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Friday, December 9, 2022

Oxford school officials weigh survey and enrollment data

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The School Committee's recent survey of parents, staff and community members gave the board a lot to think about.

The most notable item was the fact "a lot of the answers were people don't know" what the board is doing or even what its formal role is, Chair David Cornacchioli said, noting some comments especially "made me reflect on some things."

Specifically, he said, comments that the board doesn't "respect or listen to teachers" troubled him. He said they're willing to meet with teachers and anyone else and get "any and all feedback from them," positive or negative. The idea some see them as disrespectful - he read one saying "the school committee and administration have referred to staff in unfavorable ways in meetings" - show a need for the board, and himself personally as the chair, to address it. He invited people to contact him directly, but noted he's not part of the negotiations subcommittee.

The evening he was reading those comments, he noted there was "a roomful of people tonight that ... I've been proud to work side by side with," but none of them commented at either of the board's public comment periods.

"The number of 'I don't knows' on every question behooves us to do something for outreach and education ... on the role of the committee and what we can and cannot do," Corey Burke said. Although he noted the "many" teacher contract-related comments, he didn't comment on them because he is on that subcommittee.

"I feel like we feel like we were doing a good job" and "inundate [people] with information," September Forbes said. But she noted nearly half said they have no interest in attending the board's coffee hours (where they invite one-on-one conversation on issues), prompting her to wonder why.

Molly Cook, the newest member, also noted the staff treatment comments, but also cited comments about what the students are learning. She urged one vague statement's writer to talk to the principal.

Cornacchioli said there were 132 responses - 61 percent parents, 32 percent staff, and a handful of more general community members.

Speaking about students, Registrar Suzanne Kelley updated the district enrollment figures, noting they're "down a little bit from last year" but doing "a lot better than what NESDEC projected for fiscal 2023." Specifically, her report said the district has 1411 students as of Oct 1, but NESDEC predicted 1367.

"We're very lucky parents want to move to Oxford," she said. "...There are a lot of people coming in that have never been to school here."

That doesn't include school choice, since Oxford doesn't participate except for contractual obligations that allow kids of staff to study here.

Turn To OXFORD page A16

Samuel Slater Experience now participating in Card To Culture



W E B S T E R — The Samuel Slater Experience, which opened in March of this year, has been accredited to participate in the Card to Culture program, a collaboration between the Massachusetts Cultural Council and several government agencies that provide assistance to eligible residents.

Card to Culture partnerships make the power of culture acces-

sible to a wider range of Massachusetts residents. Arts, humanities, and science organizations participating in these voluntary discount partnerships offer free or steeply discounted admission to Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, and/or ConnectorCare cardholders. With presentation of an EBT card, a family (up to four people) receives the discounted



Courtesy

ST. JOSEPH EIGHTH GRADERS RECEIVE JACKETS

Congratulations to the Saint Joseph School Class of 2023! Following the Annual Eighth Grade Mass and breakfast, the students were awarded their eighth grade jackets. The jackets are a significant milestone that the 8th Grade students look forward to each year. In addition to the students' names, year of graduation, and St. Joseph School logo, the left sleeve of each jacket is embroidered with a symbol representing the sports that they participated in during their time at Saint Joseph School. Sports include soccer, basketball, cheerleading, and cross country. In addition to acknowledging the students' participation in athletics, the right arm of each jacket lists academic clubs and achievements, including altar serving, band, Children of Mary, choir, Drama Club, Food Share, LEGO Robotics, Math Club, National Junior Honor Society, AAA Safety Patrol, and Student Council. The jackets are a unique and incredible memory of the students' time at Saint Joseph School. The Class of 2023 includes Catherine Barbale, Emerson Bernard, Leah Boudreau, Bella Calnan, Haleigh Creighton, Bobbi Enman, Zachary Gambaccini, Pete Kirk Patrick, Alexander Kowalski, Brett McCarthy, Jackson Meehan, Aiden Muchiru, Marcus Muchiru, Jacob Perry, Gabriela Pianka, Gianna Rosario, Ike Rudnicki, Sharyley Szela, and Vanessa Zeglen. The 8th Grade Home Room instructor is Mrs. Mary Ann Weaver.

DCRSD Special Education sees growth and improvement

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee hosted an update from Director of Pupil Personnel Services Robert Bergeron about the district's special education department in November where Bergeron detailed some of the enhancements the department has seen in his first year with the district.

Bergeron joined the district in October of 2021, and immediately saw the need for improve-

ments on many levels. One program that kicked off in 2022 was the addition of three therapeutic classrooms which he said have quickly become an asset with potential to grow into a powerful tool for students who could have otherwise been left behind.

"We're keeping the numbers of students in those classrooms very low," Bergeron said of the classrooms. "To start building a program while servicing students is a daunting task, so I want to thank all the staff that are involved in those three classrooms. It is a lot of work, and it is difficult work, but in the end those children are really going to benefit. We are continuing to support the staff in building those programs and I'm

just really excited to see where they go. They've already had a significant impact on the lives of children that otherwise wouldn't be able to go here."

Upon his arrival last fall, Bergeron said one of the biggest issues was problems with compliance. He said the number of compliance issues was "unacceptable" but everyone has worked over the past year to improve and bring the program to new heights. Still, Bergeron said compliance supervision remains a priority to make sure the program doesn't go "backwards."

Other enhancements on Bergeron's list included the finalizing of guidance documents for staff, working with DESE on tier focused monitoring and updated policies

and procedures, and the addition of new staff and programs to helping with reading and writing capabilities. The department has also embraced new technology in the form of Teachdown, an ILC curriculum support hardware now installed in all classrooms. Bergeron also stressed the importance of refocusing on special education educators and interventionists and supporters first, something he feels got lost in years past.

"With the black and white teaching model that was in place here for a few years some of those interventions weren't attended to as closely as they needed to be," Bergeron admitted.

With these new pro-

Turn To DCRSD page A16

HANDS launches annual heating and energy assistance program

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen hosted an update from HANDS (Helping Address the Needs of Dudley's Seniors) as the organization sought to raise awareness of their annual heating and utility assistance program.

Sarah White, a Dudley resident and founder of HANDS, said the organization is currently accepting applications from seniors 60-years-old or older who are in need of help to keep warm and keep the lights on this winter. Founded in 2008, HANDS is comprised of Dudley residents, employees, and business owners who came together to help seniors in difficult times, such as dealing with the current impact of inflation on their lim-

ited budgets.

"The applications are due by Dec. 31, although that's a soft deadline, and then the awards are given out in February," said White. "With the anticipated increases in both electrical and fuel bills this year, not only are we welcoming applications but, we're also welcoming donations."

HANDS traditionally holds small annual fundraisers to help support their mission, however the COVID pandemic severely limited their capabilities. For example, they used to hold annual toll booths but have been unable to bring the event back during the pandemic. However, the organization has not been short on support as businesses and average citizens have helped the organization. Still, White admits they need a lot more help to

maintain their previous services.

"There have been businesses that donated, a lot of personal donations, the Dudley Women's Club has been very loyal, the schools at times have donated, and last year we were able to give \$1,000 awards to each applicant. We're not going to be able to do that this year unless we get a lot more in donations," said White.

Those wishing to learn more about HANDS can visit www.handsofdudley.org for more details. Applications for heating and energy assistance are available on the website and at the Pearl L. Crawford Library, the Dudley Post Office, and the Dudley Town Clerk's Office. Donations to HANDS can be sent to P.O. Box 343, Dudley, MA 01571.

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Courtesy

PRO AUTOMOTIVE SUPPORTS DUDLEY PTO

Pro Automotive of Webster and Dudley, in collaboration with the Dudley PTO, held a Holiday Contest with the students at the Dudley Middle School. Georgia Niforos-Ortiz, a sixth grader at the Middle School, was declared the winner with her Happy Holiday card. Pro Automotive generously donated \$2,500 to Dudley's PTO.

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Wor. Wayne S. Kilian, Wor. Jay R. Spahl and Wor. Michael J. Spahl

WEBSTER — Webster Lodge A.F. & A.M. recognized three 40-year-members at its meeting on Nov. 21. The honorees were Worshipful Jay R. Spahl, Worshipful Wayne S. Kilian and Worshipful Michael J. Spahl. These three share another distinction in that they are second generation Masons,

having followed in their fathers' footsteps. A fourth 40-year-member and Past Master Worshipful Stephen D. Chickering, who was unable to be present, was also honored. These four brethren dedicated several years progressing through different chairs of the Lodge, culminating in their elections as

Courtesy



Wor. Michael Chiler and Wor. Wayne S. Kilian

Master. All four men were encouraged to become brothers of the lodge by the late Albert Kilian, a past master and long-time treasurer of Webster Lodge. 1982 was certainly a vintage year for local Masonry.



Wor. Michael Chiler and Wor. Jay R. Spahl

Current Master Michael Chiler presented certificates in recognition of the honorees having reached this milestone anniversary. A celebratory collation followed in the E. Vernon Davis Hall.



Wor. Michael Chiler and Wor. Michael R. Spahl

Webster Lodge the third Monday of the month prior to our regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Webster Lodge, chartered September 10, 1858, is 164 years strong and is the Webster-Dudley area's oldest active Fraternal Organization.

For more information on Masonry see www.massfreemasonry.org or visit



Courtesy

BAY PATH DRAMA CLUB PERFORMS "LAW AND ORDER: A FAIRYTALE UNIT"

At Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School recently the drama club, led by math teacher Molly O'Brien, delivered several performances of "Law and Order: A Fairytale Unit." The play is about the investigation of crimes committed by nursery rhyme and fairytale characters such as The Seven Dwarves, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, and Pinocchio. Investigations occur to solve the crimes and characters are represented by attorneys who try to prove their guilt or innocence. Back: Starting Left: Bruna Paula, Abi Simpson, Lill Rockwood, Avelyn O'Brien, Michaen Pacheco, Angie Beltran Colon, Yasmi Santana, Connor O'Brien, Leo Johnson, Robert Casati, Kat Szretter, Kristina Liberty, Jadriel Nunez, Min Belmonte, Danny Chaffee, Cam Renzi, Cheyanne Mitchell, Jet Carrascal, Dominic Pigeon. Front: Starting Left: James Ferreira, Cat Schiappa, Anna Guay, Jordan Ferreira, Ava Wall, Marissa Dumas, Emma Dwyer, Odin Lacroix, Farnsworth, Kyrie Doud, Trinity Mercier.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$395,000, 7 Springbrook Rd, Wandland, Travis, to Hallen, Dennis S, and Kimball, Marcianna.
\$359,000, 426 Leicester St, Vuong, Hung T, to Lasalle, Suely.

DUDLEY

\$490,000, 92 Old Southbridge Rd, Patel, Rohitkumar B, and Patel, Rekha, to Burdick, Louis.
\$368,000, 8 Lakeside Dr, Burdick Jr, Louis J, and Burdick, Wendy P, to Strafer, Jennifer M.
\$315,000, 10 Lynn Ln, Moylan, Mary T, and Rocket Mortgage LLC, to Keka, Aleks.
\$120,000, Pondview Ter #A2, Kokosinski, Ryszard, and Kokosinski, Urszula, to Potem, Tomasz.

OXFORD

\$6,850,000, 45 Webster Rd, Wilson Language Training, to BVNLC Oxford Owner LLC.
\$6,850,000, 47 Webster Rd, Wilson Language Training, to BVNLC Oxford Owner LLC.
\$750,000, 64 Leicester St, Ag Brothers LLC, to Yarnie, Daniel.
\$569,900, 27 Westview Dr, Nunes, Welberson C, and Nunes, Adriana, to Kogbe, George, and Danso-Kogbe, Ernestina S.
\$370,000, 163 Old Webster Rd, Pelkey, Joanne L, to Gordon, David E, and Lafratta, Samantha L.
\$350,000, 3 Forest St, Legein, Shawn M, and Legein, Susan J, to Jolicoeur, Nicole.
\$175,000, 445 Main St, Oxford Town Of, to Oxtown Builders LLC.

WEBSTER

\$1,150,000, 52 Laurelwood Dr, T J Condon Jr 2018 IRT, and Condon 3rd, Thomas J, to Howard, John E, and Howard, Christine C.
\$355,000, 133 Thompson Rd, Robillard, Debra, and Robillard, Bruce, to Haig, Barbara.
\$355,000, 19 Westwood Rd, Lebel, Deborah, to Gallagher, Jake.
\$355,000, 38 Upper Gore Rd, Faherty, Kenneth S, and Ward-Faherty, Melissa A, to Stuart, John J.
\$340,000, 11 Crystal St, Carter, Sarah, to Dangelo, Thomas, and Mello, Jordan L.
\$338,400, 22 Eddy St, Lopez, Zulma L, to Orelie, Kettely J, and Jeanty, Jeannise.
\$335,000, 212 Lower Gore Rd, Hill Kevin S Est, and Hill, Douglas W, to Lepage, Mark.

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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.

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. 12/13 Spaghetti & Meatballs, green beans Wed. 12/14 Potato Crunch Fish, herbed potatoes, jardiniere vegies Thurs. 12/15 Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas Friday,

12/16 Chicken Cranberry Salad, pasta salad, three bean salad.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Senior Center to assist you. By appointment only. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

Free Blood Pressure screening will be held on Friday, December 9th at 10:30 am at the Senior Center. Sponsored by Summit Health.

Come kick up your heels at a FREE line dancing class led by Instructor Forty Arroyo! Class will be held on Friday, December 16th from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. All ages are welcome!

Join us for an afternoon movie matinee. We will be showing "A Christmas Story Christmas", the 2022 sequel to the classic holiday movie on Monday, December 19th 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 a chess club meeting on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm. All skill levels are welcomed!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Tax Aide, a partnership between the IRS and the AARP Foundation, need volunteer counselors to help low- and moderate-income persons in your community prepare their Federal and Massachusetts income taxes. Volunteers work 4-6 hours per week during tax preparation season. Training for volunteer preparers starts in November, with most of the training online. Internet access and basic computer skills are necessary. For an application visit www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aide

The Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center is closed on Mondays. Open Tuesdays,

Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Walk-ins Are Welcome on Wednesdays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule your appointment!

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. Better yet, 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: An American Bandstand New Year's Eve Day, Saturday, December 31st. Features the Tom LaMark Orchestra. Trip price of \$110.00 includes luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity, entertainment, party favors and champagne toast. Trip 2: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Emmet Cahill, star of PBS Celtic Thunder. Trip price of \$119.00 includes transportation, luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity and show ticket. Our trips are quickly selling out 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.

DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER

71 West Main St.
508-949-8015

Medicare open enrollments ends on December 7, 2022 when you can change your prescription and Medicare Advantage plans. It is important to review your plan every year to make sure you have the best plan for you. Central Mass Shine Regional Office telephone number is 508-422-9931 or by

email at info@shinema.org. A certified Shine counselor will return your call.

Please call Tri Valley Elders if you would like to speak with a SHINE counselor 508-949-6640 (TDD 508-949-6654), 1-800-286-6640. Their website is: www.trivalleyinc.org Email: info@tves.org.

ELDER ABUSE intake Hotline for Mass., 1-800-922-2275, to report physical/mental/financial abuse. Senior self-harm/neglect. (May remain anonymous in reporting suspected abuse).

Dudley Senior Center hours are 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Seniors are welcome to drop in for self-directed activities, cards, puzzles, movies, knitting or just to hang out with friends.

Tri Valley Congregate lunches are served on Monday & Friday at 11:45 a.m. Reservations for lunch must be made two days in advance. Call office and leave a message to reserve your lunch at 508-949-8015. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center: Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. – Pitch League Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. – The Dudley Senior Women's Knitting group. Come join us if you're interested in creating groovy knitting projects which are helping to support our community.

Friday is Game Day, before or after lunch for anyone who enjoys word games like Scrabble, Boggle and Scattergories. Also, "MEMES" a funny

picture/memes/blubs game for up to 20 people.

Coming up! Bemis Nursery Workshop, December 12, 2022 –

Centerpiece Surprise - \$15.00. Starts at 10:00 a.m. A telephone number is requested at the time of sign-up. Please sign up at least one week in advance. Handouts are available at the Dudley Senior Center

Medicare Enrollment/SHINE. October 15, 2022 – December 7, 2022. Should batteries be tossed or recycled? Worcester County Action Council (heating assistance program). Determined by annual income of the household.

The Christmas party and Memory Café are scheduled for December 15, 2022 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Please call to reserve a spot. We will have a sing along and a potluck. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated.

Office Hours: Monday & Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. before and after Memory Café every third Thursday of the month. Email: coadirector@dudleyma.gov Telephone: 508-949-8015. Please leave us a message with your return phone number.

We are always open to new ideas for programs/events. Come and share!

Open to all seniors. You are always welcome to attend any of our programs and events no matter where you live!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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68				69								

CLUES ACROSS

- Chop up
- Ones who utilize
- Sings with closed lips
- South American hummingbird
- Serves as a coxswain
- Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
- Spur
- Senile
- Tanzanian people
- Cruel
- Boxing's "GOAT"
- Yokels
- London soccer team
- Chinese chess piece
- Supervises flying
- 007's creator
- Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- A spider makes one
- Liquefied natural gas
- Opaque gem
- Brazilian palm
- Periodical (slang)
- You might step on one
- Marvin and Horsley are two
- Partner to cheese
- Unpleasant smell
- Field force unit (abbr.)
- Fashion accessory
- Cool!
- Time zone
- Songs to one's lover
- German river
- Go bad
- Sword
- Very eager
- Leaf bug
- Italian seaport
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Member of Jamaican religion
- Large wading bird
- Carries out
- Eternal rest
- It holds up your headwords

CLUES DOWN

- Not low
- Small water buffalo
- A mark left behind
- Archaic form of have
- Fiddler crabs
- Popular Hyundai sedan
- Deport
- Making over
- Midway between south and southeast
- Arabic masculine name
- Type of acid
- Popular 1980s Cher film
- Outdoor enthusiasts' tools
- Chinese city
- "Star Wars" character Solo
- The bill in a restaurant
- Old, ugly witch
- Burn with a hot liquid
- To claim or demand
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Involuntary muscular contraction
- Pea stems (British)
- Double or multiple fold
- No longer is
- Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)
- American plant cultivated in Peru
- Cloth or fabric
- Flanks
- Disfigure
- Angry
- Baltic coast peninsula
- Large, flightless birds
- Plants of the lily family
- Medieval Norwegian language
- Polio vaccine developer
- Not soft
- Exchange rate
- Voice (Italian)
- Baseball's Ruth
- Famed guitarist Clapton
- Take a chance
- Wife
- Elaborate handshake

Oxford Lions collecting donations for food pantry

OXFORD — The Oxford Lions Club will be outside Walmart and Market Basket Friday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. collecting donations of nonperishable items for their food drive.

On Saturday, Dec. 17, the Lions will host two events at the Bandstand in Oxford, beginning with a food drive for the Oxford Food Shelf from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Santa will also be there to greet the children from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Oxford Lions Club assists the sight and hearing impaired. We also provide scholarships for a graduating Oxford resident senior. Thank you for your support!

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kerrip@stonebridgepress.news

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obits@stonebridgepress.news
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OR send to Webster Times
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TO SUBMIT A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR:
E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Webster Times
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



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DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported only one arrest during the week of Nov. 25 to Dec. 2. Daniel Michael Biron, age 66, of Dudley was arrested on Nov. 25 in connection with a warrant.

ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000
Board of Selectmen (949-8001)
Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Evening appointments if needed.
Note: Office hours are for selectmen's secretary and town administrator. Selectmen do not hold office hours.
Town Clerk (949-8004)
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday nights 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)
Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week
DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)
Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours:
Monday, Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911
OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
Monday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)
For emergencies, call 911
WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22C0572CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Male Rodriguez

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Male Rodriguez** of **Webster MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Kenny Rodriguez

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: November 28, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman

December 9, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO18P0736GD
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE
Estate of:
Evelyn A Huff
Date of Death: 01/16/2018

To all other interested persons, A petition has been filed by **Donald A. Ball** of **Worcester MA** requesting approval of compromise of Distribution of the Estate.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 12/27/2022.

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

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

Date: November 28, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

December 9, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket Nos. WO22P3691GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Isabella Ann Dubay
of Webster, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **10/27/2022** by **Lacey L. Mills** of Webster, MA will be held **01/04/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a

parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: December 1, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

December 9, 2022

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 22 SM 003576
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Mark J. O'Brien, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Edward A. Webber and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*)

Mortgage Assets Management, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 126A Charlton Street, Unit 106A of Toria Heights Condominium, given by Edward A. Webber and Priscilla S. Webber to BNY Mortgage Company LLC, dated May 9, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38957, Page 335, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's 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 01/09/2023 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 11/23/2022.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

December 9, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P4018EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Hermine M. Mahtesian

Also known as:

Helen M. Mahtesian

Date of Death: : 01/08/2022

To all interested persons:

A **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan M. Trombley of Webster MA** and **Diane A. Mouradjian of Providence RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Susan M. Trombley of Webster MA** and **Diane A. Mouradjian of Providence RI**

and be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2022.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

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

Date: November 28, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

December 9, 2022

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 22 SM 003478
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Michael A. Porter

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

Bank of America, N.A.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 8 Freeman Avenue, given by Michael A. Porter and Christina Thompson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Superior Home Mortgage, dated October 15, 2007, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41965, Page 49 as affected by a Judgment Order dated December 11, 2018, and recorded with said Registry in Book 60190, Page 95, 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 January 2, 2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on November 16, 2022

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

December 9, 2022

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by James E. Adams to Fleet National Bank, dated February 5, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29319, Page 171, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to Fleet National Bank to Goldman Sachs Mortgage Company, recorded on October 25, 2019, in Book No. 61293, at Page 243

Goldman Sachs Mortgage Company to Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2019-SL2, U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee, recorded on February 6, 2020, in Book No. 61859, at Page 196

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Pub-

lic Auction at 10:00 AM on December 30, 2022, on the mortgaged premises located at 9 Thayer Pond Drive, Unit 9-2, Thayer Pond Village Condominium, North Oxford (Oxford), Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

That certain piece of parcel of land, and the buildings and improvements thereon, known as 9 Thayer Pond Dr Apt 2 in the Town of N. Oxford, County of Worcester and State of Massachusetts and being more particularly described in a deed recorded in Book 25308, Page 308.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 25308, Page 308.

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.

LEGACY MORTGAGE ASSET TRUST 2019-SL2, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

20480

December 9, 2022

December 16, 2022

December 23, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. W022P3983EA
Estate of:

Diane M. Mathurin

Also known as:

Diane Marie Mathurin

Date Of Death: September 7, 2022

INFORMAL PROBATE

PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Paul L. Mathurin** of **Oxford MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Paul L. Mathurin of **Oxford MA**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

December 9, 2022

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Courtesy

BAY PATH STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH COVID TESTS

At the Thanksgiving break, students at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School were offered At-Home Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Tests, provided by the State of Massachusetts. The testing program, which is not mandatory, was designed to have students take the tests within 24 hours of a return to school after the Thanksgiving holiday. Pictured are students at the school, some dressed in Spirit Week outfits, preparing tests for distribution: Pictured (left to right), are Alex Beshiri from Charlton, Caterina Schiappa from Charlton, Lillian Maglich of Webster, Brea Brunelle-Jacoby of Oxford, Skylar Johnson-Mello from Dudley, Catherine Pavone of Charlton, Amberlyn Brindle of Spencer, Adrian Vitkos of Spencer, Noah Cournoyer of Spencer, Zaydyn Streeter-Wornham of Oxford, Gus McGarry of Southbridge, Sophia Balestracci of Oxford, Zachary Cournoyer of Charlton, Janelle Ethier of Dudley, Jadya Katz of Dudley, and Abigail Egan of Southbridge. Assisting in the preparation of the distribution of Covid test kits at the school is Mr. James Tripp Pockevicius, Bay Path's Director of Career and Technical Education.

QCC selected by Amazon as education partner for career choice program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College announced it has been selected as an education partner for Amazon's Career Choice program, providing Amazon's hourly employees access to QCC's programs which include over 120 associate degrees and certificates. "QCC offers students access to higher education through a myriad of partnerships and pathways designed to facilitate student success," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Our educational partnership with Amazon is a new and exciting way to engage more people in the powerful, life-changing impact of higher education."

Amazon employees attending QCC will receive high-quality education and hands-on training to upskill in an existing career or prepare them to enter a career in one of today's high-demand industries. To bolster students' ability to be successful, QCC offers a wide range of academic resources and support services such as individualized academic advising, tutoring, mentoring, career coaching, and counseling. Courses are offered days, nights,

and weekends in multiple modalities such as in-person, fully online, and a combination of in-person and online.

Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. The program meets individual learners where they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including pre-paid college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs, and foundational skills such as English language proficiency, high school diplomas, and GEDs. In the U.S., the company is investing \$1.2 billion to upskill more than 300,000 employees by 2025, to help move them into higher-paying, in-demand jobs.

Amazon's Career Choice program has a rigorous selection process for third-party partner educators, choosing partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements, and overall offering education that leads to career success.

"We're looking forward to Quinsigamond Community College coming on board as an education partner for Career Choice, adding to the hundreds of best-in-class offerings available to our employees," said Tammy Thieman, Global Program Lead of Amazon's Career Choice program. "We're committed to empowering our employees by providing them access to the education and training they need to grow their careers, whether that's with us or elsewhere. We have intentionally created a partner network of third-party educators and employers committed to providing excellent education, job placement resources, and continuous improvements to the experience. Today, over 90,000 Amazon employees around the world have already participated in Career Choice and we've seen first-hand how it can transform their lives."

For more information on Amazon's Career Choice, visit: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/career-choice>.

For more information on QCC, visit: <https://www.qcc.edu/amazon-career-choice>.

Pearle Crawford Library adds memory kits

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley has added another new addition to its ever-growing list of programs and resources in the form of memory kits to help patients and families dealing with memory loss.

Library Director J. Drusilla Carter presented one of the themed kits to the Library Board of Trustees on Nov. 22 explaining that they are designed to utilize the different senses to help spark the memories of patients. Each kit includes a guide and a variety of items based around specific themes. Carter explained that the Pearle borrowed the concept from other

libraries, and they hope it becomes a useful tool for families caring for family members dealing with memory loss diseases.

"These are kits designed to help those with dementia or Alzheimer's access some of their memories and be able to talk about their memories in ways that they might not be able to just with direct conversation," said Carter.

Each box contains items like pictures, essential oils, and books to help spark memories in the individual. The themes include Christmas, birthday, beach, and gardening.

"We tried to include people and pictures whenever possible. For example, the birthday kit and the Christmas kit have a

lot of historic photos so that they may be from the time periods from when the person with dementia was younger," Carter said. "Some people with dementia are functioning at a higher level and some at a lower level. We try to cover a range of abilities."

As an added effort to help families dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's, the library has also added to its collection of books on the subject and added special stickers to these resources to make them more easily accessible to patrons and caregivers. The kits are currently available at the library with an expansion of the program to include more themes possible depending on demand.

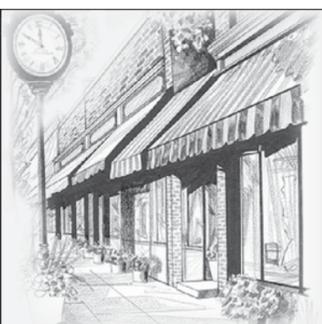
Cornerstone Bank offers new home heating assistance loan program

WORCESTER — With temperatures dropping and home heating costs on the rise, Cornerstone Bank has committed \$100,000 in funding to a new home heating assistance loan program designed for households who have been hit the hardest due to rising inflation.

"Inflation and the rising costs of fuel are combining to make the coming winter season especially challenging for many households in our community," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We developed this special loan program to help ease the burden by allowing residents to spread out their fuel costs over a longer period instead of having to pay all at once."

The home heating assistance loan program is specifically for low- to moderate-income households. The loan amount is up to \$1,000, with terms up to 10 months at a fixed low interest rate of 3 percent. Applicants who don't qualify for the home heating assistance loan may be eligible for a standard unsecured consumer loan.

Local residents can apply for the home heating assistance loan through Feb. 28 at any of Cornerstone Bank's branches throughout Central Massachusetts or online at bit.ly/3GYTZQc.



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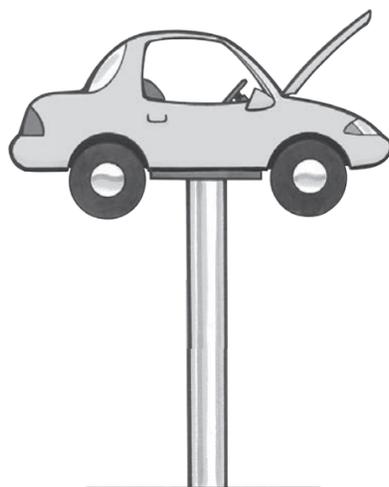
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VIEWPOINT

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

Holiday traditions

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of the Christmas stocking came from, or why traditional Christmas colors are red, green, and gold or why Kentucky Fried Chicken in Japan is so busy on Christmas? There are endless myths and fables surrounding the Christmas holiday, but there are even more interesting facts. While researching Christmas, and digging deep, we found a plethora of fun and thought-provoking facts worth sharing with our readers. The first one notes that early images of St. Nicholas depict him as a strict disciplinarian rather than the overweight, jolly man in the red suit we see today. Way back when, a common Christmas eve tradition was to tell scary ghost stories by the fire, boo! In 1914, during the First World War, a truce between the United Kingdom and Germany was held. They decorated their shelters for the holiday and exchanged gifts and even played a game of football with each other.

When a child drops a letter in the mail to Santa in America, the mail is sent to Santa Claus, Ind. Thanks to the province of Nova Scotia, who since 1918 have been sending the city of Boston an enormous Christmas tree as a thank you for supporting them during the Halifax explosion. Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Jesus in A.D. 350. For the past 40 years, people in Japan eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner and must make their orders two months in advance.

British illustrator John Callcott Horsley invented the first Christmas card in 1843. In England from 1649-1660, Puritan head of state Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols. The first artificial Christmas trees were made in Germany out of dyed goose feathers, (we're still trying to picture this one). X is the Greek letter "chi," which is an abbreviation for the word "Christ" in Greek hence the abbreviation X-mas being used so often. Several European countries thought that good and evil spirits were active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. These "spirits" then became known as Santa's elves. Have you ever wondered what a 'Yule' log actually is? We have as well. It is a large log that is burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas as a symbol of health, fertility, luck and is said to ward off evil spirits. In Bolivia, there is a celebration called the 'Mass of the Rooster' that takes place on Christmas Eve. Some folks bring roosters to the mass to symbolize the thought that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus. In 2010, the Columbian government hung lights on jungle trees. When the FARC guerrillas sauntered by the trees lit up and released banners asking the terrorists to lay down their weapons. As a result, 331 guerrillas peacefully re-entered into the community. Here's an interesting one, the 'Bicycle' card company created playing cards during WWII that revealed an escape route for POWs in Germany. In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the verse referring to "true love" is a reference to God. A "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ and the "two turtle doves" represent the Old and New Testaments. Did you ever wonder why the colors red, green, and gold are affiliated with Christmas? Green is a symbol of life and rebirth, red symbolizes the blood of Christ and gold is a symbol of light, wealth, and royalty. Christmas trees are grown for roughly 15 years before they are purchased. In Poland spider webs are a common decoration for trees because a spider, according to legend, wove a blanket for baby Jesus. In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the country to officially recognize Christmas. Mistletoe is considered sacred to the Druids because it produces fruit and remains green throughout the winter. The Druids never let the plant hit the ground and believed that it was a cure for infertility and warded off evil spirits. Environmentalist Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901. Apples were the first Christmas tree decorations. Why do we hang stockings by the chimney with care? Apparently, there were three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were bound to end up on the streets. Bishop Saint Nicholas filled their stockings with gold coins, and their lives were forever changed. We hope you enjoyed these fun Christmas facts and hope that you have a happy holiday season filled with endless laughter and memories to last a lifetime.

Who is the real Santa Claus?

The true story of Santa Claus, which is an American transliteration of the Dutch Sinter Klaas, obviously refers to Saint Nicholas, one of the most beloved of all saints throughout the world, and whose memory is actually celebrated in Churches throughout the world on Dec. 6. Who was the real St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus?



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS, SACS
 CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

Nicholas was born during the third century in a village of Asia Minor. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and eventually became the Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith and was imprisoned. After his release, and with the Emperor Saint Constantine legalizing Christianity within the Roman Empire, Nicholas attended the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra.

Throughout the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, had little hope for their future. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home - providing the needed dowries. Bishop Nicholas had thrown the bags of gold through an open window and they landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas.

One of the oldest stories showing St. Nicholas as a protector of children takes place long after his death. The townspeople of Myra were celebrating the good saint on the eve of his feast day when a band of Arab pirates from Crete came into the district. They stole treasures from the Church of Saint Nicholas to take away as booty. As they were leaving town, they snatched a young boy, Vasilios, to make a slave. The emir, or ruler, selected Vasilios to be his personal cupbearer; as not knowing the language, Vasilios would not understand what the king said to those around him. So, for the next year Vasilios waited on the king, bringing his wine in a beautiful golden cup. For Vasilios' parents, devastated at the loss of their only child, the year passed slowly, filled with grief. As the next St. Nicholas' feast day approached, Vasilios' mother would not join in the festivity, as it was now a day of tragedy. However, she was persuaded to have a simple observance at home—with quiet prayers for Vasilios' safekeeping. Meanwhile, as Vasilios was fulfilling his tasks serving the emir, he was suddenly whisked up and away. St. Nicholas appeared to the terrified boy, blessed him, and set him down at his home back in Myra. Imagine the joy and wonderment when Vasilios amazingly appeared before his parents, still holding the king's golden cup. This is the first story told of St. Nicholas protecting children—which became his primary role in the West.

Another story tells of three students traveling to study in Athens. A wicked innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickling tub. It so happened that Bishop Nicholas, traveling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. In the night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper. As Nicholas prayed earnestly to God the three boys were restored to life. And so St. Nicholas is the patron and protector of children.

Several stories tell of Nicholas and the sea. When he was young, Nicholas made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There as he walked where Jesus walked, he sought to more deeply experience Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection. Returning by sea, a mighty storm threatened to wreck the ship. Nicholas calmly prayed. The terrified sailors were

amazed when the wind and waves suddenly calmed, sparing them all. And so, St. Nicholas is the patron of sailors and voyagers.

Other stories tell of Nicholas saving his people from famine, sparing the lives of those innocently accused, and much more. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return. Within a century of his death, he was celebrated as a saint. Today he is venerated in the East as a wonder-worker and in the West as patron of children, sailors, orphans, laborers, travelers, merchants, judges, paupers, marriageable maidens, students, children, victims of judicial mistakes, and captives. He is known as the friend and protector of all in trouble or need.

As his popularity spread during the Middle Ages, he became the patron saint of Greece, Russia, Sicily, and many cities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Following his baptism, the Russian Prince Vladimir I brought stories and devotion of St. Nicholas to his homeland where this saint became the most beloved of all saints. Nicholas was so widely revered that thousands of churches were named for him, including 300 in Belgium, 34 in Rome, twenty-three in the Netherlands and more than four hundred in England.

Nicholas' tomb in Myra became a popular place of pilgrimage. Because of the many wars and attacks in the region, Christians were concerned that access to the tomb might become difficult. For both the religious and commercial advantages of a major pilgrimage site, the Italian cities of Venice and Bari vied to get the relics of St. Nicholas. In the spring of 1087, sailors from Bari succeeded in spirited away the bones, bringing them to Bari, a seaport on the southeast coast of Italy. An impressive church was built over St. Nicholas' crypt and many faithful journeyed to honor the saint who had rescued children, prisoners, sailors, famine victims, and many others through his compassion, generosity, and the countless miracles attributed to his intercession. The Nicholas shrine in Bari is still a great center of pilgrimage.

Widely celebrated in Europe, St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6th, kept alive the stories of his goodness and generosity. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. Dec. 6 is still the main day for gift giving and merry-making in much of Europe. For example, in the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on the 5th, the eve of the day, by sharing candies (thrown in the door), chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts. Simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

Keep your vehicle clear of snow and ice



CHIEF'S CORNER STEVE WOJNAR

The arrival of the winter season brings with it several changes associated with driving. One of importance is the removal of excess snow and frost from your vehicles prior to operating. This topic is always brought up to me at this time of the year and I wanted to remind people of the importance

of taking this one additional safety step.

A few laws on the books can address this situation. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 Section 13 is the law which addresses "impeded" operation. Drivers are not allowed to have anything on or about their vehicle which may interfere with its safe operation. This can directly pertain to the removal of snow an ice from windshields. However, even though it is not specifically stated in this law, there may be circumstances where it can apply to snow on vehicle hoods, roof tops, or trunks. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 85 Section 36 addresses the subject of unsecured or unsafe loads transported on the roadways. Flying snow or debris from a vehicle traveling down the road may apply under these circumstances. Both laws carry civil fines and decisions will be made by an officer on a case-by-case basis. As another reminder, your vehicle's license plates must also be clearly visible and free of snow and debris. It is a separate violation of the law to have an obstructed number plate.

There is a danger when not removing snow from a vehicle in a prompt manner. If it is left in place, it tends to melt and re-freeze which creates an ice sheet. When traveling at higher speeds, such as on a highway, the wind can move under this ice and send it flying off the vehicle. It could then land on or around another vehicle traveling along the road.

The results of this can be very serious. Despite the damage this may cause to another vehicle, it could have even greater consequences should this land on another vehicle's windshield. The driver may not be able to see, and this could result in an accident. If there is a crash involved, the fact that the snow/ice was not removed prior to the trip, could be considered as a negligent act on the part of that driver. Therefore, this person may bear some responsibility for the accident. Please take a few extra minutes to completely remove the snow from your vehicle. This simple act could prevent an accident and possibly save a life (even your own).

Our department will once again be collecting Christmas gift donations for local families in need. New and unwrapped toys and clothing can be brought to the Dudley Police Department at 71 West Main St. Monetary donations as well as gift cards are also accepted. There are definite needs in our area for these items and our department thanks everyone in advance for their continued generosity.

For those still seeking vaccination or COVID related information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling The Board of Health 508-949-8036. During these challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

Advice can help when making charitable gifts

Now that it's the holiday season, gifts are probably on your mind – and you might intend for some of those gifts to go to charities. Although your intentions are good, you could be shortchanging both your recipients and yourself with your method of giving. But with some guidance, you can make choices that work well for you and those charitable groups you support.

Of course, you could simply give money to these groups. However, by donating other types of assets, can you increase the value of your gift and gain greater tax benefits, too?

It's certainly possible, but your ability to gain any tax advantages depends somewhat on whether or not you can itemize deductions on your tax return. Due to legislation passed a few years ago that significantly increased the standard deduction, many people may no longer be itemizing. But if you still itemize, you can generally deduct up to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income for cash donations to IRS-qualified charities.

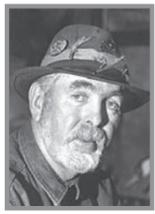


FINANCIAL FOCUS DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Another contribution strategy involves donating other assets, such as stocks. You could donate stocks directly to a charitable group, but you might gain more benefits by making an irrevocable contribution to a donor-advised fund (DAF). Again, assuming you can itemize, you can deduct the full fair-market value of the asset, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, and your contributions can be invested in mutual funds or similar vehicles. The contributions have the opportunity for growth, and distributions to the charity are tax-free. You can then decide, on your own timetable, which IRS-qualified charitable groups you would like to receive the money. Furthermore, if you donate stocks that have risen in value, you won't incur potential capital gains taxes that you would have when you eventually sold the stocks. These taxes can be considerable, especially if you've held the stocks for a long time. (You'll want to consult with your tax advisor on how charitable gifts can affect your taxes, especially if you're thinking of using a donor-advised fund.)

Shotgun season opens

The opening of the shotgun deer season in Massachusetts had a low turnout of hunters locally, although the Douglas state forest had cars lined up on Route 16 on Monday and this past Saturday. Some impressive bucks were weighed in at the Webster check station last week, and had 113 deer checked in at Webster as of this past Saturday. Listening to deer stories from hunters this year make you



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tree stand in Uxbridge for only five minutes. It seems the deer may have followed him to his tree stand and watched him climb into it. He barely had time to sit down before he spotted the big buck, and dropped him with a single shot from his shotgun. Another hunter harvested a nice buck while ground

laugh, and some almost make you cry from laughter. My son, Ralph, Jr., harvested a nice eight pointer after sitting in his

hunting. The eight pointer walked right into his path, and never spotted him. He dropped the buck right in his tracks. Listening to hunters that missed deer because of a gun malfunction, or a scope that for some reason had moved, had you laugh as they told their stories, with most excuses totally outrageous. Of course, could it have been the shooter making a bad shot? When the shotgun season ends Dec. 10, deer hunters will have one last chance to harvest some venison for the freezer during the primitive arms season which opens Dec. 12 and

runs through to Dec. 31. A little bit of snow is sure to bring the deer harvest up before the season ends. There have been reports of multiple deer spotted close to homes during the shotgun season. Hopefully, they will split up and go looking for better feeding areas, but do not plan on them leaving. With the acorn crop very spotty this year, deer will continue to feed on grass, and when the snow covers the grass they will start to feed on many ornamental bushes that homeowners have paid substantial sums of money to plant. Fruit trees can also become a meal for deer, with

farmers suffering the most damage. Residents should not be feeding deer just to watch them in their backyards. It is sure nice to watch deer in your backyard during the winter months, but it could also cost you big money when they start to feed on your bushes and trees. With the Christmas season just around the corner, many friends and family members are often undecided what to get the sportsmen for Christmas. The best thing is a gift card at their favorite sporting goods store; cash is also the best way to go. The Eastern States

Expo will be held on Feb. 24-26 at the Big E in Springfield, Mass. this year. The Boxborough, Mass. New England Fishing Expo will open their doors on Jan. 27. Capt. Mel True will hold his annual Tried & True Fishing show at Whites of Westport, 66 state Rd., Westport, Mass., on Feb. 4 & 5. Check his planned show at his Web site fishing charters for more information. Be sure to put the dates on your calendar. Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Ode to Soups!

Soup, whether it's simple or fancy, is steeped in memories, and many a long, cold New England winter has been cheered by bowls of soup that warm both body and soul. While fast food and quick fix suppers often win out over slow simmering stews and soups for busy weeknight meals, soups still have a place in today's supertime scramble. Soups are not only deliciously filling, they're typically made with fresh, healthy ingredients. Add in the money saving factor, the convenience of one pot cooking and the opportunity for unbridled culinary creativity, and it's easy to see why America is rekindling its love affair with soups and stews.

Read on for a dose of inspiration to cook up a pot of soup this season! *

Heirloom Soups: A generation or so ago soup suppers were not uncommon. Many of these diverse dishes reflected the ethnic background of the family at the dinner table. A hearty bowl of Pasta Fagioli and crusty bread was a familiar supper in Italian neighborhoods, as Jewish families enjoyed chicken matzo ball soup with braided challah, and those of French Canadian decent baked Johnny cake to go with a pot of green pea soup. Today, many of these family recipes have been passed down to new generations. While the recipes may be tweaked by enthusiastic TikTok inspired cooks, the tradition of preparing a soup supper, whether it's made from chicken or beans, remains the same. As most cooks will attest, something magical happens when a big pot of water begins filling up with ingredients. Kids stop their homework to peek into the pot; spouses sneak in for a quick taste; and like the classic French fable "Stone Soup," a dash of this



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

soup, but precious memories as well.

Tip: why not start a "soup tradition" by preparing a pot of soup to honor an ethnic tradition once a month. ***

Inspirational Ingredients: In some cultures it is believed a cook's mood, good or bad, can ultimately affect the taste and enjoyment of the meal he or she has prepared. Some claim this to be particularly relevant to soups, simply due to the many chopping and cutting tasks required for soup and stew preparation. "Spiritual cooking" has become a buzz word in the culinary world as mindfulness and love, as well as chanting and prayer are being integrated into cooking chores in the belief it will heighten both flavor and awareness.

Tip: Make it a habit to de-stress before cooking, take a few deep breaths, smile and think positive thoughts as you prep and cook in the kitchen. ***

Food for Thought - Fun Soup Facts:

*The earliest evidence of humans eating soup was 6000 BC. The main ingredient was hippopotamus.

*The ladies of the French court of Louis XI subsisted mainly on soup because they believed that chewing would cause them to develop facial wrinkles.

*The story goes that in the late 1700s, French royal chefs

and a handful of that contributed by family members add up to not only scrumptious

created a clear broth (called consommé) because the king wanted to see his reflection in his bowl.

*Soup is a breakfast food in Japan. The day is often started with a bowl of fish broth with rice.

*There is an old Yiddish saying, "Troubles are easier to take with soup than without."

*Frank Sinatra's contracts often specified that chicken and rice soup be in his dressing room prior to performances.

*Andy Warhol said he painted soup cans because he had soup for lunch every day for 20 years. ***

Crock Pot Tomato Soup
Whole tomatoes and basil bring freshness to this classic, healthy soup. Best of all, it cooks while you're at work (or busy doing other things)!

Ingredients: 8 medium tomatoes; 1 medium onion, chopped; 2 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced; 1 garlic clove, crushed; 1 tablespoon brown sugar; 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil; 1 tablespoon chopped parsley; 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/8 teaspoon pepper; 3 cups chicken broth or bouillon.

Directions: Drop tomatoes in a pan of boiling water for 15 to 20 seconds; immediately rinse with cold water. Remove skins. Cut in half crosswise; squeeze out and discard seeds. Combine in slow-cooker with onions, carrots, garlic, brown sugar, basil, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper and broth (or bouillon). Cover and cook on low 5 to 6 hours or until vegetables are very soft. Puree in blender or food processor fitted with metal blade. ***

Easy Tomato Soup
I make this at least once a

month, because it is super easy and always delicious!

Side note: Once you make this, you many never buy tomato soup in a can again.

Ingredients: One medium onion; one stick of butter; two 28 ounce cans of diced, crushed, or whole tomatoes; half can of water; spices: salt; pepper; turmeric and cayenne (optional).

Directions: In a medium pan, melt the butter with an onion cut into quarters. When butter melts, add two cans of tomatoes and some water if it looks like it needs thinning. Cook until it starts to boil, then simmer slowly for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Using an immersion blender; puree the soup to desired consistency. Add salt, pepper, and turmeric and cayenne to taste.

Giada De Laurentiis' Italian Wedding Soup

This homemade recipe comes from the kitchen of the famous food network cook.

Meatball Ingredients: 1 small onion, grated; 1/3 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley; 1 large egg; 1 teaspoon minced garlic; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 slice fresh white bread, crust trimmed, bread torn into small pieces; 1/2 cup grated Parmesan; 8 ounces ground beef; 8 ounces ground pork; Freshly ground black pepper

Soup Ingredients: 12 cups low-sodium chicken broth; 1 pound curly endive, coarsely chopped (1 pound of escarole would be a good substitution); 2 large eggs; 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan, plus extra for garnish; Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Meatball Directions: To make the meatballs: Stir the first 6 ingredients in a large bowl to blend. Stir in the cheese, beef

and pork. Using 1 1/2 teaspoons for each, shape the meat mixture into 1-inch-diameter meatballs. Place on a baking sheet.

Soup Directions: Bring the broth to a boil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the meatballs and curly endive and simmer until the meatballs are cooked through and the curly endive is tender, about 8 minutes. Whisk the eggs and cheese in a medium bowl to blend. Stir the soup in a circular motion. Gradually drizzle the egg mixture into the moving broth, stirring gently with a fork to form thin strands of egg, about one minute. Season the soup to taste with salt and pepper. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve. Finish soup with parmesan cheese if desired. ***

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Learning as you go

When my father, his publisher, and I set out to build a Web platform for independent filmmakers, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. Immediately, I was required to learn to do things I had never done before.

It was the first time I managed a startup. My background before this was almost strictly in the arts.

The thoughts ran through my head, "I've never built a web platform before, I don't have the qualifications, and I don't

know how to code!"

I voiced my concern to my father, and he enthusiastically replied, "You don't need to know exactly what you're doing in order to start doing it. Just Google what you don't know, and we'll get it done."

Before I could argue, I realized he was right. There was too much to learn, too much to do; I'd have to learn as I went.

I chuckled to him, "as long as I don't have to learn to write computer code, we'll get it done." At this point in my life, the only thing I knew how to do on a computer was to send an email. He said, "Don't worry, we will hire someone to code; you won't have to learn that."

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

The biggest hurdle we needed to overcome was fundraising. To raise the money we needed, we felt it was best to write a white paper for investors describing the type of online platform we wanted to build, what kind of problems it would solve, and our customer base.

There was only one problem; I'd never written a white paper before. As I contemplated what to do, I remembered my dad's advice and thought, "I'll find the answers along the way."

I sat down at the computer and started typing while also googling how to write a white paper. After much work,

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FINANCIAL

continued from page A8

These charitable donation methods are not secrets, and they are available to many people – you don't have to be wealthy to employ them. Yet, here's an interesting statistic:

Those who work with a financial advisor on charitable strategies are more than three times as likely to donate non-cash assets such as stocks than those

who contribute to charities but don't work with an advisor; according to an August 2022 survey from financial services firm Edward Jones and Morning Consult, a global data intelligence company. These findings suggest that many more people could be taking advantage of tax-smart charitable giving moves – if only they had some help or guidance.

Also, by getting some professional financial assistance, you may find it easier to implement your charitable giving decisions within your overall financial strategy, which is designed to help you meet all your important long-term goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement.

Your instinct to help support charitable groups is a worthy one – and by getting some help, you can turn this impulse into actions that may work to everyone's benefit.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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.

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy N. Cozzens, 89



WEBSTER – Dorothy N. “Dottie” (Pokraka) Cozzens, 89, died Thursday, December 1, 2022 at home after being stricken ill. Her husband of 45 years, John B. Cozzens, Sr., died in 2000.

She leaves 2 sons, John B. Cozzens, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann of Tarpon Springs, FL, and Eric C. Cozzens and his wife Christine “Tina” Cozzens of Webster; 3 grandchildren, John B. Cozzens III, Adam L. Cozzens and Crystal N. Cozzens; 3 great-grandchildren, Michael, Brooke and Christopher; and several nieces and nephews, including a special niece and friend, Lenore “Lenny” Dragon who visited her at home often. She was preceded in death by her son Scot J. Cozzens in 1987, by her sisters Phyllis Naramore and Barbara Kupiec and by her brother Donald “Donnie” Pokraka.

She was born at home on Whitcomb Street on September 22, 1933, the daughter of Valley F. and Stella U.

(Lisiewski) Pokraka and was a life-long resident. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1951 and from the Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing as a registered nurse.

Mrs. Cozzens worked for the Hubbard Regional Hospital as the Director of the Emergency Room before retiring. She also founded several clinics in the area.

She was a member of Saint Louis Church. Dottie enjoyed playing bingo and was a devoted fan of the New England Patriots, the Notre Dame University football team and the Boston Red Sox.

Her funeral will be held Friday, December 16, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation will be held on Thursday, December 15, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the funeral home. Donations in her name may be made to the Webster Ambulance Squad, 67 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com

Frances R. Duquette



WEBSTER – Frances R. Duquette, 74, of Golden Heights, died Tuesday, November 29, 2022 in Clinton Hospital from pancreatic cancer. She leaves a brother, Philip G. Duquette of North Brookfield;

a niece, a nephew and 2 great-nephews. She was preceded in death by 2 sisters, Elizabeth A. Hope in 2018 and Margaret M. Duquette last year. She was born in Webster on September 14, 1948, a daughter of William F. and Rose (Rieger) Duquette and lived in Dudley and Webster all her life. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1966. Miss Duquette first worked in the human

resources department at the American Optical Company in Southbridge. She was then an underwriter for the former Commerce Insurance Company, now Mapfre, in Webster. She was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses in Oxford and of the Daughters of Isabella Council in Webster. She enjoyed reading. Memorial calling hours will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Saturday, December 10 in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street. Donations in her name may be made to Pancreatic Cancer Research at UMass Memorial Health Care, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655 or to Seven Hills Foundation, 81 Hope Avenue, Worcester, MA 01603.

www.websterfunerals.com

Ann Marie Tarantino, 70



Putnam, CT- Ann Marie Tarantino, 70, of Laurel St., passed away on Thursday, Nov. 24th, in the Hartford Hospital, Hartford, after a sudden illness.

She leaves her brother, Vito J. Tarantino and his wife Lisa of Southbridge; her nephew, Anthony Tarantino and his wife Katie of Worcester; her niece Stephanie Tarantino and her partner Carrille Dionne of Spencer; and her close friends Crystal and Connie of Putnam. She was born in Webster the daughter of the late Giuseppe and Hilda (Paglione) Tarantino.

Ann Marie worked for the Rite Aide

Corporation in Danielson, CT for many years, retiring several years ago. In her younger days Ann Marie was an avid bowler. During her retirement, Ann Marie loved to go to family get-togethers, picnics, and holidays. She loved to visit the casinos and take care of her pet cats.

Ann Marie's funeral service and burial in Calvary Cemetery, Dudley, will be private. There are no calling hours.

Ann Marie was a lover of animals and the family requests in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the ASPCA by donating online at secure.aspc.org/donate.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Nancy Jane A. Vajcovec, 75



Dudley - Nancy Jane A. Vajcovec, 75, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by the love of her family and friends on Saturday, November 26, 2022. Nancy was born in 1947, the daughter of John and

Jenny (Nezuh) Vajcovec. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1964 and earned her BS in Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she was a member of the Sigma Alpha MU sorority. After graduation, Nancy took a position at The Hartford Insurance Company. She spent her entire career at The Hartford until her retirement at age 55.

After her retirement, Nancy moved back to Dudley and built her home on her family's land on Hayden Pond. She loved entertaining at the “Vac Shack” and her family and friends spent many happy evenings gathering on her deck for a celebration or just a fun get-together. She was an animal lover, and over the years, her dogs and cats gave her much joy, particularly KoKo, her last dog. Nancy loved travelling especially on cruises and she also enjoyed casinos. She was very generous with her casino perks and shared them with friends and family.

Her retirement gave her the opportunity to give her time and talents to many charitable organizations. She was on

the Dudley Conservation Commission and President of the Hayden Pond Association. She was co-founder and active member of the Dudley Women's Club, a member of the Black Tavern Historical Society and the French River Connection. She also volunteered at, and was an active member of, St Andrew Bobola Church.

Nancy will be remembered for her love of family and friends, her joy for life, in her dedication to supporting worthy causes, as a super Patriot's fan and for her enjoyment of a good Manhattan. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, her Auntie Anne Vajcovec, her 19 Vajcovec cousins and their families, her 11 Nezuh cousins and their families and all the lives she'd touched along the way.

A wake will be held on December 9, 2022, at Shaw Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster MA from 5:00 – 7:00pm. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00am on Saturday, December 10 at St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to St. Andrew Bobola, 54 West Main Street Dudley MA 01571.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences, share fond memories, or light a candle in remembrance of Nancy.

POSITIVELY

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I developed a top-notch investor white paper with my dad and his publisher's help.

There were seemingly infinite things I needed to learn how to do; financial projections, a pitch deck, a business model, a go-to-market strategy, and much more.

Google became my best friend.

I was learning, growing, and making progress; the best part was that I didn't have to learn to code!

A few months later, when all was running smoothly and according to plan, we lost our developer! Quickly, I realized that I was going to have to learn to code.

In many ways, this was my worst nightmare. Still, after enrolling, I daydreamed that after graduation, I'd be an expert computer programmer, knowing everything there was to know about computer languages.

On my first day of school, I was surprised to learn that instead of teaching me everything there was to know about writing code, they would teach me just enough so that I knew how to teach myself.

The field of computer programming is so vast that my school's only objective was to teach me enough so that I knew how to find the answers I needed on my own. In other words, they wanted me to start coding, even though I didn't know everything I needed to know.

Using Google efficiently is a core job skill in computer programming, but it's not just for programmers. With the internet, we all can learn as we go, looking up whatever we need to know at a moment's notice.

Some of you are still evaluating whether or not you should move forward with your dreams and goals because you don't feel that you have the proper schooling, connections, or money to make it happen.

There are probably people out there who are not as bright as you and not as talented as you but are making things happen because they started doing what they could and figured the rest out along the way.

Jump in and get started; don't be afraid. You'll always be learning. You don't have to know everything about what you want to do to start moving in that direction. Be excited to learn, grow, and maybe, just maybe, you won't have to learn to code!

Masons annual Christmas Craft Fair is back



Courtesy

Craft Fair from back in September 2021 in the parking lot of Quinebaug Masonic lodge in Southbridge. This indoor Christmas Craft Fair will have much, much, more.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — Come one come all — the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge lady's auxiliary is hosting a Christmas craft fair located on Rt. 131 at 339 Ashland Avenue. in Southbridge, on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This Christmas craft fair offers a great opportunity to find all kinds of unique gifts and stocking stuffers for your home, family, and friends. Everything from Knitted hats, bags, sublimation tumblers, cupcakes, cookies, macrame, key chains, crochet toys, resin art, badge reels and lanyards.

Some vendors include, but not limited to, Little Hearts Custom Creations, Sweets by M&M, Crochet Addict, Missy Crafts and Norah's Fabric Creations. Come on down and look at all the crafts for sale and check out the Masonic pictures and symbols throughout the rooms. Members of Quinebaug Masonic lodge are very proud of this annual event. If you would like more information or would like to set up a booth at this event, contact Norah Proper at 413-297-8374 for more information.

Friday's Child



Hailey
Age 15

Hi! My name is Hailey and I love horses! Below is a letter I have written to help you get to know me.

Hi, My name is Hailey and I am a sociable, funny, cool, kind, sweet, and outgoing person. I am someone who likes to stay on topic, listen to others, and am a good planner. I consider myself a brave person and a hard worker.

I have several family members who I am close with including my aunt and grandmother. I am particularly close with my aunt who I speak with about funny things, my emotions, and my hopes. Along with my many strengths I also have many talents and interests. I like to ride horses, play hockey, video games, and board games, and go swimming. I also like to cook and bake and draw anime.

I'm looking for a family that will love me and have fun with me! I would like to do many activities with my family including horseback riding, arts and crafts, movie nights, and cooking/baking.

I am also learning to play the piano. I also would be a big help to my family by doing chores, playing with any siblings, and making everyone laugh. I would also love a visiting resource.

I hope to speak with you soon!
Sincerely, Hailey

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/5454>

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.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.



SPORTS

Bay Path returns to championship form, wins State Vocational title

MINUTEMEN DEFEAT MONTY TECH, 28-20, BEHIND 366 RUSHING YARDS



From left, Bay Path head coach Cody Giampa and co-captains Casey Gallagher, Jonathan Nussey, Anthony Catino and Georgios Pirperis proudly pose with the State Vocational Large School Championship trophy following the Minutemen's 28-20 victory over Monty Tech on Thursday, Dec. 1 at Shepherd Hill Regional.

Nick Ethier photos



Kaiden Brochu of Bay Path runs the ball through the would-be tackle of a Monty Tech defender.



Bay Path's Casey Gallagher turns the corner and runs the ball past Monty Tech's Logan Quinn.



Bay Path players can't contain their excitement in the final seconds of the Minutemen's 28-20 win against Monty Tech in the State Vocational Large School Championship game.



Defenders Gabriel Espinosa (20) and Casey Gallagher bring down Monty Tech ball carrier Logan Quinn.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — The always proud Bay Path Regional football program is synonymous with winning. But the recent past has brought with it some mediocre seasons. That was until now, as the Minutemen captured the State Vocational Large School Championship on Thursday, Dec. 1 at Shepherd Hill Regional's Carmignani Field.

The eight-team bracket saw Bay Path earn the No. 3 seed. The Minutemen then defeated No. 6 Greater New Bedford (47-21) and No. 7 Northeast Regional (28-6) — last year's champion and runner up — to set up the final against No. 4 Monty Tech.

And, against the Bulldogs, the offensive line was superb. The hard-nosed linemen allowed for Bay Path to run for a staggering 366 yards which led to a 28-20 victory.

"Bay Path's always been a winning program and it's good to see our kids get back to that. They're winners again. It hasn't been acceptable for us," head coach Cody Giampa said of the recent past on Muggett Hill. "This is the level this program should be at."

Regarding the immense amount of rushing yards, Giampa put it simply.

"We're a physical team and we run the ball hard," he said. "They just want to run the ball, play aggressive defense, hurt people and win football games.

The fact that they're doing that, it's awesome."

On the defensive front, stopping Monty Tech in general, and the Quinn brothers in particular — quarterback Logan and fullback Ryan — played a huge role in the victory.

"They've scored 40 points in almost every game they've played. They have really good players and the Quinn brothers are both unbelievable," said Giampa, and the Minutemen knew that first hand after defeating the Bulldogs back on Sept. 30 in a shootout, 43-36.

Bay Path jumped out to a 7-0 lead early when the defense forced a turnover on downs and the offense needed two plays to score. Following a 72-yard gain by Kaiden Brochu, Casey Gallagher punched the ball into the end zone from 2 yards out. Quarterback Anthony Catino, who doubles as the place kicker, added the extra point.

Another defensive stop turned in by the Minutemen led to a 14-0 lead midway through the second quarter. There, Gallagher added his second touchdown of the game, this one from 3 yards and Catino added another extra point.

Logan Quinn had a 4-yard rushing score next to trim Monty Tech's deficit down to 14-6. But, with the Bulldogs trying to tie the score later in the quarter, Jonathan Nussey picked Logan Quinn off for the lone turnover of the contest. That led to Bay Path points 22 seconds before halftime, with Catino executing

a 2-yard QB keeper into the end zone. Gallagher added the two-point rush and the Minutemen led 22-6.

After a scoreless third quarter, Monty Tech pulled themselves to within 10 points, 22-12, when Ryan Quinn scored from a yard out with 5:43 remaining.

Once again, showing their toughness and desire to become champions, Bay Path needed less than a minute to put another touchdown on the board. Brochu took an end-around to the right and scampered 61 yards to pay dirt, extending the lead to 28-12.

The Bulldogs made things interesting when Logan Quinn scored on a 3-yard touchdown and Ryan Quinn tacked on the two-point rush with 2:32 remaining, but the Minutemen finished it off when Brochu ran for nine yards and a first down in the final minute, hurdling over a defender in the process. With Monty Tech (9-4) out of timeouts, the game was essentially over.

"My coaches said that all we needed was a first down to win and I was willing to put my body out there for my team because I love all these kids, they're like family to me," said Brochu.

Brochu (15 carries, 210 yards) and Gallagher (20 carries, 137 yards) were the workhorses that gained the yards, with linemen like center Georgios Pirperis providing the blocking.

"In the beginning of the season we were a little sloppy and every game we got better and better," said Pirperis. "Those kids were running. They hit the hole really hard."

Giampa was proud of the work both Brochu and Gallagher put in.

"Both of those kids have been animals for us all season," he said. "Brochu is one of the best players in the state. I would challenge anybody to find a better player than him. He just knows football, he's aggressive, he's physical and he's had close to 2,000 yards as a sophomore this year."

In regard to Gallagher, Giampa added, "Gallagher is a Bay Path football player. He's tough, he's hard-working, he's a welder, so he welds all week and then he comes to practice. He's not looking to juke people out, he's looking to run through people."

Bay Path, which finished 8-5, has won the State Vocational Championship for the first time since 2008. They also captured the Central Mass. Division 6 Super Bowl in 2011.

"I'm happy that we're the people to break it. I'm super, super excited. Playing football in December, it's the best feeling," said Pirperis.

"It means everything to the program," added Brochu. "Hopefully we can continue it going on next year and even the years after," added Brochu.

"These kids are champions. For a long time, putting on a Bay Path uni-

form meant you were going to be a winner and a champion, and we kind of got off of that a little before I came here," Giampa, the third-year head coach, concluded.

MOHEGAN BOWL FALL

LEAGUES, WEEK ENDING DEC. 4

Monday Men's Business
Single — Dan Labay 155, Mike Nardone 136, Jason Mahan 130
Series — Dan Labay 383, Mike Nardone 360, Jason Mahan 345
Series over average — Dan Labay +41

Ten Pin City
Single — Division 1: Natalie Wood 180
Division 2: Donna Dziadula 212
Series — Division 1: Joanne LaBonte 480
Division 2: Marissa Mink 523

Tuesday Chet's Social
Single — Joe Pranaitis 122, Dean Gaboury 121, Dave Lamontagne and Ellen Fugatt 119, Courtney Boulay 110, Erin Van Dam 104
Series — Ryan Pelletier 345, Joe Pranaitis 336, Dave Lamontagne 329, Ellen Fugatt 310, Erin Van Dam 305, Barbara Fuentes 285
Series over average — Dean Gaboury +35, Barbara Fuentes +54

Wednesday Women's Industrial
Single — Cheri Demers and Roberta Zacek 103, Tara LaLiberte 102, Wendy Angelo and Barbara McElholm 101
Series — Marie McNally 288, Tara LaLiberte 287, Wendy Angelo 286
Series over average — Dianne Hosegood +32

Summit Tenpin
Single — Division 1: Derek Reynolds 245
Division 2: Joe Harvard 200
Series — Division 1: Nat Wood 629
Division 2: Donny Altiery 501

Thursday Morning Coffee
Single — Donna Lewandowski 103, Flo Jedrzynski and Pat Blake 100
Series — Pat Blake 284, Donna Lewandowski 268, Kathryn Ward 266
Series over average — Linda Carter +41

Thursday Men's Industrial
Single — Joel Grzyb 129, Bo Gauvin 128, Mike Therrien and Ryan Pelletier 125
Series — Ryan Pelletier 343, Bo Gauvin 334, Joel Grzyb 333
Series over average — Peter Gauvin and Paul Urbanowski +43

Thursday Mixed Tenpin
Single — Zach Bosma 212, Todd Gaucher 182, Zach Merchant 173
Series — Frank Bosma 568, Todd Gaucher 490, John Caskey 445

Catholic Charities invites volunteers to assist on Christmas Day

WORCESTER — Catholic Charities Worcester County announced today that they are still accepting volunteers to deliver and serve Christmas dinner to those in need. Whether delivering meals or serving the noontime meal at St. Paul Cathedral, volunteers will have an opportunity to visit with people who would otherwise be alone this Christmas.

For more than 60 years, the Bishop of Worcester has hosted a dinner provided by Catholic Charities Worcester County to assure a meal and fellowship to homebound elders, people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and those who would otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both sit-down dinners at the Cathedral of St. Paul and home-delivered meals are available to those in need on these important holidays. In 2021, the Bishop's Holiday Dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas provided over 6,000 home-delivered meals to those in need by nearly 1,300 volunteers. This past Thanksgiving, Catholic Charities suc-

cessfully delivered 3200 meals with the help of 500 volunteers.

Volunteers are needed at both the sit-down dinner located at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester; and meal delivery from St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School. Sit-down dinner volunteers should arrive between 11:30 a.m. and noon, and can register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/cathedralregistration/>. Meal delivery volunteers begin arriving at 7:30 am to receive the meals and delivery route. Meal delivery volunteers should register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/bishopsdinnervolunteer/>. Meals will be picked up drive-through style at the gym at St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School, entrance on 10 Hammond St., Worcester.

If you would like to request a meal, call 508-798-0191 or go to the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/222854846678170>.

Most Rev. Bishop Robert J. McManus invites anyone and their family to join him at St. Paul's Cathedral for

a Thanksgiving dinner. Catholic Charities provides bus routes to and from St. Paul's Cathedral and will pick up individuals at: Lincoln Village, Booth Apartments, Seabury Heights, Green Hill Towers, Belmont Apartments, Green Island NOC, Greenwood Gardens, Canterbury Towers, Elm Park Towers, Pleasant Towers, Murray Avenue Apartments, Marble Apartments, and Webster Square Towers

Sponsored by: Saint Francis Community Healthcare, Inc., Rockland Trust, BayState Savings Bank, J.J. Bafaro, Inc., Griffin and Company, Price Chopper, Hanover Insurance, The Protector Group Charitable Foundation, The Boston Red Sox, The Camosse Family Foundation, TD Bank, Cornerstone Bank, Worker's Credit Union, Clinton Savings Bank, Grantham Group, Reliant Medical Group, Dauphinais Concrete, Hanover Insurance Group, The Grenon Family Foundation, Berkshire Bank, Digital Federal Credit Union, Cornerstone Bank, Fallon Health, Risk Strategies,

Savers Bank, Southbridge Credit Union, UniBank, Worcester State University, The Eppinger Family Foundation, Atlas Distributing, DiMeo Schneider & Associates, Leominster Credit Union, Eastern Bank, Machado Consulting, Reliant Medical Group, Rollstone Bank & Trust, St. John's High School, Greater Worcester Community Foundation and more to come!

About Catholic Charities Worcester County

Founded in 1951 by the first Bishop of Worcester, Most Reverend John J. Wright, Catholic Charities Worcester County offers 21 programs and services across 62 cities and towns located in Worcester County and adjoining counties. The programs are designed to strengthen vulnerable families and individuals, regardless of racial, ethnic, cultural or religious origins, ability to pay, or mental, physical or developmental challenges. For more information about Catholic Charities Worcester County, please visit www.ccworc.org.

BAY PATH RELEASES HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

Grade 12

High Honors: Sincere Bailey, Benjamin Besaw, Aleana Brayton, Miranda Burden, Julia Canty, Amanda Christianson, Makayla Collins, Samantha DeCell, Cheryl Dolson, Brenna Donohue, Elizabeth Dreitlein, Jayden Flanders, Evan Gelineau, Julius Guillen, Emma Hesselton, Samantha Inangelo, Grace Jones, Matthew Kallgren, Aiden LaFrance, Matthew Marshall, Jaysi Miller, Mackenzie Morrisey, Merissa Murray, Stephen Ngaruiya, Gabrielle Oikle, Sabrina Rodrigues, Wyatt Sadusky, Arminda Simoes, Sawyer Smith, Naomi Soriano, Jacob Thomas, Emily Westwell

Honors: Alyssa Adams, Ayan Ahmada, Lukus Bachand, Haven Banks, Olivia Beaudette, Quinn Beck, Dillon Beckwith, Maya Belmonte, Alexander Besaw, Samuel Boria, Andrew Bottcher, Jon Boyle, Ryan Brown Herraiz, Dennis Brunelle, Connor Burke, Hailey Carlson, Kendra Carter, Matthew Casati, Daniel Chaffee, Isabel Coleman, Grace Comeau, Anthony Comforti, Libby Condrate, CamRon Desrosiers, Ronald Desrosiers, Valerie Diaz, Luke Dillon, Elaina Dunbar, Ty Dupuis, Amanda Englund, Zachary Finizza, Tori Fontaine, Zachary Fritze, Evan Frost, Emma-Abigail Gachagua, Aiden Gelardi, Emily Gelineau, Adrian Gonzalez, Osiris Gonzalez, John Guerin, Barry Hanson, Lauren Hennessy, Rebeka Janusz, Sumner Jordan, Tyler Kasprzycki, Marissa Keefe, Hunter Kelley, Delaney Kirkorian, Nakia L'Ecuyer, Anna L'Esperance, Sydney Lamontagne, James LeProhon, Gianaleze Lopez, Yamilisha Machado, Judly Maignan, Sara Malaney, Michael Mallette, Matthew Marchetti, Dylan McDonald, Rachel McMenemy, Erika Melendez, Yerilian Miranda-Colon, Kyle Moddy, Joelle Peluso, Georgios Purperis, Damon Provençal, Jacob Provencher, Timothy Putnam, Hilary Queirolo, Jenisey Ramos, Emma Rannikko, Katelynn Richard, Matthew Rousakos, Jazlynn Santana, Keya Santerre, Nolan Sharry, Terry Simon, Ronin Simone, Evan St. Cyr, Emma St. Francis, Sean Sweeney, Alexander Tetreault, Brayden Therrien, Walfry Torres-Rodriguez, Jacob Wilga, Jonathan Young, Makenna Zella

Principal's List: Jake Aho, Samuel Audunsson, John Begg, Joshua Carignan, Michael Chansignavong, Lillian Cortis, Noah Cowher, Crystal Curving, Gabriel Espinosa, Nathan Goozey, Isabella Heck, Matthew Hoyt, Tatyanna Johnny, Calista Kalil-Johnson, Madison Lamica, Jason Lavallee, Anthony Leite, Ayden Letourneau, Timothy Maenpaa, Alyssa Masciarelli, Connor McCarthy, Trinity Mercier, Dominic Moiz, Dylan Morrison Iivonen, Jonathan Norman, Tessa Olejniczak, Gabriel Osciak, Trevor Phillips, Patrick Prudhomme, Ariane Ramos, Lucas Soloperto, Gavin Suprenant, Damon Sazafarowicz, Ivy Ta, Sebastian Tomei, Yahil Vega-Cortes, Jackson Wight

Grade 11

High Honors: Sophia Balestracci, Angeliz Beltre Colon, Rachel Carpenter, Charles Chivallatti, Meredith Clark, Petru Cojocar, Kirsten Congdon, Dylan DeJesus, Jenna Gajewski, Ethan Gallant, Lucas Hafner, Kristina Liberty, Sarah Martin, Maggie Mullaly, Peter Nhan, Madison Nolan, Wendy Ramirez, Paige Seymour, Victoria Tinsley, Jack Ugrinow, Timothy Welch, Gabrielle Zopatti

Honors: Alexander Adkins, Juliana Alcivar, Kasey Babkuuskas, Alex Beshiri, Luke Boliver, Caroline Borgeson, Madelynn Bounphasaysonh, Ryan Bray, Samuel Brill, Vincent Brink, Caitlyn Burke, Gabriella Cabrera, Bridge Carrascal, Olivia Carrier, Riley Caruso, Jomar Cintron Perez, Yanieris Colon Vega, Zachary Cournoyer, Kyliegh Czechowski, LeeAnn Dagnese, Daniel Daige, Wyatt Daoust, Emma Davison, Deanna Davis, Emma DeJong, Nyasia

Delgado, Sean Derenas, Marissa Dumas, Noah Dupont, Abigail Egan, Jared Evora, James Ferreira, Robert Fleck IV, Chase Forehand, Jonathan Forget, Joseph Fritze, Giovanni Garcia, Triston Gaudette, Simon Greening, Renee Hallaman, Tristan Hanson, Bridget Hast, Riley Heenan, Alba Henriquez Baez, Isabelle Herholz, James Heywood, Derek Hosley, Carly Impey, Ian James, Stanislaw Janusz, Kady Katz, Matthew Lach, Benjamin LaTour, Anne Lehtola, Emma Levasseur, Albert Lluciano, Patrick Luperchio, Hannah Luukko, Catherine Magnusson, Jadier Maldonado, Tatiana Marin, Matteo Mastrototaro, Shaun McLaughlin, Jenna McLeish, Vincent Messier, Macaylah Miller, Leah Monti, Dorina Muska, Adrianna Navarro, Christian Nguyen, Kayla Nguyen, Alix Norman, Noah Okolita, Nason Omasta, Gianna Pantalone, Peyton Parrettie, Noalani Perez, Dominic Pigeon, Colin Plante, Gabrielle Proulx, Evan Provost, Emily Quental, Jacob Reed, Harrison Renaud, Nayeli Rodriguez, Daniel Russell, Caterina Schiappa, Connor Sentence, Cody Sexton, Sydney Seymour, Madison Sibert, Catherine Sirard, Jacob Sirard, Gerald Splaine, Ashton Stockenberg, Kyle Sylwanovicz, Alysha Szafarowicz, Christopher Verdolino, Landon Walker, Thomas Wilk, Hailey Williamson

Principal's List: Fajr Ahmand, Avarie Beauchamp, Lindsey Berthiaume, Jaden Blake, Jesse Catino, Shane Conti, Karoline Corpes Diaz, Richard Corriveau, Mariselel Cosme, Leilani Daniels, Pedro Augusto Dasilva, Andrw Dip, Jayden-James Dunston, Jibril Erraihani, Madison Fournier, Nicholas Gagne, Devin Gavaletz, Sabien Gonzalez, Rachel Gormley, Kendal Griffin, Samuel Hampton III, Abigail Kibaruu, Madisyn Kozlowski, Cole Mitchell, Meghan O'Shea, Brayden Parente, Ismael Porrata, Logan Powers, Wyatt Rafferty, Colby Richardson, Xavier Rivera, Victoria Roberts, Samantha Russell, Amanda Seidler, Kayliana Sevieri, Brady Staniunas, Lacey Sullivan, Charlotte Worster

Grade 10

High Honors: Kaelen Anderson, Jessica Benoit, Kendall Bond, Amberlynn Brindle, Mikayla Crocker, Philippe Dasilva, Ryan Dawson, Emma Dwyer, Erin Gallant, Noah Goulet, Daniel Harris, Bryce Hutchinson, Molly Isaacs, Kayah Jadcak, Elena Jerez, Samantha Landgren, Nathan Lashua, Eva Lombardi, Isabel McLam, Emma McLaughlin, Jersey Mejias, Maya Oriz, Willis Perreault, Savannah Steiner, Cassandra Tinsley, Matthew Twombly, Manaali Vaidya, Colin Vaillancourt, Vincent Van Dam, Angelica Vega, Alison Welton

Honors: Kortnie Adams, Nicholas Adler, Rima Al-Dulaimi, Yheraldine Baez, Dominic Balducci, Peter Barbale, Claire Beaudreau, Connor Belanger, Briea Bogar, Camden Bousquet, David Boyce, Kaiden Brochu, Noah Brown, Jason Brum, Julia Burgos, Jameson Burke, Johnathon Carter, Matthew Chatterton, Jason Checka, Ryan Christiano, Joshua Chumsae, Makayla Collazo, Olivia Collins, Catherine Comeau, Adison Daoust, Hunter Davis, Jenna Defosse, Madison Dolan, Carly Donohue, Bryce Dube, Gabriella Dube, Jared Dubovick, Braelyn Dunn, Kayla Evans, Jaden Fall, Claire Farrar, Midrose Freeman, Conor Gadois, Corey Gaulin, Reyna Gonzalez, Matthew Guerin, Abigail Haynes, Joshua Hemingway, Valerie Hilner, McKayla Hoel, Ella Houle, Ava Iozzo, Jacob Johnson, Leah Johnson, Jacob Jurado, Dylan Kasprzycki, Sarah Kempskie, Anya Kittredge, Enzo Lagares, Katherine Landgren, Emma Leclair, Logan Letourneau, Avery Lincoln, Benjamin Lombardi, James MacConnell, Lillian Maglich, Joseph Mancini, Ayla McGrail, Jed McManus, Paul McManus, Calle Merchant, Cheyene Monsen, Jacob Morello, Camron Mortell, Robert Mousseau, Ava Murray, Dale Nussey, Morgan O'Malley, Ashlyn Olejniczak, Julia Osche, Alaina Pafume, Dominic Paldino, Bruna Paula, Catherine Pavone,

Raegan Perreault, Isabella Petinelli, Emerson Pitz, Dylan Polinski, Gabriel Prado, Nicholas Reardon, Melany Rebeiro, Noah Recinos Rodgers, Neh Reh, Casey Renaud, Lexiana Resto-Nichols, Kaylie Richard, Joseph Roman, Dominic Schoff, Benjamin Scobie, Ed Simon, Abigayle Simpson, Will Stone, John Sullivan, Aaliyah Szkutak, Kathryn Szretter, Madison Teal, John Tighe, Isabel Tolomio, Nicholas Visci, Adrian Vitkos, Amelia White, Sadie Wilber, Dayzyah Wintzel Neely, Brady Wisniewski

Principal's List: Connor Allain, Minos Anifantis, Connor Barrette, Briana Berrios, Cherise Berthiaume, Joshua Blackwell, Zachary Bogar, Lake Boucher, Trentin Buzzell, Hannah Cavan, Mikayla Clyne, Noah Cournoyer, Travis Cronin, Angelina Degon, Jasai Diaz, Logan Edwards, Ari Erkoc, Aiden Fausek, Hailee Gelinan, Keegan Hall, Skylar Johnson-Mello, Eveen Lotti, Brady Marcoux, Chloe Monahan, Brendan Moran, Blayke Morse, Andy Nieves, Kayleigh Norris, Isabella Pabon, Jordan Packard, Carmen Pantoja, Markshka Piltzecker, Eva Powers, Vince Randall-Ortiz, Nevin Rivera, John Rutter, Corey Scobil, Kalli Sheehan, Nash Sicari-Swinier, Aysel Silva Nieves, Raymond St. Francis, Zoeybeth Streeter-Wornham, Anthony Sullivan, Hailie Tod, Brady Tremblay, Kevin Vazquez-Rivera, Nayelix Vega

Grade 9

High Honors: Addison Aho, Nicholas Albright, Sarah Appiah Kubi, Logan Barriere, Vincent Bedard, David Betancur, Dominic Boyd, Delaney Burke, Dimitri Burt, Samuel Ceppetelli, Marianelys Cintron Perez, Dylan Cordova Del Cid, Emily Corey, Joseph Daige, Abigail Dejong, Myiah DeLaRosa, Treyton Dery, Jocelyn Evans, Jordan Ferreira, Bridgette Gaudreau, Anthony Gonya, Arianna Gonzalez, Sadie Hawley, Kolton Hemenway, Nicholas Jalbert, Miranda Linde, Ava Mastrototaro, Emily McDonald, Felix Menard, Alexis Moddy, Amari Pereira, Kayleigh Ramm, Josiah Torres, Sebastian Vargas, Hunter White, Zaylie Whiteman, Madison Williamson, Olivia Willis, Wyatt Zalneraitis

Honors: Bayleigh Abdella, Helena Adkins, Jacob Archambault, Violet Aucella, Alexander Audunsson, Rhianna Balliet, Trevor Beckwith, Arianna Belanger, Roger Bishop, Isabella Bitar, William Blash, Riley Boucher, Brianna Brink, Lucien Brodeur, Alissa Burlingame, Lily Chartier, Andrew Cloutier, Charles Congdon, Hunter Coombs, Maxton Cournoyer, Jacob Creeron, Ryan Crosby, Valentina Culberson, Brody Cunningham, Lorelie Curboy, Connor Czechowski, Shamone Davidson, Carla Diaz, Max Domineck, Kyrie Doud, Savannah Dubois, Genevieve Dupont, Aedan Ellis-Morris, Matthew Falcigno, Mya Federico, Yandel Feliciano, Anika Ferrantino, Aaron Finneran, Ethan Ford, Jayla Fowler, Rylee Fulmine, Aliyah Gonyea, Jocelynn Gordon, Kylie Greska, Anna Guay, Jacob Hansen, Dylan Herne, Jorelys Ignacio, Natalie Ingles, Joshua Jeffers, Amara Johnson, Tabian Keegan, Zackery Kelleher, Ayden Kennedy, Allison Klar, Marshall Lafond, Joel Landor, Zachary Lamy, Gabrielle Lapan, Elyse Laramie, Phoebe Lawendowski, Nathan Legendre, Michael Lulu, Lucas Lyons, Cullen MacLeod, Philipos Makrodimitras, Jason Maldonado, Cooper Mann, Mystic Marion, Bradley McCarthy, Madeline McDonald-Trimby, Jacqueline McManus, Alexis Messina, Cheyanne Mitchell, Sebastian oniz, Gianna Morelli, Tyson Moriarty, Aydan Nanigian, Chase Newman, Liam Nicoll, Sebastian Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Nocchi, Connor O'Brien, Matthew Obyrycki, Maddox Parente, Adam Phaneuf, Jacob Pratt, Taylor Richard, Vincent Rose, Nathan Rouille Montoya, Jordan Russell, Yasmilette Santana, Sawyer Schultz, Brianne Sentence, Jaxon Sitko, Yandel Torres, Jannyliz Torres Vazquez, Thadaeus Tweneboea, Natalie Vigeant, Harley Wadden, Londyn Walker, Ava Wall, Ethan Wall, Katherine Widebeck,

Tessa Wilber, Trey Wilkin

Principal's List: Destiny Acevedo, Wael Akkad, Gianna Albano, Adriana Alicea, Ryan Berthiaume, Edward Blash, Leah Bouthillier, Dominic Brodeur, Nathan Chenevert, Eliseo Diaz Villegas, Jr., Cody Dombroski, Tayte Drake, Nathan Dube, Christopher Dufresne, Heidi Ebbeling, Caden Edwards, Jake Flynn, Yasmin Garcia Robles, Jacob Henderson, Liam Hesselton, Cassie Kotomski, Nia Laforest, Callie Lambert, Michael Lapointe, Alyssa Lopez, Julius McCarthy, Brandon McGlone, Kyle Mondor, Alexis Nolin, Kelsey Olson, Mairah Pereira, Charles Rollins, Alani Rousseau, Luke Smolski, Wyatt Snay, Ryan Stanhope, Gabriel Turcotte, Reece Verderber, Harrison Wilson, Haylee Zurovski

Country Bank announces promotions

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce recent promotions.

Lisa DiMarzio and Scott Emerson have been promoted to First Vice Presidents. DiMarzio oversees the bank's Compliance and Community Reinvestment Area. She has worked in various positions as a long-tenured team member with 36 years at Country Bank. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Anna Maria College. In addition, she is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies and the American Bankers Association - Stonier Graduate School of Banking, where she also earned a Wharton Leadership Certification.

Scott Emerson has more than 20 years of experience in the technology industry and has been an essential part of the Innovation and Technology team at Country Bank for the last 17 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UMass Amherst and has completed several technology-related certifications throughout the course of his career.

Dianna Lussier, who oversees the Risk Management area, has been promoted to Vice President. Lussier has been with Country Bank for 18 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Worcester State University with a concentration in Finance and Accounting. Dianna is also a graduate of The Massachusetts Bankers New England School for Financial Studies. She is currently attending the American Bankers Association - Stonier Graduate School of Banking and completing her Wharton Leadership Certification.

Jason Bourbeau was promoted to Technology Architecture Officer. He has been with Country Bank for eight years, earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Systems Engineering from Springfield Technical Community College, and is certified as a Cisco Network Professional.

"We are excited to announce these promotions, not just in recognition of these team members' contributions to the bank's success but also because each individual's history with the bank demonstrates the various career paths available in community banking. We are committed to helping each team member identify their career goals and work with them to reach those objectives. Their actions contribute to the bank's overall success, and we're pleased to be able to promote these individuals for their dedication to the organization," said Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President, Chief Culture and Development Officer of Country Bank.

PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021
Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle!
To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021

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.

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 worlds 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.

MARK CHESTER ART EXHIBIT
November 1-November 30
Photographer Mark Chester will hold an exhibit of his works during the month of November.

Open to the public during regular library hours.

Sponsored by the Dudley Cultural Council.

EXHIBIT BY KNIT & CROCHET GROUP
December 1- December 31
Members of our Knit & Crochet Groups will display examples of their work in the Fels Room throughout the month of December. Open to the public during regular library hours.

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES
Friday, December 2 11:30AM-noon
Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.
You must register each week at crawfordlibrary.org
This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Dudley Public Library.



Courtesy

AFGHAN RAFFLE TO BENEFIT FRIENDS OF PEARLE CRAWFORD LIBRARY

Jeanne Samples, president of the Friends of the Library, and Drusilla Carter, Library Director, show off the handmade Afghan which will be raffled off to benefit the Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley. Tickets are available for \$10 at the library through Dec. 22.

YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
Monday, December 5 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 adult.

PEARLE JAM: HOLIDAY SONGS WITH DAVID POLANSKY
Thursday, December 8 6:00PM-7:00PM
The annual Pearle Jam concert series wraps up with returning favorite David Polansky, who will lead a family holiday singalong with favorites old and new.
Free; open to all ages. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES
Friday, December 2 11:30AM-noon
Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.
You must register each week at crawfordlibrary.org

This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Dudley Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

SLIME MAKING
Friday, December 9 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
MAKE A HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE WITH BEMIS FARMS

Friday, December 10 1:30PM-2:30PM
Bemis Farms will offer their popular centerpiece making workshop.
All supplies will be provided.
Space is limited, so registration is required for this free program!

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS
Monday, December 12 10:00AM-11:00AM
It's never too early to spark our little children's interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is during the early years that children start to wonder, ask, think, explore and discover things around them. 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. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones! STEM is Fun! This program is for children ages 3-5.
Limit of 12 children, registration is required each week! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership which is funded by the Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts by the Department of Early Education and Care.

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT
Monday, December 12 6:00PM-7:45PM
Join us for a screening of ELF in the teen room. Popcorn and drinks provided!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

DEB'S SING AND SWING
Thursday, December 15 10:30AM-11:15AM
This is an interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

BAD MOVIE OF THE MONTH: SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS
Thursday, December 15 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 “Santa Claus Conquers the Martians” (1964). There are all kinds of holiday classics. And then there's Santa Claus being kidnapped by the Martians and battling his way free to save Christmas.

Free. Popcorn and bottled water provided.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES FOR LITTLES

Friday, December 16 11:30AM-noon
Children, ages 6 months up to 24 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! “Wiggles & Giggles” fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.

You must register each week at crawfordlibrary.org

This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Dudley Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING FOR KIDS

Saturday, December 17 Multiple sessions

Come and make and decorate your own gingerbread house using graham crackers and royal icing. Ideal for families and children up to 12.

Space is limited so registration is required

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

GIFT WRAPPING BEE

Monday, December 19th and Thursday, December 22nd 10:00AM-8:00PM

No Kids Allowed! Come and wrap those presents where prying eyes can't see them. We will have scissors, tape, and a limited amount of paper. Bring your own supplies and wrap away!

CHRISTMAS STORY TIME

Wednesday, December 21 3:45PM-4:30PM
Join Miss Lida for a special afternoon Christmas story time! We'll read stories, sing songs, and do a craft.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

AFTERNOON CHILDREN'S MOVIE

Wednesday, December 28 1:00PM-3:00PM
Join us for a free screening of a fun movie for kids – title to be determined. Free popcorn provided.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

DROP IN CHILDRENS CRAFTING

Thursday, December 29 1:00PM-4:00PM
Drop in and create something from your imagination using a variety of craft supplies from Miss Lida's stash.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Adult Programming
FRIENDS FEATURED AUTHOR BOOK SALE – Ongoing

Need a holiday escape? The work of these masters of suspense will do the trick. Their novels highlight realistic, smart aleck dialogue; laser sharp characters and thriller plots! Authors featured in December: Eric Lustbader, Ed McBain, James Patterson, John Sanford. Fill a grocery bag for \$3.00!

YOGA WITH JULIE – December 10th and 17th at 10:00AM

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 move-

ment 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, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

FALL CONCERT SERIES: DAN GABLE AND THE MOON MAIDS – December 8th 6:30-8:00PM

The music of the 1940s defined the entire era, and the sounds of the Big Bands and close harmony vocal groups dominated the air waves, dance halls, and record grooves. Now, that legendary sound is alive again with: THE MOON MAIDS, authentic 4-piece vocal group.

DUSTIN PARI – GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST – December 15th 6:30-8:00PM

In this frightful, festive, and fun presentation Dustin Pari takes the cobwebs off of a classic tradition, the Victorian Christmas Ghost Story. Not only does he explain the history of this often-forgotten practice, but he shares a few timeless tales and even some real-life stories of holiday visits from the Ghosts of Christmas Past

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – December 19th at 6:30PM

The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group will be meeting in person this month! The group meets at 6:30 pm and the meeting will take place in the Library's Community Room. New members are always welcome! Next month's book discussion will be on Monday, November 21st. The group will be discussing Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmars.org for inquiries.

RICHARD DONOHUE-TOWN OF IRON TOYS January 19th at 6:30PM

Join Richard Franklin Donohue, Historian of the Town of Cromwell, as he demonstrates his collection of mechanical banks and explains their history and the amusing tales that inspired their design. Witness Boss Tweed take kickbacks, one coin at a time. See William Tell shoot an apple from the top of his son's head with a penny! Watch a gentlemanly game of 1880s Baseball from the third base line and help to feed a menagerie of ani-

mals, from frogs to bulldogs.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30PM

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 3:30-4:30PM

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@cwmars.org for more details.

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES (REGISTRATION REQUIRED) – Wednesday Nov. 4th, 18th, Dec. 2nd, 9th, and 16th 10-11AM

Come sing, dance, and make music with Laine Hanlon! Geared for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers, but all ages welcome! Go to our website to register!

STEM BEGINNINGS PRE-K CLASS – Wednesdays in December, December 7th

14th, 21st, and 28th – 10AM

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. Each day will be a fun, learning experience for your little ones!

STEM THURSDAYS – POLYGON STRUCTURE BUILDING – December 8th 3:30-4:30PM

Show us how tall you can build a 3-D polygon structure using marshmallows and toothpicks!

STEM THURSDAY- MAKE YOUR OWN BOUNCY BALL— December 22nd 3:30-4:30PM

Science is bouncy! Mix some simple ingredients together to make your very own bouncy ball.

PLAYFUL ENGINEERS – TRAVELING MAKER SPACE – December 29th 3:30-4:30PM

In these hands-on, STEM focused workshops, participants design, build, test, and play with Rube Goldberg Machines, paper constructions, domino towers, exploding popsicle-stick snakes, and other awesome engineering explorations.

Growing easy-care aloe vera, nature's burn ointment

Grow your own burn ointment by adding Aloe vera to your indoor plant collection. This succulent has been used for centuries to treat superficial burns, cuts, sunburns, and more.

The gel inside the leaves is the medicinal part of the plant. Just cut away the outer part of the leaf and use just the gel on the problem areas. Make sure to remove the latex plant sap located between the outer layer (skin) of the leaf and the gel that can cause skin irritation. It is always best to test a small area of your skin first.

You may have read about Aloe vera being used in beverages and desserts. Properly prepare the aloe before consuming. Make sure to remove the latex and use only the gel to avoid cramps, diarrhea, and stomach upset. Keep Aloe vera plants out of the reach of children, cats, and dogs.

Plant Aloe vera in a container with drainage holes. Consider using a clay pot that allows the soil to thoroughly dry between watering and prevent larger often top-heavy plants from tipping over. Use a pot as wide as it is deep whenever possible to accommodate the spreading nature of this plant.

Cover the drainage hole with a coffee filter or piece of paper towel. This prevents the potting mix from leaking out the drainage holes after planting. Use a well-drained cacti and succulent potting mix.

Grow this plant in a sunny window along with your other cacti and succu-

lents. South and unobstructed east or west-facing windows are usually the best. Set it under artificial lights if a brightly lit location is not available.

Water thoroughly whenever the top third of the soil is dry. Avoid applying water over the center of the plant where it can collect between the leaves and lead to rot. Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer.

Prevent early death of your plant by avoiding waterlogged soil. Watering too often or allowing the pot to sit in excess water can lead to root rot and the death of the plant. You will need to water less often in winter when days are shorter; light intensity is lower and plant growth is limited.

Keep plants away from cold drafts and temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit that can damage the plants. Northern gardeners may need to move the plants back a bit from the window in winter as outside temperatures drop.

Clean leaves occasionally with a damp rag. This removes any dust that may collect on the leaves and helps reduce the risk of insect pests such as mealy bugs and aphids. These plants are sensitive to many chemicals so check the label and test a leaf before treating the whole plant if additional treatment is needed.

Watch for small plants to form at the base of the original plant. You can use these offsets, often called plantlets



Melinda Myers

Aloe vera plants grow best in sunny windows away from cold drafts.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

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.

or pups, to start new plants to grow or share with others. Use a sharp knife to separate the small plants, roots and all, from the parent plant. Repot the offsets in small containers just an inch or two larger than the remaining root system.

Enjoy the beauty and medicinal benefits of this easy-care plant. Then consider gifting a few to your favorite gardeners and cooks.

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<p>WEBSTER - 18 THIRD STREET 2 Family - Needs work! 1st Flr has 4 Rooms - 2 Bedrooms. 2nd & 3rd Flr - 6 Rooms, 2 Bedrooms 2nd Flr & 2 Bedrooms on 3rd Flr! 32,560 +/- sq. ft. .75 Acre - Property being sold "As-is". \$259,000.</p> <p>CLOSING SOON</p>		<p>WEBSTER LAKE - PATTISON RD LAND - Terrific opportunity 14,798 Sq. Ft. of LAND. CONSERVATION APPROVAL for proposed Building, MASS DEP# 313-1167. 248 +/- Road Frontage, 279 +/- Water Frontage. Town Water & Sewer accessible. \$250,000.</p>	<p>THOMPSON - 266 POMPEO ROAD Unique, spacious raised ranch, TRI-LEVEL on 1.96 ACRES! 11 spacious rooms! 2800 +/- Sf above grade living area. 3 bedrooms & 2 baths. Primary Bedroom Suite w/Hardwoods, full bath, walk-in closet & Private exterior balcony! Upgraded cherry cabinets, granite countertops, SS Appliances, so much more! A MUST SEE! NEW PRICE \$525,000.</p>
<p>WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE Land only 21757 +/- sf. w/foundation, Town Water & Sewer, City Gas in street \$140,000. Option 1 - Custom Build your HOME! Option 2 - Build a 3 Family! Option 3 - Build a 2 Family!</p>	<p>WEBSTER - NEW ENGLAND COMMONS SORRY, SOLD! 3 Concord Court UNIT B ADULT 55+ COMMUNITY! Rare resale opportunity! 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, & 1,367 sq/ft of living space! Hardwood floors. Spacious cabinet packed kitchen w/ peninsula! Master bedroom w/tray ceiling, large unfinished basement! Front farmers porch! Attached garage. Community center that is free to use for large family gatherings! \$329,900.</p>	<p>DUDLEY - 18 WARSAW AVE SORRY, SOLD! 3 bedroom ranch has gleaming hardwood floors, Corian countertops, 3 season porch. Many updates! New shingle roof, Buderus boiler, Roth Tank + New Hot Water Heater. Central Air! Heated lower level. \$279,900.</p>	<p>PUTNAM - 96 ELVIRA HGTS ON DEPOSIT Exceptional opportunity! Conveniently located 5 room, 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch! Downsized? Must see! Hardwoods, Applianced dine-in kitchen w/skylight! Fireplaced living rm. Bay window! Private bath! whirlpool tub! Central-air! Two car garage! \$287,900</p>

LAND: WEBSTER/OXFORD/PUTNAM
WEBSTER LAKE LAND - 22 SOUTH POINT RD Architectural Plans included! **\$315,000.**
OXFORD - LAND - General Business Zoned! Marijuana OVERLAY DISTRICT! LAND with 4,095 SF Metal Building! 124 SOUTHBRIDGE RD (RTE 20). Town Sewer Project Plans are Approved. 22,884 sq. ft. Level Lot. 140 ft of road frontage. **EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES! \$795,000.**
OXFORD - LAND - RTE 20 General Business Zoned! Marijuana OVERLAY DISTRICT! Vacant LAND, Level & cleared. 39.549 SF **\$419,000.**
PUTNAM - LAND Zoned General Business .29 acre 103' frontage. Water, Sewer, & city gas available. 2 street entrances. **\$125,000**
OXFORD - 2 Merriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton. **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000**

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<p>Webster Lake 13 Loveland Rd Eastern Exposure & Amazing Sunrises! Beautiful shoreline, 3 bedroom Cape features eat in kitchen w/island, fireplace living & dining room. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms with 1 1/2 bath! \$785,000</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p>	<p>Webster Lake - 27 South Point Road OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage. \$811,000.</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p>	<p>Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road 1st Time Offered! Impeccable Home! 6 Room, 3 bedroom 2-1/2 Baths. Master bedroom, Master Bath! Level Lot to the Shoreline. Nicely Landscaped! \$705,000</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p>
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Courtesy

DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SALUTES LOCAL VETERANS

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, Mrs. Samantha Gatsogiannis, fifth grade teacher at Dudley Middle School, invited relatives of her students who had served in the military to join the children for a learning and fun event just before Veterans Day. Stephen Rogerson, Veterans Services Officer for the Town of Dudley was given a partner for the day named Gwyneth Boudreau. The Commander of the VFW of Webster/Dudley, Richard Norton, joined the activities with his granddaughter, Ariana Norton. All of the veterans who participated in the day enjoyed a wonderful lunch and a spirited and enthralling discussion with the children who were very interested in hearing the stories of their relatives exploits in the service. Definitely, a great time was had by everyone. Pictured on the left are Stephen Rogerson and Gwyneth Boudreau, and on the right, Richard Norton, Ariana Norton, Gwyneth Boudreau.

Dudley Grange spotlights domestic violence Dec. 13

DUDLEY – The holiday season should be a time of hope and laughter. But for some in our community, it's a time of danger and fear, because they're caught in abusive relationships.

This month, the Dudley Grange will be shining a light on that issue. Outreach Coordinator Kristina Cates of New Hope will provide "Domestic Violence 101," a look at the "red flags" to look for, different types of abuse, the cycle of violence, and what we can do to help people in such situations.

"So many parts of abuse are barriers in themselves" to getting out, because the "tendency is to freeze," she said. "The math [of escape] becomes even harder when children are involved."

That's why people caught in the constant cycle of tensions and explosions that characterize abusive relationships need healthy, educated advocates they can turn to. We invite you to become one.

The Grange meets at Dudley Senior Center, first floor of Town Hall, on Tuesday, Dec 13 at 7 p.m. This presentation is open to the public, free, and will feature snacks and beverages.

Also, if you have any warm winter wear – hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. – to donate, the Grange is collecting a "warming tree" for New Hope's survivors of domestic violence, so please bring them with you.

UCC to host Blue Christmas service

WEBSTER — Union Church of Christ, Federated will host a Blue Christmas service Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. Christmas can be a challenging time. We'd like to help.

The church is located at 4 Church St., Webster.

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REAL ESTATE

DCRSD
continued from page A1

grams in place Bergeron said he hopes to see the special education department continue to grow and admitted there are several areas where they can work to improve. Among those are transportation admitting that he has heard the complaints from several parents. Caseload and resource allocation, data cleanup, flexibility, professional and support program development, and continued compliance monitoring were all areas Bergeron told school officials he'd like to continue to work and build on in the months and years to come.

OXFORD
continued from page A1

Kelley said there have been 107 new students at Chaffee, 53 at Barton, 33 at the middle school and 25 at the high school. By contrast, Oxford lost 33 to Bay Path, 16 moved out of state, 13 decided to homeschool, 8 went to private schools, 7 became online students, 4 graduated over the summer, 3 choiced out, and 1 aged out by turning 22.

Regarding homeschool, she said that's "somewhat of a trend" but seems to be "holding pretty steady." Forbes agreed, noting, "It's interesting how kids think they want it, then they don't, or parents think they want it." Cornaccioli predicted Oxford will see 20-25 of those homeschoolers return to the public schools in the next couple years, noting many left due to covid issues. To Palmina Griffin, Kelley's report sparked concern about the fact some

grades got 13-14 new kids, which "can really change the dynamic of class sizes." Typically, the administration has tried to address that by shifting teachers around. Citing budget constraints, she said that means some grades violate the board's policy guidelines, and "performance could be better maybe if class sizes were smaller." Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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SLATER
continued from page A1

States. A visit to the Samuel Slater Experience is designed to be educational and entertaining. It encourages visitors to experience history in a new, immersive way as they climb aboard the ship that carried Samuel Slater to America, and ride the trolley through downtown Webster a century later.

The museum covers two time periods: from the post-Revolutionary era into the early 1800s, and the first decades of the 20th Century. Samuel Slater traveled from England to America in 1789 with Britain's textile industry secrets in his

head (hence he's known in England as Slater the Traitor). He successfully designed the country's first cotton-spinning jenny, eventually owned thirteen spinning mills, developed tenant farms and company towns around his textile mills, all leading President Andrew Jackson to proclaim him as the "Father of the American Industrial Revolution."

By the early 1900s, rural New England was dotted with thriving mill towns resulting from industrialization. One of these was Webster, Massachusetts, where Samuel Slater owned and operated six cotton and woolen mills. This small Central Massachusetts town (population approx. 11,000) became a prime vacation destination for tourists from as far away as New York City. The Samuel

Slater Experience recreates downtown, with a replica of Main Street as it was circa 1915, complete with a movie theater, drug store, hotel, and a trolley car.

Samuel Slater Experience is located in the former National Guard Webster Armory at 31 Ray St., Webster, Massachusetts, and open to the public year-round, Fridays & Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m. Last admission daily is 3 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults; \$10 for seniors (over 60) and \$7 for students (five to 17). Children four and under are admitted free. For more information and tickets, visit samuelslaterexperience.org.



Courtesy

BAY PATH CELEBRATES ATHLETIC SUCCESS AND SCHOOL PRIDE

Prior to the Thanksgiving break, Bay Path held a school-wide pep rally to recognize and celebrate the success of its athletic teams. Athletic team senior captains were introduced by their coaches, and the school's cheerleading team performed various routines for the crowd. The Bay Path team reached the state vocational schools championship game this year, winning the game against Monty Tech. Here, organizer of the pep rally, Athletic Director Matt Rickson, is shown leading the school in a football chant.

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