dudley-Charlton being 319 out of 319 is why people wear multiple hats and they may have one title, but that’s not their one job.” The School Committee voted unanimously to approve adding the new position for the remainder of the school year. The accountant will be hired for 8 hours a week for roughly \$4,000. The district’s school choice fund contains over \$500,000.

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

- Head of School
Grade 8: Missage Budimbu, Samuel Guay
Grade 7: James Ferguson
Grade 6: Oliver Andreotta, Emma Brooks, Autumn Hibbard, Sophia MacKenzie, Charles Maglich, Matthew Monticelli, Malcolm Parmentier
Grade 5: Gage Cady, Samantha Gardner, Shawn Hastings, Caleb Latino, Lyla Meehan, Connor Shelburne, Alana Yelu-Attigah
Grade 4: Logan Andreotta, Lucy Messenger, Fiona Radcliffe
- High Honors
Grade 7: Joe Chahine, Georgeanne Gajewski, Kaylie Moriarty Bageris
Grade 6: Cole Adams, Thomas Burren, Ella Campbell, Alexander Delgaudio, Xavier Matthews, Christian Nieves, Alina Turner
Grade 5: Noah Beaudette, Kallie Fales,

- Camden Melendez, Gianna Monticelli, Nolan Nadeau, Aliviah Patterson, Jack Pinto
Grade 4: Jackson Boria, Olivia Brooks, Cristian Cruz, Jackson Dunkley, Raegan Duquette, Cassidy Hamm, Madeline Healey, Emma Healy, Quinn Meehan, Sophia Nolle, Charlotte Wentworth, Keon Yelu-Attigah
- First Honors
Grade 8: Olivia Mead
Grade 7: Meghan Baca, Kendyl Fales, Kamryn Fasshauer, Colin Healey, Patrick Hylka
Grade 6: Hayley Giroux, Lillian Morton, Amelia Wentworth
Grade 4: Lydia Burke, Emma Collins, Sydney Caissie-Desautels, Lana Denson, Laila Regis, Cecilia Rogers, Nathan Ruiz

- Recognition
Grade 7: Patrick Hylka
Grade 5: Jack Pinto
Grade 4: Nola Boulmetis, Allianna Burns, Mia Kreft

Village Toastmasters Open House to be held March 16

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Village Toastmasters will host an Open House from 6:30-8:15pm at Chamber of Commerce South, 46 Hall Road in Sturbridge. We encourage guests to visit and learn how to improve their public speaking skills. Please join us at 6:30pm for refreshments and meet and greet followed by a Toastmasters meeting which will end at 8:15pm. May also visit us at <http://www.villagetoastmasters.org>.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Things aren't always what they seem

We see it on Facebook, and other social media accounts — seemingly happy people carrying on about their lives without a care in the world. As we scroll, we tend to pass judgements on what is in reality, a blip in the lives of those who's photos we are currently looking at. A mere moment, that perhaps lasted less than a second, is captured, and in that moment, we feel that we are free to make a distinction on what that individual is going through in the moments and days prior, or what they may be feeling like in the moments just after. Don't do that.

The best way to find out how a friend, co-worker or family member is, is to simply ask them. With the past year being what it was, mental health issues and rates of suicide are sky rocketing. Is this really a time to pass judgement? Or is this an opportunity to lift those up around us and to make sure that we're all hanging in there?

As humans, some of us can handle any given situation with more grit than others. Some can carry on for just so long until it just becomes too much. Those that have that grit, are those who have the ability to extend their hand, tell someone that they will be ok and that they are not alone. Support for a person overwhelmed, depressed or anxious is paramount to their well being. Sure, it feels good to act tough, and announce that X, Y, or Z doesn't bother you, but the world is not all about you and it never will be. Be kind, it just feels better.

When a person breaks their leg and can temporarily no longer work, they are sent flowers, offered encouraging words of support, given sick time and sent home with casseroles. If a person with a mental health condition takes time off to regroup and to seek the help and therapy that they need to live, it becomes an issue. Because you can't SEE the injury. What you might see is a smile that lasted a split second, and you pass judgement — 'Oh, they aren't really sick.' Guess what? You are wrong. Make no mistake, we all go through challenging times, that doesn't mean that we all handle them in the same way.

Discrimination against a person with any health issue, whether it be physical or mental, is illegal. Furthermore, it's morally wrong. Do we really want to be a society that has stopped supporting one another? We vote no. When we see a neighbor plow the driveway of the house down the street, or three neighbors pulling a stranger's car out of a ditch, we are reminded of how at our cores, we are all kind.

Take note — mental illness is not a character defect. There are many reasons a person may develop an issue, whether it's temporary, brought on by stress, illness or whether it's genetic. Some anxiety may resurface as an adult, due to childhood trauma. Either way, we don't know unless we know.

When people don't understand mental illness, they tend to behave prejudice against those who admit they have an issue. Those people are often treated as though they don't have a real health issue and are then discriminated against. This leads to shame in the person who openly admits that they need help, and so the stigma surrounding mental health is born.

Many workplaces have excellent support systems in place for employees who need help, these to include police and fire departments. These places are to be commended for looking out for one another.

Here are ways to decrease the stigma, be in the know and help your neighbors. Educate yourself, be aware of your attitude towards those who confide in you, pay attention to your judgements and choose your words carefully. When you do educate yourself, spread the word. Treat those around you with respect and offer encouragement, or a slice of pizza, anything goes. We say it often, take care of each other, now more than ever. Being kind is pretty darn easy.

VIEWPOINT

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

There are no warriors

The spirit of lukewarmness reigns. We've been spoiled for good! How does God still tolerate us? Today's generation is the generation of indifference. There are no warriors! The majority of faithful are fit only for parades and feasts. (St. Paisios the Athonite)

Our Lord Jesus warned us about this danger of becoming nominal and lukewarm in our faith: "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (Rev 3:15-16)

Saint Paul cautions us about what will happen to faith during the end times: "In the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power." (2 Tim 3:1-5)

Reflect on these warnings: "There are no more warriors of the faith! We have become lukewarm in our love for Christ! We have become lovers of ourselves and of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding the outward form of faith but denying or no longer believing in its power."

What powerful words given to us, yet as much as we don't want to believe they're true, we need to look carefully and honestly at our own lives and see if they reflect our own faith.

If we take the time to read Holy Scripture and the lives of the saints every day, how does our own life live up to the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ? How do we compare to the martyrs and saints we honor every day? How sincerely are we striving to follow Christ and live by His divine standard?

If most of us are honest, we may say that we believe in God (in some intellectual way), that we love God (in some abstract manner) and that we try to follow Him (maybe on Sunday mornings but not every Sunday; or maybe for a few minutes a day when we try to pray to Him, but actually we forget about Him throughout most of the day), or maybe we turn to Him when we have a serious problem or difficulty in our life and we need His help.

How many of us can honestly say that He is the center of our lives and in everything we do or say, we try to follow Him? How many of us can sincerely say that we "seek first the kingdom of God" above all else in our lives?

If we want to address this issue of lukewarmness in our faith, we have to first honestly know ourselves. God doesn't notice only where we are; He's concerned about where we are going. He wants to know if we are humbly turning toward Him and striving to overcome our nominal faith, open to grow in His grace, truth, and love.

We may not be a warrior of the faith, but do we want to become a warrior? We may be lukewarm in our faith but do we want to set our faith on fire? Are we ready to nourish our faith, open our hearts to encounter God's love and then grow in His divine grace, seeking after the greatest treasure in life?

The purpose of Christian season of Great Lent is precisely to give a special time to every faithful believer to



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN
GREEK
ORTHODOX
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WEBSTER

slow down in their lives and give more attention to the essential and eternal aspects of life. Great Lent is a time for us to honestly look at ourselves and see where we have fallen, whether consciously or unconsciously. Many of us have simply drifted away from any fervor of faith in Jesus Christ. These 40 days of Lent are a time for us to honestly take an accounting of ourselves, to confess our sins and shortcomings and then to repent!

To repent means to have a radical change of heart and change of direction in our lives. Repentance means to make a 180 degree turn back in the direction of God away from our selfish and often self-centered lifestyle. It means to embrace the worldview that Jesus Christ offers and turn away from society's alluring and deceptive perspective.

repent means to come back to our heavenly Father's home.

Yet, Great Lent isn't only a time of repentance. It is a time of exciting discovery as well. We turn to God and hope to discover, or rediscover, the meaning and purpose of life. We hope to encounter God's extreme and passionate divine love for us and realize His desire for us to fulfill the divine potential He placed in each one of us. Great Lent is a time to encounter God in new, refreshing, exciting ways, maybe even to experience the Divine in ways we've never experienced before in our lives.

So, how do we do this? The Church offers us the essential spiritual tools, that if they are used in the proper manner, will open up our hearts to encounter God in life-changing and transformative ways. When we strive to properly Fast, Pray, and Offer Alms and do acts of Loving Charity, we are redirecting our lives toward our Creator and learning to live according to His ways.

When we take the time to seriously reflect on our lives and then go to the Sacrament of Confession, we are cleansing ourselves from our fallen past and finding the healing grace which only Jesus Christ can offer. When we obey the church in forgiving one another and make mercy and grace a central part of who we are, we discover how we reconcile with one another and live in harmony and peace.

When we take advantage of the many beautiful services of the Lenten season, we learn to love worshipping God and discover how we can commune and unite with Him through our worship and communal prayers, as well as through the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Be on guard and be careful! Remember what God is calling us to in this life. We may not be warriors of the faith right now, but He expects us to start acting like warriors? We may be lukewarm in our love for God but He expects us to fan our embers of faith and develop a deep and sincere love for God that turns into a raging fire?

The season of Great Lent is here. Let us use this time wisely, let us practice the spiritual tools that the Church has given us, and let us journey through this 40 day season repenting as we are rediscovering and renewing our faith in Christ our Lord.

Take advantage of higher IRA limits



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Over the past year, the rising cost of living has certainly been challenging. But for investors, there's at least one silver lining to inflation — a higher IRA contribution limit.

IRAs have been around for nearly half a century, but they've only been pegged to inflation since 2001. Since then, the contribution limit has risen every few years, with the last increase coming in 2019. Now, in 2023, the annual IRA contribution limit has moved to \$6,500, up from \$6,000 last year. If you're 50 or older, you can put in up to \$7,500 a year, up from \$7,000 in 2022.

If you've already established an automatic investment plan for your IRA, you could consider bumping up your payments to accommodate the new, higher limits. However, if you can afford it, you may want to fully fund your IRA as soon as possible, so the money can potentially be growing throughout the year. But you can contribute to your 2023 IRA any time from now until April 15, 2024. (And it's also not too late to contribute to your 2022 IRA — you've got until April 18 of this year.)

If you haven't yet opened an IRA, you might want to do so now to take advantage of the higher contribution limits. Depending on your situation, you could contribute either to a Roth or traditional IRA. Here are the basics for each one:

Roth IRA – When you invest in a Roth IRA, your earnings and withdrawals are free from federal taxes, provided you've had your account at least five years and you don't start taking money out until you're 59 and a half or older. In 2023, you can contribute the full amount to a Roth IRA if you are single and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than \$138,000; above that amount, your contributions will be reduced until they are phased out completely at \$153,000. If you're married and file jointly, this "phase-out range" is \$218,000 – \$228,000.

Traditional IRA – Generally, you can invest in a traditional IRA regardless of your income level. If you and your spouse don't have a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, your contributions are typically tax deductible; if you or your spouse do have such a plan, the tax deductibility will depend on your income level. But regardless of whether your contributions are deductible, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis.

If you have a choice, which IRA should you pick? The decision largely revolves around this question: Would you benefit more from the traditional IRA tax deduction (assuming you qualify for it) or the tax-free withdrawals of a Roth IRA? And the answer mostly depends on whether your tax rate will be higher or lower during your retirement. If you are confident you'll be in a higher tax bracket when you retire, the Roth IRA, with its tax-free withdrawals, might be the better choice. But if you think you'll be in a lower tax bracket, you might benefit by taking the upfront tax breaks of a traditional IRA.

Of course, if you're still many years away from retirement, it can be difficult to estimate your future tax bracket. Your tax advisor may be able to provide some guidance.

An IRA is one of the most popular retirement savings vehicles around — and for good reason. Consider putting one to work for you in 2023.

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.

Letter submission policy

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

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

The big show is here



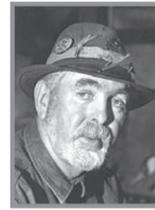
Courtesy

My brother Ken at the Providence Saltwater Show taking a break at Captain Mel's booth! It is a great show; do not miss it! Stop by and say hello! See you there!

The big saltwater fishing show is finally here. The Northeast saltwater fishing show will open their doors this weekend March 10 -12, at One Sabin Street in Providence, R.I.! The show has 300 or more booths displaying the latest fishing gear, along with numerous seminars for anglers to learn some of the best tactics of catching big fish from the pros! The annual event draws hundreds of saltwater sportsmen to the event every year. It would be wise to attend the show early to get some of the best buys from dealers. Captain Mel True of FishNet Charters, will be one of the many charter boat captains at the show. Planning your 2023 fishing trip now, will ensure that you get some of the prime fishing spots on the charter boats.

Rhode Island & Mass. Marine Fisheries will also be set up at the show, and it will give you the opportunity to give them your thoughts on this year's planned fishing regulations. It will be your last opportunity to meet them up front before all of the final regulations are set in stone. Show hours are Friday 1-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry fee is \$12, and kids under 11 are free!

Freshwater anglers are reminded that Wallum Lake in Douglas is closed to all fishing until the second week in April. Rhode Island regulations apply. Hopefully, Mass. & Rhode Island can work out a stocking schedule of trout prior to that date!



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Anglers are also reminded to wear their life preservers whenever in a boat or canoe. One concerned angler spotted a couple of small boats on a local body of water a couple of weeks ago, and no one was wearing a life preserver. It is the law that they must be worn in the spring time when the waters are cold.

This winter's lack of ice for anglers to do some ice fishing was so bad, that even a couple of local bait shops had to close their doors. Winters are just not what they used to be!

An Attleboro man was sentenced recently for trapping snowshoe hares in Maine and transporting and selling them out of state. It is unfortunate that the rabbits can no longer be trapped and sold out of state. For many years, sportsmen legally could buy the hares from a licensed trapper in Maine, until that all came crashing to an end more than 25 years ago. Local clubs were buying the hares and releasing them live into open covers for running and training their beagles. I sure miss the baying of my hounds as they trailed the elusive rabbits. Some of our local clubs were buying a few hundred snowshoe hares from a licensed trapper to stock them in the areas like the Douglas state Forest. We sure spent many nights running our hounds, and the music they made was fantastic, as they trailed the fast running rabbits.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Easter Eats: a Peek into the Basket Treats

Easter is a beloved holiday in this country, but it is also the second most popular "candy consuming" occasion of the year, trailing only Halloween. In fact Easter related sweets account for a good chunk of the 8 pounds of candy the average American consumed each year

Chocolate bunnies, marshmallow peeps, and jelly beans have long been Easter morning favorites, but have you ever wondered how these classic confections found their way into the annual baskets? The sugar laden sweets have an interesting history, as the following trivia and fun facts attest.

The Pleasures of Peeps: Marshmallow peeps – love them or hate them, the gooey sweet treats have been a staple in the Easter basket since the 1950s, and their evolution through the years have earned them a cult-like following from Peep fans across the globe. First produced only in yellow chick form, the Peeps line has expanded to include pink and purple bunnies, lollipop peeps, vanilla flavored and chocolate covered peeps, as well as an array of holiday figurals

peep cousins that include snowmen, stars and Christmas trees.

No one knows exactly when the first primitive peep was "hatched," but in 1953, the Just Born candy company of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania purchased the Rodda Candy Company of Lancaster, PA, where marshmallow chicks had been painstakingly created individually by hand via a pastry tube, taking 27 hours to create. The next year when Just Born instituted a mechanized Peep process, the marshmallow confections were produced in quantity, exposing a whole generation of Post WW II children to the wonders of the Easter chick peep.

Long an Easter basket mainstay, today the original yellow peep shares the cellophane grass each year with such peep treats as pastel bunnies, mousse flavored chocolate chicks, rainbow peep pops, and chocolate "peepsters."

Each Easter season Americans buy more than 700 million marshmallow Peeps, earning them the title of the most popular non chocolate Easter candy.

Chocolate Bunny

Tales; The chocolate bunny, whether hollow or solid, is a most welcome sight in the Easter basket. Following the Lenten fasting, the flavorful figurals have long promised recipients a much anticipated sweet treat.

While the Germans are credited with producing bunny shaped cakes and confections as far back as the early 19th century, the spring symbol of fertility didn't take on the classic chocolate form until the mid 1800s. Inspired by the tradition of German immigrants, Whitman's Chocolate was one of the first companies to produce chocolate Easter bunnies, which made their debut in 1842. By the beginning of the 20th century major chocolate producers were using metal molds to produce a wide range of rabbits, both big and small.

Chocolate bunnies continue to take the lead when it comes to candy preference, with 63 percent of Americans favor-

TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
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ing a chocolate rabbit to other Easter candies. With approximately 91 million chocolate bunnies sold in the U.S. for Easter each year, it's a safe bet a bunny can be in every basket.

Joy of Jellybeans: Colorful jelly beans, the sugary treats that dot the bottom the Easter basket, have an historical heritage. While most folks agree the jelly bean was inspired by the ancient Middle Eastern "Turkish Delight" confection, the brightly colored beans gained widespread popularity during the Civil War era. It was during that period that confectioner William Schrafft of Charlestown, Massachusetts marketed his jelly beans as the ideal high energy snack for soldiers, encouraging civilians via print ads to send Schrafft jelly beans to fighting soldiers. As jelly beans become increasingly popular, the little sweets fast became a candy dish favorite produced by numerous confection companies and sold in both fruity

and "spiced" flavors. It was in the 1930 that the egg shaped jelly beans found their way into the Easter basket. The traditional jelly bean experienced a transformation in 1976, when the gourmet jelly bean in such flavors as cream soda and green apple was introduced by Jelly Belly Candy Company. During the 1980s, jelly beans got another unexpected boost when President Ronald Reagan, a longtime fan of the colorful candies, kept a jar of jelly beans on his presidential desk. Americans' love of the humble jelly bean shows no signs of waning, as consumers purchase some 15 billion jelly beans each year, the majority of which are enjoyed throughout the Easter season.

How Do We Eat Chocolate Bunnies?

How do most people tackle the delicious task of indulging in a chocolate bunny? Whether you are a nibbler or a gobbler, technique takes second place to a starting strategy. According to an ongoing Infoplease poll here's how the latest numbers tally:

*start with the ears: 89%
*start with the feet 6 %

*start with the tail 5%

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

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

Pain relief found in the garden

Look to the garden, farmer's market, or refrigerator next time you are battling sore muscles, indigestion, and headaches. These five foods fresh from the garden contain powerful pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory properties.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

with disease-fighting chemicals and antioxidants and help fight inflammation and relieve pain. Purchase plenty of cherries to juice, dry, and preserve so you can enjoy their health

benefits all year long. And consider planting a sour cherry tree in your backyard. Montmorency is the most popular sour cherry needing only 700 hours of air temperatures between 34 and 45 degrees to initiate flowering for fruit development. New hardier dwarf introductions from the University of Saskatchewan can be grown in colder regions including zone 2. Although it takes several years for cherry plants to start producing fruit, you'll enjoy watching your tree grow into maturity and bear its first crop. Just make sure to cover the plants with netting so the birds don't eat your harvest.

Ginger

Ginger helps reduce inflammation and combat migraines, muscle pain, arthritis, and post-workout or post-gardening soreness. All this plus it helps fight nausea. Although it's a tropical plant you can find plants or rhizomes (the part you eat) online. Or join other enthusiastic gardeners who have had success rooting the rhizomes they pur-

chased at the grocery store to start new plants. Grow your ginger in a pot outdoors or sunny window alongside your other indoor plants.

Sage

Sage tea has long been used to soothe scratchy and irritated throats and showed positive results in a 2006 clinical trial. Harvest a few sage leaves, add hot water, and brew a bit of sore throat relief. Grow this herb in the garden or in a container. It thrives in a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Harvest leaves as needed throughout the season. Regular harvesting encourages more growth for future harvests. You can remove as much as one-third of the plant at one time for preservation.

So next time you're feeling a bit of pain, pass by the medicine cabinet and look to the garden for a bit of relief. Even the simple act of tending your garden and harvesting produce can elevate your mood, lower your blood pressure, and start you on the road to feeling



Melinda Myers

Sour cherries contain disease-fighting chemicals and antioxidants to help fight inflammation and relieve pain.

better.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

OBITUARIES

Donald Joseph Belanger, Sr., 89



Donald Joseph Belanger, Sr., 89 years old, formerly of Webster, Massachusetts, passed away January 30, 2023. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

He retired from the Navy as Chief Petty Officer in 1972 after 22 years of service. Upon his retirement, Don became a Real Estate Broker and Appraiser and retired after 37 years as an appraiser and 46 years as a Broker/Agent. He was Vice President of Anderson Belanger Realty, President of Belanger Appraisals, Inc., and was also a part-time instructor for Real Estate appraisals for 17 years.

Don was predeceased by his Father, Albert Belanger; his Mother, Vivian Bryant and his Daughter, Norma Jean Belanger. He is survived by his loving Wife of 65 years, Leatrice (Plasse) Belanger formerly of Webster, Massachusetts; three

Children; Martha (Belanger) Ward, Donald Belanger Jr., and his wife Sunny and Elizabeth Keech; seven Grandchildren and six Great-grandchildren.

he is also survived by his three Brothers; Albert Belanger, Charles Bryant and Joseph Belanger; three Sisters; Vivian Connelly, Beatrice Belanger and Mary Belanger as well as many Nieces and Nephews including those he considered Daughters; Mary Connelly Dean and husband James; Kathy Connelly Jones and Shelly Connelly Hanna.

Viewing will be at Altmeyer Funeral Home, 5033 Rouse Drive in Virginia Beach on Monday, February 6th from 6PM-8PM. Services will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 1PM at the Funeral Home. Interment will take place at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, 6309 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., in Norfolk immediately following the service.



Justin Stefanik, 88



Justin Stefanik, 88, of North Falmouth, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2023. He was the beloved husband of Priscilla V. Stefanik with whom he shared 65 wonderful years of marriage.

Justin was born April 27, 1934, in Zilina, Czechoslovakia to the late Martin and Katarine (Duris) Stefanik. Soon after, his family escaped Czechoslovakia during World War II, coming to America on the Queen Mary. They were processed at Ellis Island and then settled in Webster, MA where Justin learned English, making him trilingual as he already spoke Russian and Slovak, and then graduated from high school.

Following high school, Justin enlisted in the United States Air Force at 18 years old. Justin proudly served his country for 22 years with the Air Force, earning him the rank of Master Sergeant. While in the Air Force, Justin travelled around the world and was a part of some incredible missions. He was stationed at a radar site in Tin City, Alaska, only 24 miles from Siberia. He was in Bien Hoa, Vietnam

during the Tet offensive attacks in 1968-1969, and was a part of Operation Deep Freeze in the South Pole, which was the first time the United States Air Force went to the South Pole.

Justin was also awarded the title of an Honorary Seabee by the U.S. Navy in 1968, which was later revealed to be in connection with a secret mission at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Upon retiring from the Air Force, Justin served another 20 years at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod. He was in the 102nd Intelligence Wing serving as the Structural Superintendent, Assistant Operations, and Maintenance Chief before retiring in 1997.

When Justin wasn't hard at work, he enjoyed going on cruises, vacationing to Boca Raton in the winters, skiing with his family, taking care of his yard, and fishing. He loved going to The Flying Bridge and eating his favorite onion rings. Justin excelled at everything he did, he could fix anything and took great pride in being able to do so. He came from humble beginnings and went on to have a rich, full, and purposeful life. He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Justin is survived by his wife, Priscilla Stefanik, of North Falmouth, MA; his son, Frank Stefanik, of Webster, MA; and his daughter Laurie Stefanik, of Mashpee, MA. He is predeceased by his loving parents Martin and Katarine Stefanik, and his sister Helen Stefanik.

Justin will be laid to rest at Massachusetts National Cemetery, in Bourne in a private ceremony.



Barbara J. Thibaudeau, 78

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL – Barbara J. (Plasse) Thibaudeau, 78, formerly of Charlton and Dudley, MA, died Wednesday, January 11 at her home with her sons at her side. Her husband of 43 years, Albert L. Thibaudeau, died in 2006.

She leaves 2 sons, Andrew P. Thibaudeau and his companion, Brenda Zuckiewicz of Dudley and Thomas P. Thibaudeau and his wife Deborah of Webster; 2 grandchildren, Andrew Thibaudeau II and his wife Alice of Orlando and Ryan Thibaudeau and his companion Lauren Turner of Fort Myers; 7 great-grandchildren, Lisa, Stella, Mason, Owen, Nora, Luca and Celiene Thibaudeau; a sister, Corinne Lavalle and her husband Harris of Warren; a brother, Richard Plasse of Webster; her companion, Dick Taylor of New Smyrna Beach; and nieces and nephews.

She was born on October 20, 1944 in Webster and raised there, the daughter of Herve and Corinne (Leblanc) Plasse. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1962. She lived in Charlton while raising her family and then in Dudley before moving to Florida in 2006.

Mrs. Thibaudeau first worked in Cosmetology and then was a bookkeeper and medical coder for various nursing homes. She was a bookkeeper for the Daughters of the Holy Spirit in Putnam,

CT before retiring.

Barbara enjoyed gardening, entertaining at dinner parties, going to the beach and playing cards. She was an excellent bridge player (who rarely lost a game) and her 3 bridge ladies, Sandy, Gini and Teri, were known as "The Bridgettes." She was a strong-spirited woman who could take on any project or challenge.

NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CT – Judy M. (Lamontagne) Hunt, 61, died Monday, February 27 at home surrounded by the love of her family after an illness.

She leaves her husband and soulmate of 42 years, James M. "Jim" Hunt; 2 daughters, Sara A. Hunt of North Grosvenordale and Lisa M. Lewis and her husband Joseph of Oceanside, CA; 3 grandchildren, Savana, Penelope and Valerie; her mother, Nancy (Cable) Lamontagne of Pomfret; 2 brothers, Ronald Lamontagne and his wife Jessica of Webster, MA and John Lamontagne and his wife Beth Ellen of Auburn, MA; 2 nieces, Sydney and Alyse Lamontagne; 2 brothers-in-law, David and his wife Melanie Hunt of Sterling, MA and Robert and Lise Hunt of Southbridge,

She enjoyed a glass of wine or two. She loved her family and friends.

A celebration of her life will be held from 1pm to 4pm on February 25th at Point Breeze Restaurant, 114 Point Breeze, Webster. Local arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

Judy M. Hunt 61



MA; nieces and nephews. She was eagerly awaiting the birth of her grandson Peter J. Lewis. She was preceded in death by her brother Steven Lamontagne in 2011.

She was born in Putnam on March 19, 1961 and was raised in Webster. She was a 1980 graduate of Bartlett High School.

Mrs. Hunt first worked as a bookkeeper at Kmart for 20 years. She and her husband owned and operated Therrien's Garage in Webster for 16 years. She retired in 2021.

She was an active member of the Charlton City United Methodist Church in Charlton, MA. She found great joy

in riding her bike with her husband on the rail trails in both New England and Florida. She was a skilled quilter and cross stitcher, enjoyed camping, gardening, and feeding the birds. She cherished the time she spent with her family.

Her funeral was held Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Charlton City United Methodist Church, 74 Stafford Street, Charlton, MA. Burial will be private. Her calling hours were Friday, March 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA. Donations in her memory may be made to the Charlton City United Methodist Church, 78 Stafford Street, Charlton, MA 01507 or to the Dana Farber Cancer INSTITUTE, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

LEGALS

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 23 SM 000879
ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Theresa I. Dick a/k/a Theresa Dick and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): LoanCare, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 62 Rockland Road, given by Theresa I. Dick to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Citimortgage, Inc., dated August 24, 2007, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41763, Page 116, 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 April 17, 2023, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 2/24/23.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
18179
Date: March 10, 2023

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
23 SM 000820
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Heirs, devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Muriel M. Bouchard, Steven Bouchard, James Bouchard and Thomas Bouchard 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, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn numbered 9 Westwood Drive, given by Muriel M. Bouchard to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., dated February 18, 2003, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29094, Page 297, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, have filed with this court 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 04/10/23 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 2/24/23.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
March 10, 2023

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A

Notice is hereby given by: School Street Towing 17-31 School Street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 25 March 2023 at 9:00 AM at 17-31 School Street, Webster MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: Year 2009 Make: Nissan Model: Rogue Registration#/State: IMEC67 VIN: JN8AS58V29W434396 Name and address of vehicle owner Selina Yassanteiwaa 27 Fiske St Worcester MA 01602 By Frank A Czechowski 20 Feb 2023

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A. March 10, 2023

March 17, 2023
March 24, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kathleen M. Lange to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., dated July 21, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47639, Page 335, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., its successors and assigns to PHH Mortgage Corporation, recorded on January 20, 2017, in Book No. 56635, at Page 333

PHH Mortgage Corporation to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on November 9, 2020, in Book No. 63698, at Page 172

NewRez LLC FKA New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust, recorded on April 14, 2022, in Book No. 67437, at Page 326 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on March 31, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 14 Sawmill Road, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging situated in the Town of Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts on the southerly side of Sawmill Road and being the sixth lot easterly of Mason Road as shown on "Revised Plan of Lots on Sawmill Road, Dudley, Massachusetts" owned by Konkel Bros., Inc. dated October 26, 1962, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 269, Plan 57, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING: at a stake three hundred (300) feet easterly of a bend in said Sawmill Road;

THENCE: easterly by the southerly side line of Sawmill Road, one hundred (100) feet to a stake;

THENCE: southerly at right angles to

said Sawmill Road, one hundred twenty (120) feet to a stake;

THENCE: westerly with an included angle of 90 a distance of one hundred (100) feet to a stake;

THENCE: northerly a distance of one hundred twenty (120) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20983, Page 274.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 21566

March 10, 2023
March 17, 2023
March 24, 2023

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 167 Dudley Road, Oxford, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Edward R Gendron to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns and now held by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, said mortgage dated December 22, 2017, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58236, Page 33, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 28, 2018, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 59543, Page 48, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 31, 2023 at 03:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in the Town of Oxford, County of Worcester, State of Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Dudley Road, bounded and described as follows: See Plan Book 444, Plan 25 PARCEL I BEGINNING at a point at the most westerly corner of the premises described herein at the end of a stone wall on the easterly line of said Dudley Road, said point being the southwest corner of Lot #114 as shown on a plan of land in Oxford owned by Nelson and Jeannette Cournoyer, dated June 22, 1970, Walter Brown surveyor, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 337, Plan 8;

THENCE along a stone wall by land now or formerly of Lacki, S. 88 deg. 29' E., a distance of thirty nine and twenty hundredths (39.20) feet;

THENCE N. 89 deg. 20' E., a distance of ninety (90) feet;

THENCE N. 81 deg. E., a distance of twenty six and five tenths (26.5) feet;

THENCE S. 88 deg. 38' E., a distance of three hundred seventy four (374) feet to a corner of stone walls and all being along said land of Lacki;

THENCE in a southerly direction along a stone wall and continuing by said land of Lacki, a distance of three hundred fifty and sixty two hundredths (350.62) feet to a corner of stone walls;

THENCE in an easterly direction along a stone wall along said land of Lacki, a distance of seven hundred fifty nine (759) feet to a corner of stone walls;

THENCE Northerly along a stone wall by land of Lacki, a distance of ninety nine (99) feet more or less to the westerly line of Larned Road;

THENCE N. 0 deg. 15' E., along the westerly line of said Larned Road, a distance often (10) feet to a point in a stone wall on the westerly line of said Larned Road;

THENCE S. 85 deg. 15' W., three hundred and thirty hundredths (300.30) feet along Lot #16 as shown on a plan of land entitled Subdivision of Land on Larned Road for Nelson Cournoyer, Paul Pytko, C.E. as revised July 15, 1967 and recorded in Plan Book 310, Plan 113 to a point; THENCE N. 4 deg. 5'E., a distance of eight hundred forty six (846) feet to a point; THENCE S. 85 deg. 15'W., a distance of fifty (50) feet;

THENCE N. 4 deg. 5' E., three hundred three (303) feet all being along said land now or formerly of Alberts to a point at land now or formerly of Le-Francois;

THENCE S. 85 deg. 15' W., one hundred fifty (150) feet;

THENCE N. 4 deg. 45'W., four hundred (400) feet along said land of Le Francois to a point, being the southeast corner of Lot No. 102 as shown on the aforementioned plan in Plan Book 310, Plan 113.

THENCE S. 31 deg. 10' W., one hundred twenty nine (129) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE S. 27 deg. 05' W., one hundred thirty five (135) feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE S. 22 deg. 30' W., seven hundred fifty six and forty hundredths (756.40) feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE S. 23 deg. 30' W., one hundred forty and seventy hundredths (140.70) feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE S. 25 deg. 43' W., one hundred twenty seven and ninety hundredths (127.90) feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE S. 30 deg. 28' W., one hundred twenty five (125) feet to an iron pipe and Lots 103-113, inclusive and all being shown on the aforementioned plan recorded in Plan Book 337, Plan 8;

THENCE N. 63 deg. 35' W., three hundred (300) feet along said Lot 113 to an iron pipe on the easterly line of said Dudley Road;

THENCE Southerly along the easterly line of said Dudley Road in a curve to the right with a radius of one thousand nine hundred seventy (1,970) feet a distance of two hundred eighty three (283) feet to the point of beginning; As affected by an Affidavit for true and accurate measures of various bounds recorded September 13, 1982 in Book 7553, Page 269.

EXCEPTING therefrom the land located easterly of Lot 100 as shown on a plan recorded in said Deeds in Plan Book 337, Plan 8, in which the excluded piece does not about the herein conveyed premises.

EXCEPTING therefrom those parcels of land conveyed to the following deeds:

1. Robert L. Choiniere and Barbara O. Choiniere to Richard D. Zack et al dated September 13, 1982 and recorded in Book 7553, Page 270;

2. Robert L. Choiniere and Barbara O. Choiniere to Robert J. Fiels et ux dated November 30, 1984 and recorded in Book 8508, Page 245;

3. Robert L. Choiniere and Barbara O. Choiniere to Mark A. Heroux et ux dated April 11, 1985 and recorded in Book 8650, Page 61.

PARCEL II
Also conveying another tract of land in said Oxford on the easterly side of Dudley Road adjoining Parcel I and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pipe at the northwest corner of the tract herein described on the easterly side of the 1958 Worcester County Highway layout of Dudley Road;

THENCE S. 88 deg. 29' E., mostly along a stone wall by said Parcel I herein, 39.20 feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE N. 89 deg. 20' E., along a stone wall by said Parcel I, 90 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N. 81 deg. 00' E., along said stone wall by Parcel I, 26.50 feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE N. 89 deg. 29' 56" E., along said stone wall by Parcel I, 342.11 feet to a drill hole in intersection with another stone wall;

THENCE S. 11 deg. 24' 34" W., along said stone wall by Parcel I, 351.53 feet to an iron pipe at the intersection with another stone wall;

THENCE N. 54 deg. 53' 28" W., by said stone wall by land now or formerly of Richard D. Zack, 545.86 feet to an iron pipe on the easterly side of Dudley Road;

THENCE running northerly along the easterly side of said Dudley Road on a curve to the left, having a radius of 2,030 feet and a length of 30 feet to the point of beginning.

CONTAINING an area of 2.153 acres shown as Parcel A on a plan recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 499, Plan 85.

EXCEPTING therefrom that portion of land conveyed by Robert L. Choiniere and Barbara O. Choiniere to Mark A. Heroux et ux dated April 11, 1985 and recorded in Book 8650, Page 61.

For title see deed recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 32294, Page 20. The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated December 11, 2017, and recorded in Book 58236, Page 26 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

SUBJECT to the Classified Forest-Agricultural or Horticultural-Recreational Land Tax Lien recorded by the Town of Oxford Assessors Office, dated February 18, 2014 and recorded February 20, 2014, in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 52050, Page 41.

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

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or

cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200 MLG File No.: 19-01734
March 3, 2023
March 10, 2023
March 17, 2023

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 000759 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Kimberly S. Derby
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Citizens Bank, N.A.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 1 Malden Street, given by Kimberly S. Derby to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Radius Financial Group Inc., dated February 11, 2020, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61903, Page 256, 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 April 10, 2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on February 21, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
Date: March 10, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 37 Tower Street, Webster, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David V. Shea, Sr. and Isabella H. Shea to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, said mortgage dated March 16, 2017, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 56874 at Page 369 and now held by US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust by virtue of an assignment from Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust dated March 16, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 67401 at Page 205, previously assigned by Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Mr. Cooper to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., by virtue of an assignment dated November 5, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 61389 at Page 90, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Mr. Cooper by virtue of an assignment dated May 8, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 60433 at Page 42, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at

Public Auction on April 10, 2023 at 12:30 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND IN WEBSTER AS FOLLOWS:
A PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED IN WEBSTER, COUNTY OF WORCESTER, AND BEING LOTS NUMBERED 69, 70, AND 71 ON "PLAN OF BEACON HEIGHTS, WEBSTER, MASS. OWNED BY WILLARD WELSH REALTY COMPANY, OCTOBER 1912. J.A. WHITTAKER, ENG." ON PB 60-69 AND SAID LOTS ARE TOGETHER BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

WESTERLY BY EVERETT AVENUE 75 FEET;
SOUTHERLY BY TOWER STREET 95 FEET;
EASTERLY BY LOTS 105, 106 AND 107 ON SAID PLAN, 75 FEET;
NORTHERLY BY LOT 68 ON SAID PLAN 95 FEET;

CONTAINING ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN AND SURVEY, 7125 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, BE ALL OF SAID MEASUREMENTS AND CONTENTS MORE OR LESS, OR HOWEVER OTHERWISE BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED.

ALSO, THE LAND IN SAID WEBSTER, AND BEING A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SAID WEBSTER, AND BEING LOTS NUMBERED 66, 67, AND 68 ON A "PLAN OF BEACON HEIGHTS", WEBSTER, MASS. OWNED BY WILLARD WELSH REALTY COMPANY, OCTOBER 1912, J.A. WHITTAKER ENGINEER AND SAID LOTS ARE TOGETHER BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT:

WESTERLY BY EVERETT AVENUE, 92.7 FEET;
SOUTHERLY BY LOT 69 ON SAID PLAN 95 FEET;
EASTERLY BY LOTS 108, 109, 110 AND 111 AN SAID PLAN 100.4 FEET;
NORTHERLY BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF THE TOWN OF WEBSTER 95.2 FEET.

CONTAINING ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN AND SURVEY, 9176 SQUARE FEET OF LAND BE ALL SAID MEASUREMENTS AND CONTENTS, MORE OR LESS, OR HOWEVER OTHERWISE BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED.

BEING THAT SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO DAVID V. SHEA, SR. AND ISABELLA H. SHEA, HUSBAND AND WIFE, TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY BY DEED FROM SUSAN M. COOPER DATED OCTOBER 20, 1988 AND RECORDED DECEMBER 01, 1988 IN BOOK 11784, PAGE 317 IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS IN AND FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

Commonly Known As: 37 TOWER Street, Webster, MA 01570
Parcel ID: 28-D-30-0

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated October 20, 1988, and recorded in Book 11784 at Page 317 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868
Date: March 10, 2023
Date: March 17, 2023
Date: March 24, 2023

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Help
Wanted

Auburn resident accepted into Behavioral Health Service Corps at William James College

NEWTON — Joel Khattar of Auburn has been accepted into the Behavioral Health Service Corps program at William James College, a school of psychology in Newton. Now in its fourth cohort, this service-learning program was created to address a shortage of skilled workers in the behavioral health field by creating a pipeline of competitively paid, supported, and culturally informed professionals.

During the one-year program, these scholars work in a paid service position with one of several partner behavioral health organizations serving underserved communities in Greater Boston. BHSC scholars also enroll in two courses at the College which can be applied toward a master's degree. In addition, BHSC graduates may qualify for an annual \$15,000 scholarship to a William James College master's or doctoral program.

Through their fieldwork, mentorship, and classroom training, these professionals move forward with valuable experience as they enter the workforce while the field of behavioral health receives much-needed qualified applicants.

Founded in 1974, William James College is an independent, not-for-profit institution and a leader in educating the next generation of mental health professionals to support the growing and diverse needs of the mental health workforce. Integrating field work with academics, the College prepares students for careers as organizational leaders and behavioral health professionals who are committed to helping the underserved, multicultural populations, children and families, and veterans. William James College alumni can be found making an impact in a variety of settings, including schools, the courts, clinical care facilities, hospitals, the community and the workplace.

Black Tavern Historical Society kicks off 2023 season

DUDLEY — The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley opens its 2023 Program Season with a performance of "Ruth Bader Ginsburg," presented by actress Sheryl Faye, on Thursday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at the Black Tavern, 138 Center Rd., Dudley. This event is free and open to all.

Local residents named to Clark University's Fall 2022 Dean's List

WORCESTER — Following are names of local students whose outstanding academic performance earned them a spot on Clark University's Fall 2022 Dean's List:

Meghan T. Hines, of Auburn, was named to first honors.

Sydney M. Lyons, of Auburn, was named to first honors.

Daniel Alexander Mojica, of Auburn, was named to first honors.

Neil T. Wykes, of Auburn, was named to second honors.

Haylie Lynn Ingels, of Dudley, was named to first honors.

Sarah A. Kersting-Mumm, of Oxford, was named to first honors.

Nicole Ucher, of North Oxford, was named to first honors.

Derek A. Fino, of Oxford, was named to second honors.

Tiffany H. Vo, of North Oxford, was named to second honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Music Honor Society Launched at Dudley Middle School

DUDLEY — The Tri-M® Music Honor Society, the honor society for secondary school music students, announces the chartering of a new chapter at Dudley Middle School, Dudley, under the leadership of Cindy Snow.

The formation of this chapter signifies the school's recognition of the importance of the arts in the development of a comprehensive educational program. The Tri-M Music Honor Society provides a means of recognizing the efforts and achievements of music students who volunteer their time and share their musical talent with others.

The goal of the Tri-M Music Honor Society is to foster greater interest in band and choral performance and to provide more opportunities for personal musical expression. Students are selected for membership in the honor society on the basis of musicianship, scholarship, character, leadership, and service to their school and community. The organization's high standards serve to challenge students to greater effort and achievement and to encourage them in the pursuit of excellence.

Dudley Middle School held their induction ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 7 under the leadership of Cindy Snow. Students inducted into the 2022-2023 Junior Tri-M were Stephanie Krynski, Ethan Straw, Tyler Koszewski, Mikhail Namera, Brandon Jerome.

Oxford Library Friends' Book & Bake Sale April 20 – 22

OXFORD — The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library are preparing a Spring Book & Bake Sale that will delight book lovers, dessert lovers and bargain hunters alike.

Thousands of hard and softcover books in all genres, for all age groups, will be on sale Thursday, April 20 from noon to 7 p.m.; Friday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Large Print books, CDs, and DVDs are also available. Homemade baked goods too! Prices are: Paperbacks \$.50, Hardcover and Trade Paperbacks \$1.00, Children's books 25 cents - \$1, CDs 50 cents, and DVDs \$1.

Beginning 1 p.m. on Saturday the 22nd, you can buy one of our Friends bags for \$10 and fill it to capacity. However, there will be no stockpiling or holding of books before 1 p.m.

No book dealers on Thursday or Friday. No Book Dealers, Book Sellers, Multiple Baggers, or any other Pseudonyms are allowed on Thursday or Friday. Dealers will only be allowed on Saturday. No electronic devices, ear pods, headphones, scanners, or stockpiling will be allowed. We will limit sales at discretion of Friends volunteers.

You can support the Friends and the Library with your donations of clean, gently read books and media. Donations can be left inside the Library during current library hours. We cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, magazines, VHS tapes, or cassettes.

The Oxford Free Public Library, at 339 Main St. in Oxford Center, is a member of the C/W MARS network and is open to all residents of Massachusetts. The Friends of the Library are volunteers who support the Library with fundraising and promotional activities. Hours and library news can be found at <http://oxfordmapubliclibrary.org>.

Dudley Board of Health adopts new sewer fees

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Two new fees are being adopted by the Dudley Board of Health that will be assessed for homeowners seeking to replace their septic tanks.

During a brief meeting of the board at the end of February, Chair Jennifer Cournoyer brought two new fees to the table for consideration, a Variant Request Fee and a Septic Abandonment Fee. These fees are standard in many communities although Dudley had yet to implement them until a request from the Health Agent made them a Board of Health priority.

Cournoyer first addressed the Abandonment Fee which she argued holds people accountable when retiring an older tank in favor of a new installation.

"We do not have a septic abandonment fee or a permit for it. If you need to install a new septic system and you need a new tank you have to abandon the old one. We really need a sewage disposal system abandonment application," said Cournoyer.

The abandonment fee was set at \$25 while the permit will be included with the necessary paperwork for installing a new system.

The second new fee is a Variant Request Fee which Cournoyer said will also include its own documents.

"When there's a variance request (on their septic system) there's no fee. There's no paperwork. So, we've been asked by the Agent to look at this," she said.

The Variant Request Fee was set at \$20. Both fees were approved by a majority of the board.

Other sewer fee information is available on the Town of Dudley Web site, which will likely be updated to reflect these fees in the future.

UMF announces Dean's List

FARMINGTON, Maine — The University of Maine at Farmington proudly announces its Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester, including Rebecca McPherson of Auburn and Eliza Quinn of Dudley.

UMF maintains a Dean's List each semester for those students completing a minimum of 12 credits in courses producing quality points. Students whose grade point average for the semester is equal to or greater than 3.8 are listed with High Honors. Students whose grade point average for the semester is less than 3.8 but equal to or greater than 3.5 are listed with Honors. Any incompletes must be satisfactorily completed before the student is honored with Dean's List status. Academic achievement awarded at commencement is based on all course work taken at UMF.

More on University of Maine at Farmington

A nationally-recognized public liberal arts college, UMF enjoys a 150-year tradition of providing a quality academic experience combined with the personal attention and close student / faculty collaboration that help prepare all students to be successful. Rooted in a tradition of teacher preparation, UMF offers top quality programs in the arts and sciences, teacher preparation, and business and pre-professional studies. UMF is located in the heart of Maine's four-season outdoor recreational region and is a welcoming, close-knit academic community that prepares students for engaged citizenship, enriching professional careers and an enduring love of learning.

Malser grant purchases risers for Dudley Middle School

DUDLEY — The Dudley Middle School Music Program would like to extend its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Janet Malser Trust Foundation for their 2022 decision to approve grant funds of \$19,120 for new StageRight risers.

Prior to this financial support, Dudley Middle School's risers, which are used primarily for show choir, band concerts, school performances, and ceremonies, were over twenty years old and in dire need of replacement. Because of the grant funds from the Janet Malser Foundation, Dudley Middle School was able to purchase brand new StageRight risers, which are considered the industry standard in functionality, durability, and safety. Students and staff have immediately noticed a difference in using them and are extremely thankful for such generosity.

Poets at Large to hold event in Webster

WEBSTER — Poets at Large continues its 2023 series of spoken word/poetry readings on Sunday, March 26 at The Rose Room Café, 4 East Main St., Webster. The reading is free to the public (ages 14 and up), and will be held from 2-4 p.m. Featured readers will be B. Fulton Jennes, poet laureate of Ridgefield, Conn., and author G. John Brand. There will be an intermission and an open mic after the featured poets. Anyone wishing to participate in the open mic should email karen.warinsky@gmail.com. Open mic readers will get five minutes each.

B. Fulton Jennes is the Poet Laureate of Ridgefield, Conn., where she leads intergenerational poetry workshops and serves as poet-in-residence at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. Her poems have appeared in The Comstock Review, Tupelo Quarterly, The Night Heron Barks, SWIMM, Tar River Poetry, the Connecticut Literary Anthology (2020 and 2021 editions), Connecticut River Review, Naugatuck River Review, Vassar Review, One Hand Pointing, Limp Wrist, Ekphrastic Review, Extreme Sonnets II, and many other journals and anthologies. In 2021, her poem, "From the Room of an Unknown Girl," was awarded the Leslie McGrath Prize by Helix Magazine. In 2021, her collection Mammoth Spring was a finalist for the Two Sylvias Wilder Prize and the Small Harbor Press Laureate Prize. Her chapbook, "Blinded Birds" (Finishing Line Press), was released in April of 2022.

G. John Brand is Professor Emeritus of English at Quinsigamond Community College, where he enjoyed a career spanning over two decades. Brand began writing poetry regularly in the mid 1980's in a creative writing class. During his career Brand enjoyed making poetry, literature and theatre accessible to students, fostering a lifelong enthusiasm for the literary arts. His book, Things I Might Have Said, is a collection of amusing and entertaining poems.

This year's series at The Rose Room is sponsored in part by bankHometown, the Putnam Area Foundation, and Global Partners (Ashford Xtra Mart and Webster Honey Farms).

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — The following students have been named to the Honor Roll at St. Joseph School for the second term of the 2022-2023 academic year:

Grade 4

High Honors: Ariana Benson, Bella Kicilinski, Evelyn Macko, Lily Martin, James Miranda, Amelia Potem, Abby Rubin, Lukas Stock, Sophia Surwaniec
Honors: Odin Cowie, Grayson Dollar
Credit: Gabriel Ketnouvong-Ung, Deven Worth

Grade 5

High Honors: Jason Bianchi, Olivia Rosanski-Rose
Honors: Kalleia Agosto, Tosin Akindele, Alexis Archambault, Lukas Barbosa, Tenleigh Dowd, Neli Kuznecki, Jacob Marcuccio
Credit: Avery Archambault, Hayley Benes, Mychael Jones, Maria Mankarios, Radhy Pena, Ivonka Warnajtys

Grade 6

High Honors: Tobi Akindele, Rosemary Basha, Jada Jackson, Simon Kowalczyk, Jacob Parafinowicz, Kyle Muchiru, Faith Muga, Ayla Reed, Alan Rubin, Jacob Singer, Luke Surowanec, Liana Worth
Honors: Ryan Amaral, Gianna Pigeon, Adam Wozniak
Credit: Jake Martin, Zofia Pawlikowska, Gabriel Rudnicki, Maria Sendrowski

Grade 7

High Honors: Claire Calnan, Molly Hachigian, Laura Ibrahim
Honors: Nevaeh Bourgeois, Ryan Grupposo, Violet Johnson, Alan Kulpa, Emily Macko, Alvin Montreuil, Ella Parslow
Credit: Gabriel Gallant, Renielys Garcia, Max Podgorny

Grade 8

High Honors: Leah Boudreau, Jackson Meehan, Aiden Muchiru, Marcus Muchiru, Gabi Pianka, Shayley Szela, Vanessa Zeglen
Honors: Catherine Barbale, Emerson Bernard, Bella Calnan, Haleigh Creighton, Bobbi Enman, Alex Kowalski, Gianna Rosario, Ike Rudnicki
Credit: Brett McCarthy, Jacob Perry

Local residents make Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

BOSTON — The following local students have made the Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2022 semester:

* Anna Pyche of Auburn

* Olivia Valentine of Oxford

Wentworth Institute of Technology Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally ranked university offering career-focused education through bachelors and graduate degree programs in areas including engineering, architecture, computing and data science, life sciences, management, and design. Its 31 acres are situated in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Mass., within walking distance of several leading cultural, educational, sports, and medical hubs. Wentworth is known for its emphasis on career preparation for students through its leading co-op programs, hands-on learning approach, and alignment with 21st-century workforce needs.

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SEARCH

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schools and the town). When she talked to the town accountant, they felt other adjustments are unlikely, although a change in insurance costs might happen.

Pierangeli said she intends to have the administration look into the various jobs that are now funded by federal ESSER grants and seeing which ones can be shift-

ed into the budget using the new funds. That came up at a previous meeting, when the committee expressed concern about losing several of them when the grants end.

To Seddiki, a key concern for using such funds needs to be "ensuring we have class sizes that are small enough to give individualized attention, especially at the younger grades." She cited recent iReady testing data as showing a need "to catch them before they get too

far behind" and needing "enough adults and enough differentiation" to help those kids.

Pierangeli noted that is already an issue at Park Avenue, which is "running out of space ... to put people. ... Adding more bodies is not going to fix the issue we have [there]." But the administration intends to look into how to "give the best service possible in the best environment possible."

Seddiki also said she

feels ESL students need to be a focus, and identifying "a way to wrap our arms around these kids and their families" to help them understand the system, the process and how to be part of it. She described that as a "wish list item we never put in the budget."

On Feb. 28, the committee spent much of its meeting hashing out key topics and questions for the upcoming interviews, with Seddiki noting that had to be done in public

and would only be a surprise to the first candidate even if they could do them privately. Over the course of about an hour, they narrowed their list down to 10 main areas: culturally proficient curriculum development; strategic priorities; leadership, team building and managing conflict; town/stakeholder engagement; family relationships; turnaround status and progress; working with subgroups; cultivating a safe school; using data;

and staff mentoring/accountability. They then broke them down into a draft of 15 questions for Seddiki and consultant Tracy Novak to later finalize.

Seddiki said she'd send them to each member, but warned them not to share any ideas with other members (to avoid open meeting law issues).

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

WORKSHOP

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and station desk coverage. The Fire Department projects the elimination of firefighter cancer screenings and town beach lifeguards as well as a reduction in call firefighters. The highway department would lose a foreman position and reduce small equipment replacement, equipment maintenance, and asphalt and road patch materials. The Board of Health projects a loss of stipends, training, and eliminating membership in the Massachusetts Boards of Health as well as cutting Earth Day functions.

Town Clerk Lori Smith projected a reduction in wages by eliminating non-mandated workers, and eliminating ring and tags mailed with dog licenses as well as by-law codification funds. The Town Assessor Lisa Berg included cut hours, eliminating the education account which could risk forfeiting certification, and forfeiting the Massachusetts Accredited Assessor Designation. The Town Accountant Deborah Thibaudeau projected elimination of cyber security and online permitting as well as reduced antivirus software while Treasurer/Collector Richard Carmignani said the cuts would result in a loss of operation hours and software upgrades.

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said cuts on his end would include elim-

inating fill-in temporary labor and an unfilled human resources position as well as selectmen stipends and archival preservation programs. Town report printing and dam repair funding would also be impacted. Veterans Services and the library would also see major cuts. Veterans Services would reduce Memorial Day Parade and event functions as well as reducing mandatory training which would forfeit Veterans Agent certification. The library could see a loss of computer and internet services to the public, reduced summer reading and adult programming, reduced materials purchases, and forfeiting its own state certification which would affect grants and services.

If the override fails, the School District projects extreme cuts of their own including layoffs and the loss of programming. The district and the town continued discussions in the days following the budget roundtable which could affect the final numbers brought to the town, although it would not change the need for an override or the likelihood of cuts in the municipal government spending plan if an override fails. The school district's situation also requires Charlton to agree to a proposed increase as well.

The Board of Selectmen was to meet on March 9 to decide whether or not to put the Proposition 2 ½ override before the voters on April 25.

OXFORD

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and willing to help those not doing that well.

Corey Burke agreed, saying he feels the kids who worked despite failing would still have a chance to recover, while those who didn't care and just accepted them would likely fail anyway.

"We teach our students they have to learn from their mistakes, that failure's often the best way to learn," but they need "a chance to recover from that failure," he said.

That was Czernicki's general gist for making 40 the minimum. She cited a few quotes from various studies, one of them arguing "they will learn more if the failure is not crushing." To her, the goal is to "keep students engaged and motivated," and showed an example of a student getting three 75 quarters and one of either 40 or 10. The former still passes with a D; the latter flunks for the year.

To Chair David Cornacchioli, a key part of this debate is his feeling that it's unfair to have 59 points of a 100 point scale be failing when the other letter grades are all 10-point ranges. He said the key to success is a good student/teacher relationship, otherwise those who score badly will still fail.

"We're closing the gap so kids don't feel hopeless," while still acknowledging that 40 is failing and "not performing at the level they should be," he said.

In essence, this change has created a six-grade scoring system, each with 10 points. A-D remain the same as always (100 to 60), but F now has two 10-point ranges. Students getting above 50 are eligible to take three-week summer

school and potentially boost that grade into passing range, but those below 50 are not.

The other previously postponed high school issue saw far less debate – community service. There, Czernicki returned with a proposal to restore it that was acceptable to all five members when she proposed having no requirement for this year's seniors, five hours for juniors, and 10 hours for sophomores and freshmen. She said the students were already told it's in the works and will be told of its approval, with a stipend going to the teacher(s) who oversee and track the program.

Burke described it as "a great idea to wean us back on it."

Griffin said she'd also like to see the school "giving [students] a little accolade" for such service.

Students will also see a change to the teaching assistant program 10-15 now participate in. Czernicki said they'll no longer be able to apply to be TAs directly, but can ask their guidance counselors if interested. Students must have done well in the class they're assisting and can get 1.5 credits for assisting other students that way, but Czernicki said she had to "revamp" the program to make sure they aren't correcting or passing out graded work, seeing confidential material, or taking attendance.

Griffin didn't like some of the concept, saying, "I want our grades to be reflective of content mastery, not rewards for showing up in a class and necessarily doing volunteer work." She had concerns with giving kids more credits for a class they've already had.

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

SPORTS

Big New England Football Clinic to honor Mike Mayville of Charlton/Dudley Rams with Youth Coach of Distinction Award

NEWPORT, R.I. — Six individuals were honored with Youth Coach of Distinction Awards at the 49th annual Big New England Football Clinic, March 3 at the Newport Marriott Hotel in Newport, R.I.

Recognizing that youth coaches mentor players through a critical stage of growth and development, the BNEFC established the Youth Coach of Distinction Award in 2020, presenting it annually to one youth football coach from each of the six New England states "who has a deep love of the game of football and who is dedicated to the betterment of the game and the development of its young athletes." Through an online nomination process, the BNEFC encourages the football community to identify worthy candidates in their youth programs who are "inspiring and encouraging, as well as patient and compassionate." The award recognizes coaches "who serve as a role model, who teach the game with dignity and sportsmanship, and who ultimately leaves an indelible mark on the lives of the players he or she mentors."

The 2023 winners, as selected by the BNEFC Awards Committee:

Connecticut – Mike Sitaro, Cromwell Youth Football

New Hampshire – Justin Collens, Windham Wolverines Youth Football

Massachusetts – Mike Mayville, Charlton/Dudley Rams Youth



Courtesy

Mike Mayville

Football
Maine – Davis McKenney, Winslow Youth Football

Rhode Island - Graham Sellar, Middletown Pop Warner Football

Vermont – Jordan Arcovitch, Essex Chargers Youth Football

Holy Cross football head coach Bob Chesney, the 2022 FCS Region 1 and Patriot League Coach of the Year, will be presenting this year's awards to the six New England recipients during the opening comments segment of the two-day clinic.

The winning coaches have also each received a complimentary registration to the Big New England Football Clinic. Presented by Perform Better, the BNEFC will feature 50-plus hours of lectures and live demonstrations, March 3 and 4 at the Newport Marriott. Along with Chesney, the outstanding lineup of clinicians will include coaches at all levels of play from across the country, including former New England Patriots offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia, Legends

Speaker and former long-time Springfield College head coach Mike DeLong and UMass head coach Don Brown, among many others.

More information about Massachusetts Winner, Mike Mayville, Charlton/Dudley Rams:

Involved at every level of the Charlton/Dudley Rams Youth Football program, Mike Mayville serves as the local Board President and the Central Mass. Director of Football Operations. He coaches an eighth-grade team that was the Central Mass. Super Bowl Runner-up, while also serving as an assistant coach on the Massachusetts travel all-star team that finished third in Florida. In addition, he is an assistant coach on the Rockhoppers spring travel team.

"He plays the game with fairness and class," wrote Colin Navin, one of several individuals who nominated Mayville for the award.

"His athletes love the game and he is a huge part of that," added Shepherd Hill Regional High School head football coach David Buchanan. "Their faces light up when he comes to see them at the varsity level, demonstrating the lifelong relationships he builds. He also does it by building a culture of excellence and commitment to the team that is commendable. He is truly a youth football coach of distinction, and a coach who builds young men who love the game."

STUDENTS

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wrap up the second quarter the students need to be focused on how they are doing academically. They should also be reminded of making sure everyone feels as though they belong here at

WMS!

*The focus for February's Student of the Month will focus on ROAR Attitude: Please recognize students who are mindful of their tone, language and volume towards others to allow teaching and learning to occur.

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SPORTS

Strong second half helps Oxford edge Southwick

Pirates then fall to Millbury in Round of 32



Nick Ethier

Oxford's Cam Lavallee tries to alter a 3-point shot attempted by Southwick's Wyatt Baker.



Nick Ethier

Brady Margoupis of Oxford keeps his eyes looking at the basket as he drives the ball into the lane.



Nick Ethier

Oxford's Jordan DeLeon releases a third quarter free throw versus Southwick.



Nick Ethier

Kellen Clarkson of Oxford dishes off a pass to his right side.

OXFORD — To open the Division 4 State Tournament, the Oxford High boys' varsity basketball team, seeded 28th in the bracket, hosted No. 37 Southwick Regional in a Preliminary Round contest

on Wednesday, March 1. And the Pirates found themselves down three points at the half, 26-23.

But the second half was a different story, as Oxford outscored the Rams by 10

points (37-27) to win a 60-53 decision.

The Pirates advanced to the Round of 32, where their season came to a close. Oxford played at No. 5 Millbury High, also a member of the Southern Worcester County League. The Woolies won the regular season matchup, 70-36, and also handled the Pirates this time around, 53-30. Oxford finished the 2022-2023 season with a record of 11-10.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCOREBOARD

All results are through Monday, March 6

Wednesday, March 1

Division 1 Girls' Ice Hockey Round of 32 (7) Bishop Feehan 7, (26) Auburn 3 — The Rockets battled with one of the top seeds in the bracket, but it wasn't to be. Auburn finished with a record of 8-11 against MIAA competition, but actually went 9-11-1 with a win and tie against Woodstock Academy of Connecticut.

Thursday, March 2

Division 2 Girls' Basketball Round of 32 (13) Chicopee 66, (20) Shepherd Hill 37 — The Rams were reeling toward the end of the season with the loss of their

injured point guard, Emery Mullen, and Shepherd Hill couldn't pull off the upset in the State Tournament. As a result, The Hill finished with a record of 14-7.

Division 4 Boys' Basketball Round of 32 (8) Cathedral 87, (25) Bartlett 49 — The Indians won their Preliminary Round game against No. 40 Notre Dame Cristo Rey, 92-54, three days prior, but they couldn't get past Cathedral in the next round. Bartlett finished an even 11-11.

Division 4 Girls' Basketball Round of 32 (8) Mashpee 64, (25) Bay Path 38 — The Minutemen couldn't pull off the upset on the Cape, so their season came to a close. But Bay Path wound up 15-7 with

a successful 2022-2023 season, having reached the State Vocational and State Tournaments.

Friday, March 3

Division 2 Boys' Basketball Round of 32 (29) Westwood 55, (4) Shepherd Hill 54 — Unfortunately for the Rams, they were upset at home to see their season come to an abrupt end. Shepherd Hill had the chance to win the game with a driving layup in the final second of action, but the shot rimmed out. The Rams, the Clark Tournament Large Schools champion, finished 20-2.

Division 4 Boys' Basketball Round of 32 (9) Manchester-Essex 59, (24) Bay Path

47 — The Minutemen played tough, but ultimately came up short. Bay Path, which also participated in the State Vocational Large Schools Tournament, finished with a record of 14-8.

Saturday, March 4

Division 3 Girls' Basketball Round of 32 (7) Hudson 60, (26) Auburn 31 — The Rockets battled through the regular season to the tune of a 15-5 record, including being the winners of the Lady Rocket Classic, but they couldn't handle the talented Hawks in the State Tournament. Hudson, the winners of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B Tournament which preceded States, improved to 20-2.

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SPORTS

Finkelstein dazzles with six goals as Timberwolves prove to be too much for Auburn



Nick Ethier



Nick Ethier



Nick Ethier



Nick Ethier

Auburn's Tommy Lutz slides a pass along the ice.

Nolan White of Auburn, right, is congratulated by a teammate after scoring a power play goal.

Auburn's Landon Connor attempts to track down Walpole's Matt Bianculli.

Chris Adams of Auburn moves the puck away from an incoming Walpole player.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WALPOLE — Jason Finkelstein, Walpole High's first line center, entered the Timberwolves' Sunday, March 5 contest with the Auburn High co-op ice hockey team — the game a Round of 16 matchup in the Division 2 State Tournament — having racked up 20 goals and 22 assists in 21 games. And, once the Rockets were leaving Rodman Arena, those totals rose exponentially.

Finkelstein potted a hat trick in just 6:30 of game action and finished with six goals and an assist as No. 4 Walpole defeated the 20th ranked Rockets, 9-2.

"They've got the one kid that can go," Auburn head coach Glen Bombard said of Finkelstein. "He can shoot the puck. He's the full package. We just didn't have an answer for him."

"We knew that if we could stop that one line, we had a shot," added Bombard. "And we couldn't stop them. They were just that good."

Finkelstein got the scoring started just a minute and 15 seconds in, snapping a shot into the net off a rebound for a power play goal.

The Rockets, who have student-athletes from Millbury High, Tantasqua Regional and Shepherd Hill Regional on the team in addition to Auburn, responded immediately with a power play goal of their own just over a minute later. With

assists going to Tommy Lutz and Braeden Rich, Nolan White scored from the right faceoff dot.

"We said that if we're going to win the game, most likely it's going to have to be done on the power play," said Bombard.

But Finkelstein put the Timberwolves ahead for good with a pair of goals within 1:15 of each other. Finkelstein had a beautiful tip-in shot that came from the point on the first goal and then got behind Auburn's defense and wristed a shot in for the next strike.

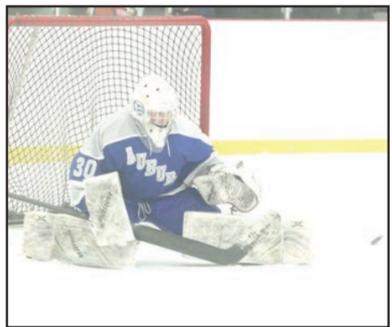
"The kid can pick a corner," said Bombard. "It wasn't like he was just throwing things at the net."

Finkelstein put Walpole ahead, 4-1, in the waning moments of the first period with a wrist shot goal while on the power play. The Timberwolves eventually scored four times with the man advantage.

"Four power play goals will kill you in a game. It's game, set and match," said Bombard.

The Rockets opened the second period with their second power goal of the game. White scored again with a slap shot from the blue line, with Lutz sliding over a nice pass for the assist.

Finkelstein made it a 5-2 game, though, when he stole the puck at the blue line, stick-handled through Auburn's defense and snapped a shot that was originally saved by goalie Ethan LaPlante. But Finkelstein



Nick Ethier

Auburn goalie Ethan LaPlante watches as the puck misses its mark wide to the right of the net.

followed the shot and deposited the rebound in.

"We didn't see a kid like that all year," Bombard said of Finkelstein, who will attend Babson College in the fall and play baseball.

Finkelstein picked up an assist on Eddie Jackson's power play goal, making the score 6-2. Finkelstein then scored his sixth and final goal late in the second period.

Jackson scored another power play goal in the third period and Zack Donahue added the final tally to account for the 9-2 final.

"Their speed was a little more than we can handle right now, but we're young," Bombard said. "We hung in there and played tough, but we made too many mistakes."

Walpole improved to 14-6-2 and

played No. 5 Silver Lake Regional (16-7-1) in the Elite Eight. Despite the loss, Bombard was impressed with his team's play this winter.

"These guys had a tremendous year," Bombard said. "We're on our way up. We've got a great young core and it's going to be great for the next couple of years. Hopefully we can keep some kids in the town and keep it growing again. I'm just proud of these guys and how hard they worked all year."

Auburn played its best during the stretch run, ending the regular season winning six of the final seven contests. The Rockets defeated Nantucket High and Sandwich High over February Vacation week in a Cape Cod Tournament.

"We got on a good roll at the right time. We were putting the puck in the net and saving the puck," said Bombard.

Auburn then defeated No. 13 Somerset Berkley Regional, 4-1, on March 1 for an impressive State Tournament Round of 32 victory.

LaPlante (30 saves versus Walpole) was a mainstay in net for the Rockets, playing all but five periods this season, and the freshman was tremendous throughout the winter.

"I think he's one of the best in Central Mass. and he's only going to get better," Bombard said of LaPlante.

Auburn finished the 2022-2023 season with a record of 14-8.



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SPORTS

Warriors hold off Rockets' rally, defeat Auburn in State Tournament Preliminaries *Tantasqua then hangs tough but falls to Norwell in Round of 32*



Nick Ethier



Nick Ethier



Nick Ethier

Auburn's Jordan McFadden looks to drive on Tantasqua defender Colm McGrath.

Nathan Ikonya of Auburn surveys the floor while handling the ball versus Tantasqua.

Auburn's Zeb Baffour drives the lane and prepares to release a jump shot.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Trailing by three points, 49-46, the Auburn High boys' varsity basketball team had possession of the ball with just under five minutes remaining in their Division 3 State Tournament Preliminary Round contest against Tantasqua Regional on Wednesday, March 1. Rockets' senior Zeb Baffour, who ran the offense much of the second half, drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key to tie the game, 49-49, with 4:32 to go.

Tantasqua, who saw their 12-point halftime lead disappear, then called upon junior captain Colm McGrath on their next possession and he rose to the occasion. McGrath, with the shot clock ticking down under five seconds, shot a contested 3-pointer that slashed through the net to give the Warriors the lead again, 52-49. McGrath's basket forced an Auburn timeout.

"Colm is the engine that makes us go," expressed Tantasqua head coach Scott Dion. "He has to guard the other team's best player. (Auburn's Jordan) McFadden is an extremely talented kid, so Colm was competing with him the whole game and then to make that shot on his end is a tribute to him, his hard work, and the type of kid he is."

The McGrath 3-pointer propelled a 16-2 game-ending run for No. 23 Tantasqua, which halted No. 42 Auburn's furious comeback and led to a 65-51 victory.

"We showed a lot of resilience, it is something we discussed as a team," Dion stated. "Maturing throughout the course of the year. I thought our guys did a good job of realizing where we had the advantage down around the basket. I felt with our size and Bryce Tessier and Liam Hubacz were able to score a few times, but more importantly, some of their passing which got other guys



Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Colm McGrath calls out a play from the top of the key.

shots was instrumental in building a lead back up to 10 points at the end." McGrath led the Warriors with 19 points and senior Aiden Gingras added 15 points, all coming in the first half. Gingras got the Tantasqua offense up and running quickly, hitting three first quarter 3-pointers.

"Aiden can shoot," emphasized Dion. "That is what his job is, to shoot the basketball. He has been in a little bit of a slump, so it was nice in the first quarter for him to make a few. He knows he has the green light and it really got the ball rolling for us. In the second half, we didn't make as many 3's as we did in the first half and, as a result, we struggled a little bit. We are a hot and cold team when it comes to that and hitting shots at the beginning allowed us to breathe a little bit and get comfortable with what we were trying to do."

Despite the loss, the young Rockets have nothing to hang their heads about. They showed the fight and scrappiness in this contest that got them to the State Tournament to



Nick Ethier

Noah Wotton of Tantasqua passes the ball out of the paint before Auburn's defense can collapse on him.

begin with.

"Super proud of this team," expressed Auburn head coach Dan Koen. "We had to win a bunch of games toward the end just to get to this point and they did. We had some big wins, we had a couple close to the wire. We beat Tech at the buzzer, we beat Northbridge and we had to make a 3 in overtime just to get there. We had to fight, claw, and scrap just to get to this point, so very proud about that and that is a credit to our seniors for their leadership and not putting their heads down and being willing to sacrifice and showing the younger kids this is how it's done and, if you want to win at this level, this is what you need to do."

Baffour scored 13 points for Auburn, 10 coming in the second half, and sophomore Jordan McFadden scored a game-high 21 points.

Tantasqua then traveled to No. 10 Norwell High in the Round of 32. Despite a hard-fought defensive battle, the Warriors lost a 48-42 decision on Friday, March 3 and were eliminated from the Division 3 Tournament. The low score isn't all that surprising due to Tantasqua's strong commitment to playing good



Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Aiden Gingras, left, grabs the ball and shields it away from Auburn defender Zeb Baffour.

defense.

"We know that defense is what we hang our hat on," Dion emphasized after defeating the Rockets. "We held (Auburn) to 20 points in the first half."

The Warriors finished the season with a record of 12-9, while the Rockets wound up 10-11.

Mohegan Bowl winter leagues, week ending March 5



Monday Men's 295, Monique Business Pierangeli 294
Single — Jason Series over Mahan 133, Scott average — Noelle Milner and Todd Gorski +44
Siefert 131

Series — Scott Summit Tenpin Milner 342, Tim Single — Division 1: Nat Labay 335, Ryan Wood 227
Pelletier 329

Series over average — Scott Milner +63
Division 2: Jack Jakubowski 179
Series —

Division 1: Bob Hanville 610
Division 2: Fred LaBonte 551

Thursday Morning Coffee
Single — Pat Blake 108, Nancy Cutler 103,
Jackie Arpin and Lorraine Brezniak 102

Series — Pat Blake 277, Nancy Cutler 276,
Lorraine Brezniak 271

Series over average — Nancy Cutler +42

Thursday Men's Industrial
Single — Ryan Pelletier 370, Bo Gauvin 316, Dean Gaboury 314

Series — Ryan Pelletier 142, Noah Burrill 122, Kevin LeTourneau 121

Series over average — Paul Urbanowski +43

Wednesday Women's Industrial
Single — Annie Boulos 110, Marie McNally 106,
Noelle Gorski 105

Series — Noelle Gorski 299,
Annie Boulos

Thursday Mixed Tenpin
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Series — Randy Schlegel 483, Todd Gaucher 480, Chris Wong Kam 429

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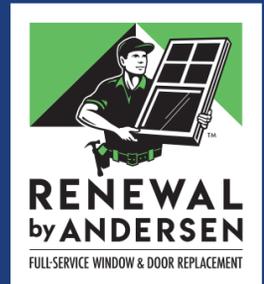
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Cornerstone Bank raises nearly \$80,000 for United Way of South Central Massachusetts



WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, raised \$79,397.50 for the United Way of South Central Massachusetts through a combination of employee pledges, a company match and fundraising competitions. This total far surpassed the bank's previous

donations of \$64,098 in 2022 and \$54,000 in 2021.

"We had a lot of fun with this internal fundraiser," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Recognizing the essential services the United Way supports in our community, especially during these challenging times, our team dug deep and donated generously. They also came up with some creative ways to boost the final total."

Courtesy

Left to right: Denise Gorski, United Way of South Central MA, 1st Vice President & Campaign Chairman; Mary O'Coin, United Way of South Central MA, Executive Director; Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank.

Cornerstone employees pledged a total of \$36,483.60, which was matched by Cornerstone. In addition, company-wide events—including a "Coin Wars" competition, baby picture challenge, and silent auction—further increased the total donation.

"In addition to supporting a vital cause, our team enjoyed the friendly competition and camaraderie these events sparked," said Tallman.

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts helps families in the communities of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Webster. Its programs support education, family stability, health and safety net services including disaster relief and emergency shelters.

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