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Friday, January 10, 2025



Courtesy

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COLLECTS COATS FOR KIDS

Knights of Columbus, Webster/ Dudley Council #228 recently donated 24 new boys and girls winter coats to the Webster/Dudley Boys & Girls Club. This Council has been donating winter coats to the club for distribution to kids in need for several years as a part of the K of C National Coats for Kids Program. The Council presented the coats to Assistant Director, Kristin Mayotte by PGK, Paul Perry and Council # 228 treasurer, Mike Dostoler. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's organization in the world. For information concerning membership please call Paul Perry at 508-943-9345 or join online at KofC.org.

Dudley provides update on Municipal Aggregate Energy Plan

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — As Dudley enters 2025, one of the first big updates of the new year sees the town moving closer to embracing a Municipal Aggregate Energy Plan allowing Dudley residents the opportunity to purchase energy at a predetermined price for the duration of a partnership with a third-party supplier.

The state defines municipal aggregation as "the process by which a municipality purchases electricity in bulk from a competitive supplier." Dudley has partnered with the Colonial Power Group, a consulting firm that has worked with numerous other communities on municipal aggregation initiative, to lead the town's search for an energy partner. During the Board of Selectmen's Dec. 30 meeting, representatives of the group provided a long-awaited update on the process indicating that the first months of 2025 will be significant to completing the process.

The state issued an approval order for Dudley's municipal aggregation in October, allowing the town and Colonial Power Group to begin the process of considering partners for the plan. Mark Cappadona, President and Director of Colonial Power Group, explained that this approval now allows Dudley to procure energy on behalf of its basic service customers giving them an option outside of Eversource and other third-party suppliers with a secured rate through the

"The town is going to bring a choice that did not exist in the marketplace before. If you're on basic service you're going to have a choice put in front of you.

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A11**

Bay Path LPN named **Champion of Care**



AUBURN — Tasheena Laliberte, LPN at Life Care Center of Auburn, was named Champion of Care. From the Life Care Center's Web site (https://lcca.com/), "Life Care Centers of America's Whatever it Takes Champions program honors associates who go beyond their job descriptions in caring for our patients, residents, and their families." Tasheena's inspiring story certainly proves she is a Champion of Care!

According to lcca.com, "a nurse can do their job and do it well, but it takes a special kind of nurse to inspire a resident to write a passionate note praising their service and care. Tasheena is described as

Turn To LALIBERTE page A10

Oxford School Committee revisits working with town BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT THO COLORED THO COLORED

OXFORD - Much of the last, short School Committee meeting of 2025 was taken up by discussion of ongoing

the selectmen and town agencies.

Chair Corey noted Burke he, Superintendent Mike Lucas, Town Manager Jen Callahan and others met Dec. 4 over various issues

One looked at the concern board's about using schools for elections when students are in the building. That happens for special elections, but the schools schedule days off for the regular ones. He said the police and state election officials determined using the schools was "the only option" Oxford has, so police agreed to assign a second officer to the polls if

school is in session. Regarding propmaintenance erty costs, Burke said the district and DPW started talking about that, but still need to clarify "what constitutes maintenance and repairs," and which will be townpaid vs school-paid.

He noted that discus-

sion will continue at

budget

February's

Palmina Griffin expressed concern that doing so then was close to the district's budget deadline, and getting things done could be subject to meetings conflicting with weather. To her, it's "postponing something that could be done earlier," but Burke noted it's also an issue of needing to get state budget

numbers first. David Cornacchioli noted the meeting was Dec. 4, but the board hadn't yet heard more details. Specifically, he objected to the idea that the town says it's facing decreased revenues "without any evidence to back [it].

Burke said the manager plans to provide that data in February. She also wants to create an education facilities study committee soon which will have seats for Lucas and a School Committee representative, he added.

Regarding French River Educational Collaborative's \$36,000-a-year payments, Burke said the selectmen recent-

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A10**

Planning Board tables museum project

WEBSTER — Just before the year turned over to 2025, the Planning Board delayed a decision on the ongoing proposal to expand parking and do other things at the Samuel Slater Experience, while approving a parking proj-ect and multifamily building off Thompson Road.

The board took town engineer Chuck Eaton's advice on a few issues. One of the most notable was the fact he observed the proposed stormwater system needed "a lot more scrutiny" over the chance that the old building has unidentified floor drains beyond the outflows they know about. He said he wants them to evaluate its discharge into the town's system and nearby soil, include a cross-section of the retaining wall between the lot and the neighboring softball field, and add various 'small technical things" to the plans.

Project Engineer Jacob Lemieux said he'd already handled some of Eaton's other concerns. One looked at "light-bleed on to the Polish Club property,' which he argued would "be almost entirely lost" in a nearby street-light at night and would only hit a windowless wall anyway. He also noted he'd make the various plan changes Eaton sought.
The Thompson Road parking

proposal was to allow the marina at #300R to use 271 commerical spaces, provided they met several conditions. Among those were getting a "positive peer review," fil-ing the stormwater collection system design with the Registry of Deeds, shifting a fence, updating various parts of the plan within 45 days, and prohibiting "Class A trucks" from using the lot, among other things.

In this case, the proposal has already gone to court once (it was dismissed), and Chair Paul LaFramboise noted that could happen again. The board made a point of clearly stating various waivers and findings with that in

The nearby building at 310 Thompson saw a lot less detailed discussion when the board closed its public hearing. It will issue a decision at the Jan. 27 meeting.

After the hearings, Morgan briefly summarized the legal case surrounding Thompson Shanti Village, a subdivision whose proposed access would be off Brian Avenue in Webster. That project was approved by the Thompson Planning Board, but sent back to a new public hearing by the court after Webster appealed on the grounds that Thompson did not give Webster and abutters adequate notice.

She noted the most recent public hearing notice also did that, so Webster's taking it back to court, and "the neighbors in Webster are pleased the town is taking some action.'

"All of our concerns about wear and tear" on local roads, public safety, impact to traffic, and the effect of logging were "basically ignored," Morgan said. She noted Webster's "position is [the developer has] opportunity of access through Thompson and [they're] choosing not to use it." The deed does allow the landowner access via Brian Ave, but only for "individual use," not development, she

She noted Webster installed jersey barriers on its side of the Brian Avenue cul de sac, at the state line, with the fire department determining they're far enough apart to allow emergency vehicle passage, although the Connecticut fire marshal is disputing that. Morgan said she expects the two agencies to reach an agreement over that.

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



Congratulations to the following students who were selected as December Students of the Month at St. Joseph School: Pre-K 3-year-old Program: Fatima Sofia Garcia; Pre-K 4-year-old Program: Maeve Haynes; Kindergarten: Dominik Kicilinski; Grade 1: Hannah Benes; Grade 2: Maggie Belanger; Grade 3: Tamara Giteru; Grade 4: Sophia Bengtson; Grade 5: Severyn Kuznecki; Grade 6: Lukas Stock; Grade 7: Ivonka Warnajtys; Grade 8: Luke Surowaniec, Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

Bay Path LPN promoted to Unit Manager





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Edgar- 8 Months

Meet Edgar, the ultimate good boy who's ready to snuggle his way into your heart!
Edgar is a gentle and sweet soul who absolutely thrives in the company of other dogs. He's always happy to share his toys, his space, and his heart, making him a wonderful companion for a household with other pups. He loves zooming around with his dog friends and is food-motivated, which makes him eager to learn. Edgar has already mastered "sit" and is working hard on "come." He's incredibly gentle and adores

Since arriving in New England from down south, Edgar has embraced the changing seasons to the fullest from rolling in leaves to cozying up in his soft, gorgeous coat. And what a coat it is - the softest fur, perfect for snuggling up this winter!

This curious pup loves exploring walking trails, travels well in the car, and has a big, affectionate heart. He's even enjoyed fun field trips, but what he'd love most is one final field trip - straight to his forever home! As a young pup, Edgar has spent too of his short life in the shelter and truly deserves a family to call his own If you're looking for a dog who's equal parts playful, cuddly, and loving, Edgar might just be the perfect fit! Apply today and meet this sweet soul- he can't wait to start his next adventure with you!

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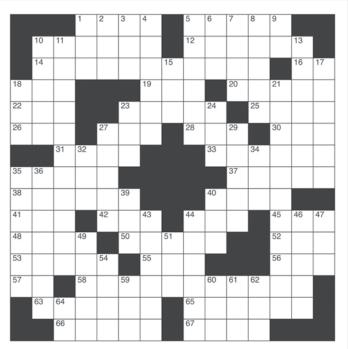
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and , critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 58. One that feeds on bugs 63. Tooth issue

53. Scandinavian surname

56. Doctor of Education

52. New Zealand mountain parrot

37. Clarified butters

40. Condemn

41. __ juris

44. Prohibit

50. 5 iron

45. Swiss river

48. Greek war god

55. Follows sigma

57. Spanish be

One who witnesses

- 65. Get into
- 66. Lumps of clay
- 67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer 5. Inspire with love 6. Ballplayers' accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword 11. Hostilities 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass

- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and
- before sunset 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes 47. Cool!
- 49. Shrill, wailing sound 51. A baglike structure in a plant

O N A

- or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound 61. Videocassette recorder 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 - 64. It cools a home

NEBD

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Courtesy

Evalyne Njoroge with her family.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Evalyne Njoroge, LPN of Southbridge is the Unit Manager at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Health Care Center southbridgerehab.com.

Njoroge plays a key role in managing the daily activities and tasks of the unit. She organizes and directs all the operations of the unit including evaluation of the staff and overseeing training programs. Njoroge is a self-described kind and sympathetic LPN who is well-versed in anatomy & physiology, nursing principles, and medical terminologies. She demonstrates calmness when managing emergency situations. Njoroge has a record of successfully managing a demanding workload that involves reporting, charting, and observation while offering treatment to many patients.

Njoroge graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

with the class of 2022. While at Bay Path, Nioroge obtained her certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop The Bleed. She was a member of the UNICEF Club and actively participated in many volunteer activities such as the Blood Pressure Clinic at the Charlton Senior Center, the Blood Pressure & FSBS Clinic at the Shepherd Hill Craft Fair, and the Vision, Hearing & BMI Screening at the Charlton Middle School. She was a District Champion at the SkillsUSA First Aid/CPR receiving a Silver Medal and a competitor for the SkillsUSA State Conference. Njoroge participated in the Walk for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Awareness and an attendee at the COVID-19 Contact Tracing at Johns Hopkins University. She was the

class liaison for Walmart giving and Big Y donations for special projects at the academy.

Njoroge serves as a role model for compassion, service, giving back, and striving to make the world a better place and has made important contributions to the Bay Path community and remains connected with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

Before joining Southbridge Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Njoroge was with Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center. She reflects on her nursing journey at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy dedicates her success to her family, her husband Simon Kamau and their children Jayden and Kevin Njoroge. Photo shows Evalyne and her family on a recent trip to Kenya.



Continuing an annual tradition, Dudley Woman's Club members donated more than 600 food items valued at \$1,844 to assemble 30 Holiday Gift Baskets for local veterans, who needed a bit of help stocking the pantry and putting a holiday meal on the table. The club delivered the 30 baskets to Webster-Dudley Veteran's Agent Stephen P. Rogerson, who arranged delivery to those in need. The DWC membership of more than 65 women of various ages and backgrounds from Dudley, Webster, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge, Millbury and several Northern Connecticut towns work together to uplift and support our communities. For more information, please visit www.dudleywomansclub.org.

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Health screening by Bay Path Nursing students at Shepherd Hill

DUDLEY—Dr. Adelina Hannah Lombardo, RN, Healy of Dudley led a group of grateful Bay Path Practical Nursing students who volunteered for health screening to assist the school nurses at the Shepherd Regional High School. The team included student nurse volunteers Elizabeth Achayo of Worcester, Maria de Amorim Hentschke of Worcester, Loise Ngigi of South Grafton, and Grant Peterson of Millbury. Photo shows Dr. Healy with Loise Ngigi.

The health screenings were for height, weight, vision, and hearing. The health screenings for the 10th graders were coordinated by school nurse

Shepherd Hill Regional High School Nurse and Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. In a statement, Lombardo stated, "thank you very much for your assistance and volunteering. I am excited to have you helping and learning as we

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy adjunct faculty, Dr. Healy who supervised the student volunteers stated, "all the Practical Nursing student volunteers did a great job!"

The experience at the Health Screening gives the nursing students the opportunity to work hand in hand with the school nurses.

"This is the first time that our Practical Nursing students volunteered with a school where a graduate is the school nurse. I am grateful for school nurse and graduate of the PN Class of 2015, Hannah Lombardo, RN, for reaching out to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and extending the invitation to allow our Practical Nursing students to participate with the health screen-

ing," said Bolandrina. "We recognize importance of vice-learning and are grateful to get involved outside the classroom to better prepare our practical nursing students," added Bolandrina.

In other service-learning activities, the practical nursing students assist the healthcare team, assess, give out COVID-19 vaccines, monitor for untoward reactions, and complete tasks efficiently, all under the supervision of qualified PN faculty. The training for the future nursing workforce in the Bay Path community and across the region allows practical nursing students to respond to emergencies and assist in community events.

Anna Durgin joins Dudley Board of Health



Anna Durgin is presented to the Board of Selectmen by Board of Health Chair Roberta Johnson. Durgin was chosen to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Monica Kaufman in November.

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health has a new member with Dr. Anna Chojnacki Durgin officially added to the board in December.

Durgin was selected following the resignation of Monica Freund Kaufman who was elected in June but moved out of state and vacated her position on Nov. 27. The remaining board members, Heather Arnold and Roberta Johnson, both voted to accept Durgin as their newest member with

Durgin's brings decades of experience in veterinary medicine to the board. She currently serves as Medical Director of Companion Veterinary Health Center in Dayville, Connecticut. During her election campaign in 2024 she touted her experience with zoonotic diseases. OSHA guidelines. and public health issues. Durgin placed second to Kaufman in a four-person contest during the 2024 annual town election. Her experience combined with her election success made her the easy choice for the Board of Health to fill out their

"We felt that she was the one that had the next highest votes, so we want to push her name through," Board of Health member Roberta Johnson told selectmen in December.

Selectman Steve Sullivan agreed with the recommendation noting the support Durgin received in the election.

"Dr. Durgin has been a candidate before. She was the second highest vote-getter. It was a good campaign, a lot of votes. I echo the chairperson of the Board of Health; we welcome you.'

Durgin said she is looking forward to the opportunity to serve and to bring her expertise to Dudley to help the Board of Health in their mis-

"I'm excited about it. I'm looking forward to working with everyone and I'm just excited to get going. It'll be fun," she said.

Durgin's term will expire on June 16, the date of the next municipal election where she will need to run for a full term on the board.

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Local Author Talk

The Oxford Masonic Lodge is hosting a talk by Dr. Robert Racicot entitled "Some Legends of Oxford" on January 23rd at 7pm at the Masonic Lodge on 22 Mt. Pleasant St. Oxford. Dr. Racicot is the author of The Legend of Carbuncle Pond and The Haunting of the Oxford Library. Books will be available for sale and be signed by the author.



About The Author

Robert James Racicot grew up in Oxford, MA where his Robert Racicot childhood was full of adventures and legends from the

outdoor paradise surrounding his neighborhood. After earning his PhD in Chemistry and a 28-year career in the Air Force, he returned to his hometown to discover his true passion for storytelling through creative writing. In his books, "The Legend of Carbuncle Pond" and "The Haunting of the Oxford Library", he expands on the history of Oxford, MA and the legends that live on. He is currently working on the Legend of the Oxford Pirate and The Legend of Devil's Den. He currently lives in Oxford, MA with his wife, Diane, and has 3 children and 1 grandchild!

Sheriff's Office toy drive benefits local families



Members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office recently held a toy drive to help brighten the holiday season for local families.

REGION — Several local families and organizations benefited from the annual toy drive run by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

Staff members from the Sheriff's Office combined to collect massive piles of toys for families in need throughout the area.

In recent weeks, toys were delivered to the following local organizations: Net of Compassion, El Buen Samaritano Food Program, Inc., Planting The Seed Foundation, and Safe Exit Initiative-SEI.

"A big thank-you to all of the staff members who contributed and made a dif-

ference in the lives of others," read a statement released by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

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JOIN OUR MAILING

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

Adult Programming

YOGA - Saturdays at 9:30 AM

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

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP-January 13th at 6:30 PM

We're reading Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by James Ford this month. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to jfontaine@ cwmars.org for inquiries.

THE NEST: Business Plan Basics – January 13th 7:00-8:00PM

This workshop presented by the Center for Women & Enterprise provides an overview of writing a business plan. Topics include: Why you need to write a business plan, research and writing tips, and resources for help and support. Registration Required

YOUR NOURISH NERVES with Christine Leo - January 16th 6:00-

Chase away the made herbal teas and refreshing facial steams to heal your body and mind. Christine's workshop teaches herbs for stress relief and liver

support. Participants will create a facial steam, make tea bags, and sample a healing tea blend. Registration required; opens on January 2nd.

PUZZLE NIGHT – January 21st 6:00-7:30PM

Join us for a fun puzzle night as we tackle a 3,000 piece puzzle together.

PAINT NIGHT with Jean Walker – January 23rd 6:00

Join Jean Walker as she teaches a paint and decoupage night. Registration required; opens January 9th.

COMPUTER BASICS: Unclutter Your Email -January 30th 5:30-6:30PM

Is your inbox full of spam emails? Do you have trouble finding important emails when you need them? Join Assistant Director Evan Hale and Adult Services Librarian Jess Fontaine to learn how to make your email inbox more manageable.

THE NEST: Steps to Start Your Small Business - January 30th 6:00-8:00PM

This is for those starting or planning to start a business. You'll get ideas developing business vision, consider legal structures, and learn more about choosing a name, entity and obtaining necessary EIN, licenses, permits, and insurance. You'll leave with a clear understanding of resources and next steps to kickstart your business. Presented by the Center for Women & Enterprise. Registration required.

Children's and Young **Adult Programming**

Scavenger Hunt---- All Month Long

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

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT--- All month long

Take and Make craft kids are available for pick up upstairs in the Children's Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to one per patron.

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

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! In January we're using Perler Beads!

ME AND MY MINI -January 9th 10:00AM

A creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props and a story.

TEEN VIDEO GAME -January 9th 3:00PM

Teens are invited to play games on our Nintendo Switch!

BEGINNER ORIGAMI – January 10th 3:45PM

Come explore the art of origami making! A creative and meditative craft. Open to kids of all

T O D D L E R PLAYTIME--- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

SENSORY STORYTIME - FRIDAYS at 10:00AM

Come join us for a fun filled Storytime as we read together and then let our imaginations fly through different sensory bin activities. Each week will offer a different theme exploration related to the books and bins provided. Perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

SNOW MUCH FUN -Saturdays at 11:30AM

We'll be featuron Saturdays in January. Lunch offers your choice Saturday January 11th is Henna at the Library, an event for all ages. Saturday, January 18th is Bluey Storytime.

Webster Senior Center

5 Church St. (508) 949-3845

Email: SeniorCenter@ Webster-MA.gov

Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with every first Thursday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 1/14, Swedish Meatballs, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables. Wednesday, 1/15, Cacciatore, Chicken gemelli pasta, roasted cauliflower. Thursday, 1/16, Sloppy Joe, potato wedges, mixed vegetables. Friday, 1/17, Soup du Jour, corned beef sandwich, coleslaw.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance

to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

FUEL ASSISTANCE is returning to the Senior Center. As of Thursday, November 7th, WCAC will be here every other Thursday from 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Please call WCAC for an appointment 508-754-1176.

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

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for January 15th is Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, January 22nd is Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, January 29th is Rescued by Ruby.

The first Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00 pm with entertainment starting at

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. Classes are on Mondays, and Wednesdays at 9:30

Mondays: Knitting/ Crochet Social 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dudley Senior Center welcomes new year with a month filled with programs and events

Jan. 2: the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating January Birthdays. Cake and ice cream will be served after the Tri Valley lunch. Call to order a Tri Valley meal or bring your own lunch and have cake and ice cream with us.

Jan. 8: Brown Bag of turkey or bologna sandwiches at a cost of \$3 per person. Please RSVP so we know the sandwich vou want and what condiments.

Jan. 16: Memory Café from noon to 2 p.m. Start the New Year with songs and dancing. Lunch will be homemade soup with plain pizza and assorted desserts at a cost of \$5 per person. Please RSVP for this event.

Jan. 22: Potluck Lunch of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce with vegetables and desserts at a cost of \$5 per person. Please RSVP for this event. Monthly activities at

Dudley Senior Center:

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Pitch League; Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. the Dudley Senior Center Knitting group; Tri Valley lunches served Monday and Thursday; Book Club book Someone Else's Shoes by Jo Jo Moyes discussion date to be deter-

The Senior Center is closed Jan. 20.

For all reservations, please call 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Senior Center.

Friday's Child



Aliyana Age 10 Registration # 7858

Hi! My name is Aliyana and I love to play in the water!

Aliyana, also known as Ali, is an active and curious girl who is described as "adorable, sweet, affectionate and highly intelligent." She loves to explore, and would be happy to spend all day outside looking at bugs and plants. Her very favorite thing to do is play with water, whether in a pool, water table or even a puddle! Aliyana also enjoys pretend play like feeding stuffed animals and putting them to bed. She will put Little People toys in the bus and drive

it around while singing "Wheels on the Bus," and can also be heard singing other songs such as "Baby Shark" throughout the

https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/ child/7858

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

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

323 Main St. (508) 987-6000

Laura Wilson, Director

Open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30

Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us Website: www.oxfordma.us

Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

The Oxford Senior Center will be closed on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King Day

Lunches are served on Tuesdays and Fridays, prepared by our own in-house cook! Please call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch or come in and sign up. We offer DINE IN for \$5.00 and TAKEOUT for \$6.00.

Weekly Activities:

Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am -

Tuesdays @ 9:15am - Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland - Cost \$3.00 per class

Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini - Cost \$3.00 per

Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 10:00am Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@ stonebridgepress.news Needlepoint)

Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm - Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!

Thursdays @ 10:00 am – Dominoes

Monthly Activities:

Let's Talk Oxford History 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission

Blood Pressure Clinic – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 11:00am

Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am - coffee and pastry are served.

Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:30pm. By appointment. SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance

Needs of Everyone) – 3rd Wednesday of each month. By appointment. Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the

Oxford Public Library Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @12:45

BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

Special Presentations:

Aging Gracefully ~ A Fall Prevention & Wellness Workshop ~ Presented by UMASS Injury Prevention Department. Tuesday January 28th @ 12:30PM

Terrarium Gardening ~ Presented by Therapy Gardens. Friday, January 31st @ 1PM. Cost is \$3.00 per person. Must sign up, space is limited

Need help completing paperwork? Fuel Assistance, MassHealth applications or re-certifications, SNAP etc., we can help. Call us @ 508-987-6000 to make an appointment.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$650,000, 9 Howe St, 9 Howe St LLC, to Howe St Holdings LLC.

\$535,000, 3 Wentworth Dr, Levesquew, Peter T, to Moutoudis, Ioannis D.

\$410,000, 22 Shirley St, Banks Ft, and Banks Jr, Paul J, to Godoy, Frank D, and Nkongchu, Yvonne J.

\$372,500, 1201 Forest Park Dr #1201, Brigham, Patricia M, to Dauley, Jennifer H. \$355,500, 2 John William Dr #C, Hannoush, Samir, to Dean, Timothy J.

\$65,000, 46 Oxford St N, Pike, Geoffrey, to Doray, Eric C, and Slade, Sarah G. \$740,000, 7 Sunnyside Rd, Gribbons, William M, and Gribbons, Elizabeth A, to

Whitehead, David, and Liu, Cassie.

\$600,000, 8 Windsor Ave, Joslyn, Timothy W, and Joslyn, Suzanne, to Scanlon, Nicholas J, and Scanlon, Marcia.

\$425,000, 20 Green St, Pham, Nicole, to Tretheway, Christine S.

\$399,000, 9 White Ter, Malone, Ryan, to Sheehan, Jace E.

\$358,000, 53 Hawthorne St, Putnam, Jeremiah D, and Grimsrud, Krista, to Distefano Jr, Richard, and Distefano Sr, Richard B.

\$345,000, 6 Prospect Pkwy, Baril Irene E Est, and Sargent, Rhonda, to Weydt, Achara, and Weydt, Brian N.

\$875,000, 6 Johnson St, Johnson Pleasant Rlty LLC, to Bb Milford Warehouse LLC. \$599,000, 54 Lorna Dr, Stelmach, Jan, and Stelmach, Kim, to Riendeau, Jennifer, and Carey, Sean.

\$560,000, 5 School St, Risedorf, Trudy, and Risedorf, Adam K, to Carrelli, Nicole, and Carrelli, Christopher.

\$530,000, 390 Rochdale St, Dipadua, Alexander, and Dipadua, Miranda, to Richardson, Terrence, and Rzucidlo, Sarah.

\$435,000, 3 Cutting Ave, Finkle, Gerald, to Bordage, Paul, and Bordage, Deborah. \$425,000, 6 Mayfield Rd, Leblanc Gerald E Est, and Garland, Michael W, to New Property Shop Inc.

\$415,000, 24 Phoenix Rd, Cabana Ft, and Guittar, Sharon I, to Joubert, Rose, and Stearns, Liam J.

\$325,000, 34 Boyce St #3, Slattery, Daniel P, to Plourde, Shawna.

DUDLEY

\$1,010,000, 34 Piasta Rd, Bateman Nancy L Est, and Trainor, John B, to Hanna, Dany, and Khoury, Nadia.

\$585,000, 67 Mason Rd, Brown, Corey, and Brown, Halley, to Tetreault, Brett. \$415,000, 15 Oakwood Ave, Butler Priscilla Est, and Parker, Natalie, to Richmond,

Zoey, and Richmond, Steven. \$100,000, 13 Kruger Island Rd, Turning Pt Hm Buyers LLC, to Seymour 3rd,

\$56,030, 13 Kruger Island Rd, Giustina, Melinda, and Morris, Martha, to Turning Pt Hm Buyers LLC.

\$620,000, 7 Tobin Dr, Costa, Todd, and Costa, Darcy, to Delinares, Yerlin C, and

Ayala, Jorge L. \$549,900, 7 Ash Ln, Lima, David W, to Collett, Christopher J, and Waters, Lienne C. \$512,307, 44 New Boston Rd, Depatie, David F, and Deutsche Bk Natl T Co Tr, to

Gsaa Hm Equity T 2006-18, and Deutsche Bk Natl T Co Tr. \$270,000, 111 Schofield Ave, Chauvin, Bernard W, and Chauvin, Nancy L, to 111

Schofield Ave LLC. \$230,000, 39 Alton Dr, Demers, Jeffrey, and Wells Fargo Bank, to Khalili, Hossein. \$462,500, 11 Charlton Rd, Makarewicz Joel Est, and Guay, Jeremey, to Rayla, Matthew, and Rayla, Olivia.

\$110,000, W Main St, Parda, Dennis C, to Mroczka, Zofia, and Mroczka, Zbigniew.

OXFORD

\$562,500, 127 Millbury Rd, Shahnarian, Albert, and Shahnarian, Sandra M, to Mccann, Jason M, and Mccann, Robin.

\$440,000, 5 Wheelock St, Mccann, Jason, and Mccann, Robin M, to Courtney, Alyssa, and Biemiller, Keith.

\$390,000, 18 Stuart St, Stuart St Realty LLC, to Gilroy, Michael J.

\$344,000, 11 Beech St, Perry, Judy A, to Hbk LLC.

\$275,000, 44 Church St, Doty, Stephanie, and Flagg, Christopher, to Sneade, John J. \$615,000, 10 Michelle Ln, Kirby, Colleen E, and Kirby, Emily E, to Wahba, Mariam A, and Wahba, Atef F.

\$451,000, 1 Little John Cir, Earley, Elaine F, and Earley, Kevin M, to Abdulrazzaq, Hussein, and Abdulrazzaq, Alicia.

\$371,000, 14 Camp Hill Dr, Ramos, Lidia M, to Diluca, Amanda L.

\$312,000, 22 Thayer Pond Dr #2, Baldracchi, Christopher J, to Chinian, Elizabeth

\$211,500, 10 Thayer Pond Dr #12, Mitchell, Mick T, to Roy, Sara.

\$100,000, 5 Walters Dr, Chaffee, Richard, to Gemme, Julie A.

\$790,000, 2 Overlook Ln, Goodrich, Joshua A, and Goodrich, Tara M, to Dipadua, Peter W, and Dipadua, Brandy.

\$719,000, 5 Minuteman Ln, Baldaro Jr, Bruce C, and Baldaro, Jacqueline M, to MADISON, Wisc. Dipadua, Alexander W, and Dipadua, Miranda L.

\$679,900, 52 Harwood St, Eb Rt, and Elkinson, David, to Logan, Jenna, and Logan,

\$589,000, 137 Dudley Rd, Kumnick, Jason J, and Kumnick, Cassondra J, to Ray,

Eric, and Ray, Emily.

\$540,000, 23 Wayne Ave, Scribner Properties LLC, to Tortorelli, Joseph M. \$452,000, 62 Millbury Rd, Ray, Eric, and Ray, Emily, to Richer, Eric.

\$428,000, 59 Quobaug Ave, Carbonneau, Kevin F, and Fleming, Casey G, to Waterman, Vincent J, and Waterman, Pamela.

\$425,000, 7 Laurelwood Dr, Parmenter, Maria D, to Beach, Leonard H.

\$419,000, 14 Main St, Stauffer, Dean P, to Stauffer, Stacy. \$340,000, 40 Plantation Rd #40, Donahue, Michelle, to Sanders, Marren.

\$271,000, 8 Thayer Pond Dr #1, Solis-Castaneda, Susan, to Graveson, Christine.

\$250,000, 9-B Wellington Rd, Murphy, Gail M, to Hackett, William. \$175,000, Charlton St, Herbert C Mahota Ft, and Mahota, Nancy, to Oxford Town

Of.

WEBSTER

\$442,000, 15 Westview Dr, Thibeault, Nicholas, to Corbin, Alexander, and Corbin, \$1,175,000, 13 Loveland Rd, Michelle I Ouimet T, and Ouimet, Christopher J, to

Boothe, Alan, and Cerrone, Jennifer.

\$640,000, 25 Oakwood Dr, Almik Construction Inc, to Conger, Matthew, and Tackett, Tayler.

\$495,000, 28 Mechanic St, Mercado, Vidalito, and Diaz, Angelica M, to Irie Mechanic LLC. \$435,000, 42 Douglas Rd, Chamoun, Rajaa, to Guzman, Nennia.

\$338,000, 405 High St, Macek, Paula A, and Nowicki, Helen B, to 405 High Street

\$327,400, 9 Linwood St, Pre Prop Solutions LLC, to Reichardt, George, and Reichardt, Veronica.

\$140,000, 91 Chase Ave #1, Fortin, Jason W, and Legros, Nichole E, to Pizzotti,

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\$510,000, 658 School St, Alberty Edmee Est, and Alves, Claribel, to Alhallak, Kinan.

\$450,000, 58 Whitcomb St, Sugrue, Frank, and Sugrue, Teresa, to Gutierrez,

Jaime D. \$440,000, 4 Wakefield Ave, Tervo, Justin, to Cerand, Jennifer, and Cerand,

\$375,000, 53 Freeman Ave, Reyes, Alicia, to Bloomfield, Georgiana.

\$375,000, 9 Sibley Ave, Paul FT, and Paul, James, to Chojnowski, Pawel, and Chojnowski, Kazimierz.

\$300,000, 27 Highcrest Park #27, V& j LLC, to Gregoire, Kanika A. \$275,000,3 Lyndale Ave #D, Copithorne,

Mark, and Copithorne, Jennifer A, to Hannon, Eric.

For Advertising **Information** Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@ stonebridgepress.news

Applications welcome for Bartlett HS Class of 2021 Rita Zielinski Gelinas Alumni Scholarship

The Bartlett High School Guidance Department is once again offering the Rita Gelinas Scholarship for the study of math or science.

Students from the BHS Class of 2021 who will be immediately entering a graduate program in a math or natural science field are encouraged to apply. Funds are available up to \$5,000 per semester with a minimum award of 1,000 per semester for one year. Please pick up an application in the Guidance Department or contact Kim Granger at (508) 943-8552 ext. 34017. are due to the Guidance Department by Friday, April 4.

The Rita Gelinas Scholarship is also available to students in the Class of 2025. Two seniors will be chosen to receive up to \$10,000 a year for all four years of an undergraduate program. Applicants must have over a 3.0 (B average) and be pursuing a major in either a math or natural science field. The application process is very extensive so all applicants should start the process early. In addition to other mate-

Complete applications rials, students must supply their SAR (Student Aid Report through the FAFSA process) as well as the financial aid award letter from the college that the student WILL attend if given the award. Applications are due to the BHS Guidance Department by Friday, April 4.

> If you have any questions about either of these scholarships contact Kim please Granger in the Guidance Department at Bartlett at (508) 943-8552, ext. 34017 or via email at kgranger@ webster-schools.org.

WEBSTER

The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 22 to Jan. 4.

Larry Darnell Hart, age 45, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 22 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 33-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 23 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member. A 31-yearold male from Webster received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A male from Webster whose identity has been

withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 25 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member Strangulation or Suffocation. Ernest P. Chaput, age 62, of Webster was arrested during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Resisting Arrest, and Interfering with a Police Officer.

A 66-year-old female whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 26 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 43-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 28 for Assault &

Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Justin Anthony Aiken, age 28, of Bloomfield, Conn. was arrested on Dec. 29 for Operating Under the Influence, Operation Negligent of a Motor Vehicle, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

Jean-Paul Francois Betty, age 62, of North Gorsvenordale, Conn. was arrested on Dec. 31 for Shoplifting By Asportation. A 33-yearold male from Webster received a summons in lieu of arrest during same incident the Shoplifting for BvAsportation offense).

Local students named to UW-Madison Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year, including Vivan Silva of Auburn.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor "dean's list", but some grant the "Dean's Honor List" and "Dean's High Honor List."

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Frank G. Chilinski STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> Brendan Berube **E**DITOR

EDITORIAL

Leave the phone 'til last in the morning

Most weeks, our Editorial space is typically some-thing our staff is curious about. While the subject of cell phone and screen addiction comes up often, this week, there was a noticeable shift in our view on the topic after receiving a wise tip.

That tip was to ignore your phone, don't even look at it, until 30 minutes after you wake up. In that time, sit down, have your morning coffee and read a book. When you start to scroll on your phone just after waking up, you put yourself into what's called a passive scrolling phase, which can derail your

entire day and ward off productivity. A few days into following this new advice, and there is a noticeable sense of comfort and relaxation that can carry you throughout your day. It's like taking 30 minutes every morning to get back to the basics and recall simpler times.

Most people feel like they are in control of their phone use, but are you? How can you determine if you have a phone addiction, or are just part of the modern era grind? We've said it before, and we'll say it again, nothing beats the days of watching Jeopar- dy uninterrupted, without the pressure of responding to a ding from your phone.

In 2011, only 35 percent of the population owned smartphones, now 81 percent do. It is our main form of communication, so much so that now there is a term called nomophobia, or the fear of going with- out your phone.

Excessive cell phone use is a huge problem for many. As far as addiction goes, some experts say the dopamine connection the phone offers can be linked to something akin to a drug addiction. The triggering of that chemical in your brain, reinforces compulsive behavior. When we can't predict when we will receive a text or a "like" on social media, we check our phones more

Adolescents are more vulnerable to this problem than any other age group. Excessive use in that age group is such an issue that most teenagers never turn off their phones. Experts say that the younger a child has access to a phone, the sooner the problems begin. Problematic cell phone use is linked to low self esteem, low impulse control, depression and anxiety.

Signs you may have a phone addiction could be that you reach for your phone if you're bored, you feel anxious or upset if you can't get to your phone, you wake throughout the night to check it, or your phone has caused you to get into an accident. Other signs could be that you spend most of your waking hours on your phone, and that it interferes with per-sonal relationships or work.

When trying to focus on work, or any task, you are significantly disrupted and your concentration is thrown off.

Ways to break the addiction in order to fix your relationships, your health and other responsibilities include figuring out if there is a larger issue as to why you're using your phone so much. Are you avoiding something else bigger? Resolving the larger issue at hand, could cause a decrease in phone use.

Change your settings to remove notifications and other alerts, set your screen to dark mode at night, keep your phone out of sight and never charge it in your bedroom. After a certain time, set your phone up so that only emergency contacts can get through to you, everyone else can wait. Try replacing games on your phone with real in person games, or devel- op a hobby you've been wanting to try. Too much cell phone use can develop into a loss of control.

There have been some experiments where people have gone two days without their phones. Some people choose to give up their phones all together, while others make significant changes to reduce use

The potential risk of depression, insomnia and lack of productivity just isn't worth it. Think back to pre cell phone times. While there are safety bene- fits to having a phone, we don't need to be connected 24/7, and we don't need to respond or answer our phones just because they ding.

Your responsibility is to yourself and it's wild how much you can get done if you just unplug. Take a breather, shut your phone completely off for 15 minutes and see how you feel. If you do try this trick, send us an email and let us know what you find.

Week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepres

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next Brendan Berube at The Webster Times — news@stonebridgepress.news

The light of Epiphany

THE

PEWS

A. VERONIS

SAINTS

CONSTANTINE

AND HELEN

GREEK

ORTHODOX

CHURCH,

WEBSTER

Hatred, anger, and violence. Cheating, corruption and greed. Impurity, lust and uncontrolled sex. Self-centeredness, self-love, and self-interest. These all seem to be a part of our progressive, "enlightened" society. Although we live in an age of unbelievable technological, medical and scientific advances, and live in a world where we have greater freedom than ever before in history, still the same centuries-old vices of humanity continue to plague us - the darkness of greed, hatred, anger, lust, self-righteousness, self-centeredness and self-love.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the words, "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light. On those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen!" In the midst of this world's darkness, we can hear Jesus Christ proclaim loudly and boldly, "I am

the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

What a great promise of hope to carry with us as we prepare to begin a new year. Jesus promises, "Whoever follows me, will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

In a secular worldview, where the humanist places the human being at the center of life, he or she faces a serious dilemma. How can they understand the evil in the world? What do they do with the darkness they see all around them? How can they find meaning in life itself from a worldview where humanity is at the center of everything? If we accept no outside guiding force, no eternal standard, no ultimate reality beyond ourselves and our own desires, than where will we end?

For too many, we will end life with the same attitude of many famous atheists, like Nietzsche or Freud. Although brilliant men, they became disillusioned with the meaninglessness of life since they couldn't bear the darkness around

As followers of Jesus Christ, and members of His Holy Church, our Lord offers us a radically different perspective on life. Jesus promises us a life full of light, of love, of joy, of promise, of hope, of meaning. "I have come that you may have life," Jesus promised, "and have it abundantly!"

This doesn't mean that life will not have its struggles. We live in a world of darkness, and evil will abound in a variety of forms. So yes, we will have struggles, and sorrow, and disappointments, and difficulties. Yet, when we walk intimately with Jesus Christ at our side, our lives won't be darkened by any daily news of suffering and death!

The abundant life He promises won't be corrupted by the scandals that surround us. This abundant life is not a life that can be lost through the self-centeredness and indifference of others. The "light of life" that Christ gives us becomes a well-spring within, bursting forth and refreshing us every day.

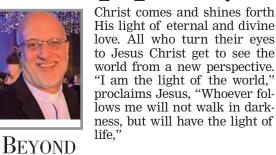
When we commit to following Jesus Christ and walk with Him daily in an intimate manner, than nothing can take away the light, love, joy, hope, promise and meaning which He gives us!

This is the main meaning of two feasts in the Church we just celebrated and will celebrate in a few days. First, we rejoiced at the coming of God as a human being and His birth as a baby in Bethlehem on Christmas Day. Twelve days later, we celebrate the feast of Epiphany, where we remember the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. It is interesting how the theological significance of Epiphany is how it focuses on Jesus revealing the true and divine light of God to the world

After being born in a miraculous manner in Bethlehem, and after living a humble life as the son of a carpenter for 30 years in Nazareth, at His baptism comes the moment when Jesus of Nazareth reveals His true identity, His identity of God Himself. Now Christ begins to proclaim the "good news of great joy" which the angels told the shepherds about on the night of Christmas.

"The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light. On those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has

In the midst of a darkened world,



"I am the light of the world that has come to overpower darkness. And I begin, not by casting out the darkness that is so prevalent throughout society, but by casting out the dark-By Fr. Luke ness that is deep within the soul of every person. I begin by shining my light within you, my followers, and if you allow me, then I will enlighten every part of your mind, your heart and your soul! I will fill you with my presence, and once vou have my light shining brightly within you, then you will never be afraid of any darkness the

world may bring."

When the light of Christ lives within us, we can better understand his promise, "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world!" Or as the Psalmist so aptly believed, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom do I fear. The Lord is my life and my refuge, of whom am I

Jesus is the light of life who came to enlighten our lives!

First of all, Jesus Christ came as the light of the world to break the hold of death, which has darkened the world ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve. Death, the ultimate end of all people, the frightening darkness of humanity, is not only challenged, but destroyed by Jesus Christ. We no longer have to face this dreaded end of humanity, but now can laugh at death. As St. Paul so boldly says, "O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?" Through Christ, the darkness of death is turned into a peaceful doorway into heaven.

Second, Jesus Christ came as the light of the world to shine within the darkness of ignorance. He is the light of knowledge, revealing to us the truth about God, the truth about life itself, and our purpose here on earth. We are not animals, living on earth for 80 or 90 years simply to fulfill our own needs and then to die and be buried in the ground. Christ has revealed to us that nity. We have a purpose on earth – to receive God's love in our lives, and then to be His instruments sharing His love with other people. Within each one of us there is a thirst for the divine and a longing for the eternal. This thirst and longing can only be fully filled through an intimate relationship with Jesus

Third. Jesus Christ came as the light of the world to shine His love in the midst of the dark hatred that tries to control our lives. Jesus revealed through his life that love is greater than hate, and good is greater than evil. As a light within each one of us, he teaches us to allow His light of love to chase away the shadows of hatred, bitterness, and injury that dwell deep within us. No matter how dark any darkness is, His light is always greater! But we have to allow His light to heal us from the self-destroying darkness of hatred.

Finally, Jesus Christ came as the light of the world to shine His light as a guiding beacon to direct our lives. He shows us the way we are to live our lives in harmony with others, in service to others, in peace with others, in love with others. Every day, we must ask ourselves, "What should I do, and how should I act?" Our Lord shows us through His example and through His teachings. Through the traditions and teachings He has given us in the Church, Christ shows us how to live and what to do. In the end, Jesus Christ as the light of the world came to reveal the true path that can lead all people to salvation and paradise, which begins here and now.

Let us hear and understand that Jesus Christ is the light of the world that overcomes any darkness. But the followers of Jesus must remember that we also are called to become light ourselves! As Saint Paul put it: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

"The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus Christ is that great light, who gives us hope in the midst of any darkness!

Is buying a home always the right move?



FINANCIAL Focus

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

It's widely thought that home ownership is a key to building wealth — but is it? And should you consistently make sacrifices to buy your own home?

Let's start with the first question: Is owning a home essential to building wealth? It would probably be more accurate to say that home ownership can be helpful in building wealth. Building home equity — essentially, the difference between the size of your home's value and what you still owe - is certainly valuable. Plus, the bigger your equity, the less you might have to take out in a new mortgage if you ever want to buy a different home.

Now for the next question: How much should you sacrifice to buy your own home? This isn't an easy question to answer because buying a home isn't just a financial issue — it's also an emotional one. Many people simply like the feeling of owning a home. If you fall into this category, you might be willing to make many sacrifices to join the ranks of homeowners.

However, if you're relatively young and you are part of a single or even a dual-income household, you may well find that your other priorities are more important than home ownership, at least for the moment. These priorities can include paying off student loans, reducing other debts, paying for child care, meeting health care costs and even saving for retirement. With all these expenses, you might not be able to take on a big mortgage, along with real estate taxes, homeowners' insurance and the inevitable but costly repairs that come with owning a home.

In addition to the danger of becoming "house poor" by paying too high a percentage of your income on your mortgage, you could face another issue by sinking too much money into your home — and that's liquidity. A home is much more illiquid than savings or investment accounts, so if you needed money in a hurry, and most of yours was tied up in your home, you might be in a jam. You could tap into your home equity through a loan or a line of credit, but that's basically taking on even more debt, though these loans and credit lines typically offer lower interest rates than other forms of borrowing.

So, here's the bottom line: You don't need to feel that you are missing out on a chance to build wealth by not buying a home immediately — especially if you would feel extremely stretched by the mortgage payments, given how expensive homes are today. You won't hurt yourself — and, in fact, you'll likely help yourself — by taking care of your most pressing priorities first.

Of course, this doesn't mean that you can never become a homeowner. If you would still like to own a home someday, you could start saving for a down payment, keeping the money in a liquid, low-risk account. Just as importantly, though, you should plan on how owning a home can fit into your budget and how it will affect your cash flow. If you can manage it, you may indeed find that there's no place like home.

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.

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.

www.StonebridgePress.com

Random Tips and Tricks TAKE your foot or leg, folding ** It helps prevention of the property of the property of the prevention of the property of the prevention of the preve

From boosting your hearing to cutting cleaning tasks down to size, the following random tips and tricks are easy ways to make everyday life a little easier.

And remember readers send in your best hints and you could win a three course Dinner for Two at the Publick House in Sturbridge. Drawing will take place next week!

Hydrogen Peroxide Hint: Hydrogen peroxide. It does much more than sooth a sore throat or clean a cut. Did you know one cup of H2O2 to one quart water creates a safe bleach substitute for fine washables? Pouring a couple of ounces of hydrogen peroxide in a full dishpan can prevent the spread of germs when had washing. Even your plants can benefit from H2O2. Just water or mist plants with an ounce of hydrogen peroxide in one quart water.

Boost your fitness training with these tips!:



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

Experts advise doing cardio and weights in the same workout, rather than switching off days to boost your fat burn-They claim you can get most out of your weight lifting workout if you do just five minutes of cardio warmup followed by your weight training sets, rather than doing your entire cardio session first.

Want to make a fabulous first impression? Try these tips: Be positive and make others feel comfortable. Lean into a greeting with a firm handshake and a smile. Avoid these red flags of anxiety: Frequently touching your mouth, a tight or forced smile, swinging or crossing your arms, slouching and avoiding eye contact.

The virtues of a cup of tea go way beyond taste! A study conducted by Harvard University found that those who drank one or more cups of black tea per day had more than a 40 percent lower risk of having a heart attack compared to non-tea drinkers. Need another reason to take a tea time break? Tea contains 1/3 less caffeine than coffee or cola!.

more? These tips are for you! Walking to "digest your meal" is more than an after dinner pastime. Studies show when you walk within 30 minutes after eating you can increase the amount of calories you burn by as much as 30 per cent! But be sure to avoid caffeinated beverages before you walk. They cause thirst and a loss of bodily flu-

Resolving to walk

Cut cleaning time in half with these tips!: After cleaning grout and tile, rub liquid turtle wax car wax on, and polish when dry. It makes the tiles twice as easy to clean next time. When you clean your refrigerator or freezer, wipe the inside down with straight white vinegar and allow it to air dry. It will discourage future growth of mold and mildew and instantly deodorize your refrigerator.

Attention Baby Boomers, if your night sight isn't what it used to be - improving night vision can be as close as your refrigerator! Did you know foods containing beta-carotene help you to see better in dim light? Cantaloupe, carrots, collard greens, kale and chicken all help deliver vision boosting Vitamin A!

Do you suffer from frequent backaches? Try drinking lots of water! It helps prevent dehydration that can contribute to muscle aches. By drinking eight 8-ounces of water daily, you ll also flush out acidic wastes that can build up in the tissues & muscles - another contributor to back pain.

Have a headache? Try these unconventional remedies: Mix two tablespoons of apple cider vinegar with two teaspoons of honey in a glass of water, drink it slowly, and get results within a halfhour! Or eat ten to twelve almonds. Experts say the almonds are equal to taking two aspirins but won't irritate your stom-

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month

(or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Transportation memorabilia

Happy New Year! Thank you to those of you who reached out after my latest top 10 auction items column. As I mentioned in that column, there are many other categories of antiques and collectibles that are selling well in addition to those I listed, but we've had good results recently for the 10 items I mentioned.

We'll start in reverse order with number 10 on my list: transportation memorabilia. Before European settlers arrived, Native Americans traveled by foot, canoe, and some by horseback.

The colonists used many of those same methods to travel. Many of the trails used by Native Americans were widened to accommodate wagons. By 1735, stagecoaches were running between Boston and New York. Sailing ships were used in Egypt prior to 3000 BC. Steamship development started in the 1700s and Robert Fulton made the first commercial steamboat trip from New York to Albany in 1807. In 1830, the Baltimore and

Ohio Railroad ran the first train service for passengers and freight. As for aviation, the Wright Brothers made the first heavier than air powered aircraft flight in 1903.

Whether by plane, train, automobile, or ship, many collectors have an attachment to

some form of transportation memorabilia. I'll start by discussing nautical memorabilia and trains. I'll cover additional methods of transportation in my next column.

Ship paintings by good artists are always popular. We sold a ship painting by Canadian artist O'Brien WAYNE TUISKULA John for over \$20,000 in 2016. Over a

decade ago, we auctioned parents explaining the a book of trade cards, change in his travel plans many related to the 19th sold for \$275,000 at auccentury shipping trade, tion in 2022. which brought a figure in the mid-thousands. Some of our more recent sales were for a brass ship's telegraph for \$1,250,

a model of the U.S.S. Constitution by Lannan Ship Galleries in Boston that brought \$1,300, and a Chelsea Ship's clock for

Some rarer pieces can bring even stronger auction results. A 1907 moonlight image of Cunard Lines Lusitania sold for over \$15,000 in

> 2015. George Henry Hunt was planning return to the States United on White Star Line's "Oceanic" 1912. Oceanic developed mechanical problems and he was transferred to the Titanic before its ill-fated journey. Hunt was lost at sea

> when the ship

sank. The letter

he wrote to his

ANTIQUES,

COLLECTIBLES

& ESTATES

Railroad memorabilia collectors often like to collect items from their area. Others specialize in certain categories

like railroad signs or lanterns. Railroad pocket watches are also popular with collectors. In 1895, railroads required that pocket watches contain 17 or more jewels so that they would be precise enough for workers in the industry. In 2020, we sold a Ball Official Railroad Standard 23 jewel gold filled pocket watch for \$425. In 2023, an Elgin 10-karat gold railroad pocket watch brought \$600. In 2011, we sold an Illinois Watch Co. "Railroader" 14-karat gold pocket watch for \$1,300. Other collectible railroad memorabilia we've sold includes a group of brass and nickel cap badges that went for \$190 in 2011. Signs and broadsides are also popular with collectors. An enamel Newmarket, New Hampshire, railroad station sign fetched \$400 last year. A sign with a map of stations along the Boston and Albany Railroad sold for even more. A Norwich and Worcester Railroad excursion broadside (siz-



baseball team play in 1881

brought \$1,300 in 2022. Railroad memorabilia has brought strong prices in other auction houses as well. A 1935 poster advertising trips to Atlantic City sold for \$7,500 in 2023. A rare Kansas Pacific railway lantern from 1869 reached \$41,900 in 2022. For those who like larger memorabilia, a New York Central System caboose that had been restored and described as a tiny house sold for \$37,500 in 2018. That's some steep train fare.

We are still cataloging the Civil War memorabilia auction, an online auction of antiques in a Beacon Hill estate, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are also accepting consignments of items in my top 10 list for future auctions. Please visit our website https://centralmassauctions.com for links to upcoming events.

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

New Year's victory

After their stunning victory on Christmas morning, 1776, Washington and his army held Trenton, aware that the British would not let the humiliation go unanswered. Just days earlier, they had achieved the impossible. After a daring midnight crossing of the icy Delaware Washington's

Positively SPEAKING

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surprise attack on the Hessians, overwhelming the enemy in a fierce battle. The victory saw over 900 enemy soldiers captured and reignited hope for the revolutionary cause.

army launched a

But Washington knew the war wasn't over. The British, eager for revenge, sent reinforcements to crush the rebellion. Washington, outnumbered, outgunned, and with no easy escape, prepared his men for the inevitable showdown. Suspense hung in the frigid air as the sound of marching British troops grew closer each day, setting the stage for a desperate fight to survive.

On Jan. 2, the British arrived in Trenton with 8,000 men under General Cornwallis. "We've

Cornwallis reportedly exclaimed, convinced there was no escape for the Continental Army. Throughout the day, Washington's men battled fiercely, holding the British at bay in skirmishes that pushed them to the brink. As night fell, the British, certain of their impending victory, settled in to rest, confident they would crush the rebels at dawn.

able sheet of paper print-

ed on one side) to see the

Worcester professional

But Washington wasn't about to wait for defeat. Knowing that holding Trenton was impossible, he devised a bold plan. On New Year's night, under the cover of darkness, he ordered his men to quietly abandon their campfires, leaving them burning brightly to deceive the British into thinking the army was still there. Then, in a daring maneuver, Washington led his

troops on a silent march toward Princeton.

Princeton, about 12 miles away, was strategically vital. It housed a smaller British force and was a key supply and communication hub. Striking Princeton would weaken the British and allow Washington to escape the trap at Trenton and keep the momentum of his campaign alive.

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A11**



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Masonic lodges merge together for Christmas Party



Children wait patiently as Santa called the children's names and he handed them their

Selectmen schedule public update on Stevens Mill renovation project for Jan. 27



Representatives of Stevens Mill Owner, LLC are joining the Dudley Board of Selectmen meeting on Jan. 27 with an update on the mill renovation project expected to commence in the spring of 2025. Residents with questions about the mill project are encouraged to attend this meeting.

It began in August 2020, when Stevens Mill Owner LLC of Columbia. S.C., bought the 6.95acre property and its 267,000-square-foot mill at 8 Mill St.

Project developer Camden Management Partners, who holds Stevens Mill Owner LLC, proposed a \$43 million plan to renovate the mill.

The plan approved by the Dudley Planning Board in May 2022 detailed a mixed-use development in the historic Stevens Mill to contain 159 market rate apartments, including 16 affordable units, and 5,600 square feet of commercial space.

The groundbreaking was set for spring 2024, but high interest rates coupled with the continued high costs of construction nationwide have created a multi-million-dollar shortfall in the developer's budget, thereby causing the delay of construction. The \$43 million project cost is now reported to be more than \$60 million.

Stevens Linen Assoc., Inc. dominated one of the region's oldest industries from 1850 to 1950. Incorporated by Henry Hale Stevens in 1846, Stevens Linens began production in a mill built in 1812 at the corner of Ardlock Place and Mill Road.

Its foremost structure, known as "The Main Mill," was constructed of locally quarried granite block between 1861 and 1864.

In time, its two seven-story towers stood over what became the largest of five mill villages in Dudley The now historic mill on the east side of town ceased operations in the mid-20th century and, with the exception of a short-lived flea market, has been vacant since.

Today, it is said to be the only remaining example of a linen manufacturing plant in the United States.

While the developer works to launch construction, the grant-funded infrastructure improvements to the neighborhood around the mill are on schedule. Work to install new water and sewer lines, realign road intersections and install sidewalks has paused for the winter months and are set to continue in the spring.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE - OnSaturday, Dec. 21, Webster Lodge and the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the Doric Chapter of Southbridge merge together to have one huge Christmas Party.

About 45 members, families and significant others attended and enjoyed fine food and most of all being together and the comradery. The best part of the gathering was watching the excitement of the children when they were told Santa was coming, and they all went running to see Santa as he entered the room waving and saying HO.HO.HO. The children and adults alike started cheering and clapping as Santa enters the dining hall and Santa proceeds to sit in his chair. As Santa sat in his chair the children went running over and they jumped up

and down with joy and so much excitement.

He waved to everyone and started to take his gift bag out and started to call the names of children to hand out the gifts. You can see and hear all the camera phone clicking people taking photos of their children with Santa. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our website at www.massfreemasonary.org.



Congratulations to the following students who were selected as November Students of the Month at St. Joseph School: Pre-K 3-year-old Program: Cameron LaFlash; Pre-K 4-year-old Program: Liam Doktor; Kindergarten: Zayden Vega; Grade 1: Maya Denert; Grade 2: Joseph Jusseaume; Grade 3: Jackson Lovett; Grade 4: Cameron Blodgett; Grade 5: Marina Szydlik; Grade 6: Gabriel Ketnouvong-Ung; Grade 7: Tosin Akindele; Grade 8: Faith Muga. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber to hold Annual Meeting

WEBSTER — The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce will be hosting our Annual Meeting on Jan. 27 at the Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., Webster. Our guest Speaker is John Gumpert of Camden Management, the developer of the Stevens Mill Site in Dudley.

Please go to www.wdochamberma.com to register for the event.





QCC's Intersession courses offer more access to education

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is offering accelerated courses during its Intersession 2025 semester, which runs from Jan. 6 to Jan. 22. Students can earn up to four college credits per course in only two and a half

"Intersession is a great way to quickly earn college credits, whether you're a student from QCC or a student from another institution looking to fill in a course at QCC during winter break," said Vice President of Strategic Enrollment and Student Engagement Michelle Tufau.

QCC is offering more than 25 diverse classes during Intersession that cover a variety of topics such as Cultural Anthropology, Windows Client Operating Systems, Principles of Management and Social Problems & Social Change.

Students from other institutions are encouraged to contact their registrar's office to ensure credits will transfer before enrolling. An official transcript from QCC will be required to transfer credits to another institution.

To learn more about Intersession courses, visit theq.qcc.edu/ICS/Course Offerings and Schedule.jnz.



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UBITUARIES

Alice S. Leduc, 96,



Alice S. (Stefanik) 96, passed Thursday, Leduc, away December 26, 2024, in her home, with family by her side. She was predeceased by her husband of 24 years, Leon J. Leduc, who passed away in 1980.

Her wedding was delayed one week due to The Great Flood of 1955.

She is survived by her four children, Lawrence Leduc and his longtime girlfriend Lorna Bradshaw, Daniel Leduc, Pamela Ashmankas and her husband Mathew, Karen Gavilanes and her husband John; seven grandchildren: Cassandra Buck and her husband Tim, Brian Ashmankas and his wife Samantha, Jonathan Leduc and his wife Michelle, Patricia Fishwick and her husband Kyle, Nicole VanderLaan and her husband Brennan, Jeffrey Gavilanes, and Natalia Gavilanes; and eight great grandchildren: Maddie, Kelsey, and Izzy Buck, Lilly and Lorelei Fishwick, and Riley and Jacoby Schultz and Jameson Clarke: and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother Martin Stefanik, who passed away in 2000.

She was born in Webster, daughter of the late John and Frances (Pompa) Stefanik, and lived in Webster most of her life. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1945. She was a long-

time member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Webster. She was a member of the Ladies of St. Anne and was Treasurer for many years.

Alice began her career as a telephone operator. While raising her children, she had multiple factory jobs. retirement, she returned to work part time at the Chester C. Corbin Library in Webster, which she enjoyed the most.

She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, crocheting, reading, walking, watching scary movies, playing checkers and dominoes, and eating dessert...especially cake! In her retirement years she traveled widely as part of a senior travel club and with her son, Dan. Her travels took her to various places across the U.S. and abroad, including the Grand Canyon, Sequoia and Redwood National Parks, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Iceland, France, Poland, Germany, and her ancestral homeland of Slovakia.

A Funeral Mass was held Monday, December 30, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, with a reception following in the parish hall. There are no calling hours. Burial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Alice requested memorial Masses in her name or donations to a charity of your choice. Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is directing arrangement's www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Rochelle W. Jedrzynski



Rochelle lived a long life in Dudley and passed away on Thursday, December 19, 2024, peacefully in her sleep, after a brief illness, her family by

Many years ago, Rochelle came into the

world, the daughter of Eileen Jezerski and Fredrich Kruger. She was born in sunny West Palm Beach, Floride, but she spent most of her early years far to the north, living in Worcester, Webster, and Dudley, where she lived most of

Recalling some of her most meaningful memories, Rochelle frequently cited the love and tender care she received from her Worcester family when she was a little girl. Tightly held memories of these happy times, playing with her "siblings", stayed strong throughout

After moving to Webster with her mother and stepfather at about eight years of age, she attended local schools, learned Polish at "Polish School" and ultimately graduated from Bartlett High in 1953. Marriage to Thomas "Tom" Jedrzynski, who passed away on November 11, 1991, and a move to Pierpoint Meadow Pond soon followed. Four children followed, too, and the hectic life of motherhood and family kept her engaged for many years.

Rochelle was frequently called upon by individuals in the community who required companionship and care as a home health provider. She was skilled at this work and was happy and busy in this capacity for many years. Finally, she worked a short time at the American Optical Company in Southbridge before she retired.

Rochelle found joy in simple things

in life; the beauty of nature, working the earth with her hands in spring as she planted flowers in her yard, needleworking lovely pieces of wall art and spending time with her friends, children and grandchildren, chatting or going out to lunch together.

Cape Cod was her favorite spot on earth. She visited there as often as she could with her husband, Tom, and more recently, with her beloved brother-in-law, "Uncle Bill" Jedrzynski, who passed away in October 2021. This was her vision of earth: sun, sand, and the rhythm of the waves. Rochelle loved visiting the beach.

Rochelle leaves behind her three adult daughters: Thomasine (Joseph) Tavormina of Incline Village, NV, Katherine (Gary) Bushey and Eileen Jedrzynski (David Bolivar) of Dudley. Her only son, John William, died in 2011. She also leaves behind four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Grandchildren are Carla Elise (Tavormina) Freeman of Benicia, CA, Erica Lynn Tavormina of Warren, OR, and brothers Spenser and great-grandchildren live in Benicia, CA with granddaughter Carla, and belonged to the Webster-Dudley Liam, Angelina, and twins, Scarlett and He owned and operated the Marchand Paxton.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Rochelle's memory by donating to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Their telephone number for donations is 1-800-478-5833. Their mailing address is PO Box 1893, Memphis, TN 38101-9950. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster, MA is honored to assist with Rochelle's arrangements. A memorial guest book is available at http://www.shaw-majercik.com.

Practical Nursing Academy, PN Class of 2019. She was a member of the UNICEF Club and a leader/Volunteer at the Paxton Senior Health Fair. She is Certified in Mental Health First Aid, Infusion Therapy/ Central Line Care, and Dementia Care. She SafeTALK attended "Innovation and the Summit" at Northeastern University in Boston.

Terminology and volunteered at the Charlton Senior Center Blood Pressure Clinic.

She reflects fondly at her experience and education at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in a statement to the Academy Director that reads, "Thank you! My education and skills have come from Bay Path and your encouragement!"

OXFORD

LALIBERTE

continued from page A1

AWESOME! Lots of fun.

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vou feel excited about her

next visit to your room

to give you meds or do

vitals, or even to just talk

to help you feel better. I

personally love her. A lot

LPN of Worcester grad-

uated from Bay Path

Tasheena Laliberte,

continued from page A1

of others do also."

ly decided to retain it so the town can repair the building. That money had been going to the schools. He said the selectmen acknowledged there had been an agreement over that issue, but it's "their purview" as the body who has legal control of town property. He intends to keep talking about its effect on the school bud-

Later, the board voted to accept a donation from the Laurie Boucher Family Foundation to fund school staff training on how to assess suicidal tendencies in young people. Lucas said Boucher is making this offer to several nearby districts to pay for nine hours of online training.

Griffin described this as "really important" and said she's "very grateful for this donation." She noted she'd like to see it become ongoing training on a "train the trainer model" that's shared with other schools.

She competed in district

In related business, the student representative announced the start of a high school Sandy Hook Promise Club, which is planning student assemblies aimed at preventing violence in school. Additionally, the high school is restarting a Hall of Fame class for the first time in at least 10 years, drafting new bylaws and the process for nomina-

Athletic Director Kevin May summarized the fall sports seasons, noting it was the football team's fourth consecutive year

qualifying for playoffs, the girls' soccer team did so as well, and boys' soccer won the Central Mass title vs Clinton (the last one that will happen). He also praised Cameron Davis for being a "team of one" in cross country, reaching her third consecutive SWCL individual title and Oxford's first state title in that sport.

May said this year will be the last year of the Southern Worcester County League. Its 12 schools plus a few smaller groups and some individual schools are merging into the 34-school Central Mass Athletic Conference. Every two years, schools "possible realignment" based on how well their teams do, he noted.

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

Janice W. Auger, 88



OXFORD - Janice W. (Skeates) Auger, Huguenot 88, of Road, died Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at Holy Trinity Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Worcester. She was

predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Bruce A. Auger who died in 2015.

She is survived by four children, Carol L. Uppgard and her husband David of North Oxford, Linda M. Jewell of St. Petersburg, FL, Thomas A. Auger and his former wife Cheryl Auger of Worcester, and Michael A. Auger and his wife Marie of Westminster; a sister, Carol White of Oxford; seven grandchildren, Sarah Royston and her wife Mimi of Oxford (with whom she made her home), Daniel Kozlowski and his wife Jessica of Jacksonville, FL, Susan Ahearn and her husband Craig of Southbridge, David Auger of North Oxford, Adam Dumont of New Port Richey, FL, Robert Auger and his wife Katie of Worcester, and Joseph Auger of Worcester; her companion, Joseph Esposito of Oxford; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was born in Millbury, daughter of the late Thomas and Enis (Upgard) Skeates, and lived in Worcester before moving to Oxford seven years ago. She graduated from Auburn High School in 1954.

Mrs. Auger was the showroom manager at Charles Manoog Plumbing and Heating in Worcester for 28 years, retiring in 2001. Previously, she worked at Keystone Electric and the Auburn Diner. She was an active member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Oxford, where she taught Sunday school and was a lector, chalice bearer, and treasurer. Previously, she belonged to All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester. She was a prolific knitter and loved tending to her garden.

A funeral Mass will be held at a date to be announced in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Veteran's Inc., 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605.

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

Roger E. Marchand, 97



THE VILLAGES, Roger E. Marchand, 97, formerly of Webster, MA died Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at home in the presence of family. His wife of 54 years, Junice A. (Racicot) Marchand,

died He leaves 3 sons, Blain H. Marchand of Sutton, MA, James H. Marchand of Putnam, CT, and Greg H. Marchand and his wife Laura of Webster, MA; 4 daughters, Elizabeth A. Marchand of Lewisburg, TN, Rebecca A. Turley and her husband Mark of Dennis, MA, Renee A. Tassone and her husband Christopher of North Adams, MA, and Carole A. Marchand of Moosup, CT; 13 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his brothers Francis H. Marchand and Norman J. Marchand, both of Torrington, CT, by his sister Claire M. Bazinet of Webster, MA and by his son Michael H. Marchand of Canton, MA. He was born on October 29, 1927 in Worcester and raised in Webster, the son of Hormidas J. and Leonie (Blain) Marchand and graduated from Bartlett High School and Cushing Academy and then attended Brown University. He played football and baseball at Bartlett and at Cushing. Brandon Johnson of Dudley. The four He was a United States Marine Corps veteran of World War II and her husband Billy Freeman. They are American Legion post #184.

Insurance Agency with his wife Junice, his son Gregory and daughter Carole. He and his wife retired in 1999 and relocated to Florida. As a representative of Travelers Insurance, he held several indus-



try awards including the Health Quality Award, the National Health Production Leader in 1973 and 1976, the Northeast Regional Health Production Leader for 5 years and the National Leaders Qualifier 4 times including honor guard status. He was also a charter member of Travelers study group and a producer council member for life and annuities. When he lived in Webster, he was a communicant of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. He held a life membership in the Webster Lodge of Elks #1466, now the Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118. For many years he enjoyed camping with family and friends. He also loved sports and most card games.

His funeral will be held Saturday, January 18, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street, Webster. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, with the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council performing military honors. Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 18, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. www.webster-

Theodore (Ted) Peter Theodores, 89



reter Theodores, 89, of Charles Theodore (Ted) Massachusetts, passed away December 24, 2024.

Ted was born in Dudley, MA in 1935 to Peter and Francine Theodores,

for SkillsUSA Medical immigrated from Greece in 1921. He grew up with humble beginnings and went on to lead a life of remarkable achievements, professional success, and extensive travel, inspiring many along the way.

Ted earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1958 and an MBA from Babson College in 1967. In 1958, he married Louise Guilmette in Webster, and they raised two children, Denise and Matthew, in Sudbury, MA.

Ted began his career at Heald Machine Company in Worcester before joining Polaroid in 1962 as a service engineer. Over the years, he advanced through the company, ultimately becoming Director of Industrial and Technical Products. In 1985, he retired from Polaroid and joined EG&G, Inc. in Wellesley as Director of Corporate Business Development, managing venture capital investments, mergers, acquisitions, and government contracts. He served on the technical advisory board of the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral and was involved with several early-stage technology companies. He retired in 1998 as Vice President of Business Development at EG&G and President of EG&G Ventures.

In addition to his professional career, Ted had a deep commitment to service. He served in the Massachusetts National Guard for 12 years, achieving the rank of 1st Lieutenant. In midlife, he fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming a pilot and earned his pilot's license, going on to serve more than 15 years as a Mission Pilot Flight Instructor with the Civil Air Patrol. In 2003, he earned his Captain's License from the U.S. Coast Guard as a Merchant Marine Officer, further pursuing his love for boating.

Ted was a hard worker, driven by a passion for excellence in everything he did, and his "can-do" attitude inspired those around him. Above



all, Ted valued family. He was a devoted father, grandfather, and role model, always expressing gratitude for the blessings in his life.

After retiring, Ted moved to Cape Cod, where he enjoyed boating, fishing, tennis, and painting. In 2009, he founded Friends of Barnstable Harbor, a non-profit dedicated to preserving the harbor he loved, and served as President during the organization's initial years.

Ted was an active Freemason, achieving the degree of Master Mason at Webster Lodge in 1957 and further advancing to the 32nd Degree level in the Valley of Worcester Scottish Rite in 1968. He was a member of several lodges on Cape Cod, while he served as Masonic Ambassador and District Service Officer.

Ted is survived by his former wife, Louise, of Falmouth, ME; his children Denise (Andrew Rodwin) of Acton, MA, and Matthew (Ellen) of Cumberland Foreside, ME; sister Eleanor Davies; grandchildren Noah, Dana, Peter, Sam, Christopher, and Nicholas; and a loving extended family.

He was predeceased by his brother Louis.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, January 8 at 10:00 AM, with a wake on Tuesday, January 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, both at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church (https:// www.schwebster.org); or Friends of Barnstable Harbor (https://www. friendsofbarnstableharbor.org); or Masonic Health System (https://www. overlook-mass.org/support-overlook/).

DUDLEY

continued from page **A1**

But if you don't do anything you're going to be moved to the town's program. What happens if you don't do anything, and you don't want to participate? The following month you opt out, no fees, no penalties, not a problem. This is a town program, it's about choice. Let's say you opt out of the program. Two months later you say you never should have opted out of the program. You can opt back into the program. There's no fee and there's no penalty. That is for people on basic service, there's no fees or penalties to go back and forth," Mark Cappadona explained.

However, for those who utilize a third-party supplier already the change may include fees associated with that existing supplier, but not with the aggregate plan itself. Cappadona also noted that there is no financial risk to Dudley, only to the supplier. Whatever entity Dudley partners with would provide a set price for the term of the partnership which would range from roughly 18 months to 30 months. The partnership would also not impact benefits such as budget billing, farm discounts, and benefits from solar panels.

The goal for the meeting on Dec. 30 was to get the bless-

ing of the Board of Selectmen to begin the process of procuring estimates for Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda to consider and bring to the selectmen. Ruda explained that these aggregate plans have been a success across the Commonwealth, and they believe it will also prove valuable to Dudley.

"This is the same program that all the surrounding towns get involved with. It's just something that we were a year or two behind. Actually, it was in process in my office, and it went to town meeting and everything spiked. This is nothing that we designed. It's very standard and similar to what other residents of other towns take advantage of on a regular basis," Ruda said. The Board of Selectmen

instructed Colonial Power Group to begin the process of comparing prices and bringing their estimates to the town for consideration. There was talk about waiting until the late January for the numbers, but Selectmen asked for initial estimates to be presented during their Jan. 13 meeting. The timeline of the process would see a deal signed by late February with public meetings held and mailings going out over the following month to have residents signed up by the end of March and launch the plan in April.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A7

In the early hours of Jan. 3, Washington's army arrived at Princeton under the cover of darkness. The Redcoats caught off guard, scrambled to defend themselves as the Continental troops launched a swift and ferocious attack.

Initially, the element of surprise worked in Washington's favor, but the British quickly regrouped. Their disciplined volleys tore through the smokefilled air, threatening to break the Continental line.

Amid the chaos, General Mercer, one Washington's most trusted officers and a key leader, was surrounded by British soldiers and mortally wounded while leading a daring charge. His fall sent a ripple of panic through the American ranks, and the line began to falter. Soldiers hesitated, their resolve wavering as confusion spread across the battlefield.

At that critical moment, Washington rode to the front, a commanding figure on horseback. With bullets whizzing past him, he placed himself squarely in the line of fire, rallying his men with an unshakable display of courage. "Stand firm, men!" he shouted, his voice steady and resolute, cutting through the din of battle.

Inspired by their commander's fearless leadership, the troops surged forward with renewed determination.

The tide of the battle turned. The Continental soldiers pressed their advantage, outflanking and overwhelming the British forces. By mid-morning on Jan. 3, 1777, the town of Princeton was firmly in American hands. The victory was hard-fought and costly, but it proved once again that Washington's leadership and the army's tenacity could triumph against all odds.

The back-to-back wins at Trenton and Princeton reinvigorated the revolutionary cause at its darkest hour. Washington's daring maneuvers and ability to outthink and outfight the British proved that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.

Cornwallis, upon discovering Washington's brilliant escape, was stunned. Across the colonies, news of the victory spread like wildfire across the colonies, inspiring hope and a new wave of recruits joining the fight for independence.

General Washington and his band of underdogs had prevailed. His New Year's resolutions were clear: defy the odds, outwit his enemies, and keep the dream of independence alive, no matter the cost.

Let this be the year you face your battles, big or small, with the same fearless resolveproving that, like Washington and his army, you, too, can achieve greatness against the odds. What will your resolutions be this year?

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United Way of South Central Massachusetts celebrates annual Holiday Luncheon

 ${\tt SOUTHBRIDGE-The}$ United Way of South Central Massachusetts (UWSCM) has been a steadfast pillar of support for the community for many years. Their recent Annual Holiday Luncheon, held at the Sturbridge Publick House Inn and Restaurant on Dec. 19 was a testament to the enduring spirit of compassion and generosity that defines this organization.

The event was hosted by Alycia Dzik, UWSCM's 2024 Board President, through a program that was more than just an update luncheon; it was a celebration of the remarkable impact that UWSCM has on nonprofit organizations and the countless individuals receiving vital supports in South Worcester

Keynote speaker, Liz Hamilton, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley, spoke about the increased importance of supportthese difficult economic times. She stressed that volunteering is an equally important way to give and that doing so not only helps those in need but is highly beneficial to the volunteer's health, well-being, and happi-

As the luncheon progressed, Campaign Chair Shana Bandelean of Webster First Federal Credit Union provided an eagerly awaited campaign update. The news was good – UWSCM and its community partners had already achieved 65 percent of the 2024 campaign fundraising goal of \$645,000. This speaks volumes about the dedication of the community and the trust they place in UWSCM to make a difference

"In a world that can sometimes feel divided and uncertain, the power of unity is more important than ever," said Bandelean. "It's the force that brings people togethcreates lasting change. When we come together with a shared purpose, we can achieve extraordinary things."

The room was filled with anticipation as retiring UWSCM Executive Director Mary O'Coin took to the microphone to share farewell remarks.

"Looking back on my career at the United Way of South Central Massachusetts, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude. It has been an incredible journey, a privilege to serve this community alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals," O'Coin said.

Under O'Coin's leadership, UWSCM has raised and invested nearly \$4 million in programs to support the health, education, and financial stability of the South Central Massachusetts community. In 2020, she oversaw the merger of the United Ways of Webster and Dudley as they came under the UWSCM purwith gifts and well wishes by those in attendance, including a citation from the Massachusetts Legislature. Mary is looking forward to traveling and spending time with family.

As the event drew to a close, Alycia Dzik introduced the new Executive Director, Kristin McCarthy. With a background in the non-profit sector, McCarthy brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the organization. She previously worked for 17 years at Tri-Valley, Inc., most recently as the Nutrition Program Director, a position she held for the last eight years.

Highlighting UWSCM leadership, hearing inspiring talks and campaign updates clearly moved the room and illustrated in real time, that together, we can remain "united in purpose" and continue to make our community stronger.

United The Central South



Courtesy

Mary O'Coin and Kristin McCarthy

Massachusetts remains steadfast in its dedication to the community. As we move forward into 2025, let's remember the spirit of unity and compassion that defines UWSCM. For more information about their programs and how

to contribute to this worthy cause, please visit their website at www. uwscm.org follow them on Facebook @UWSCM or contact them directly at (508) 765-5491.

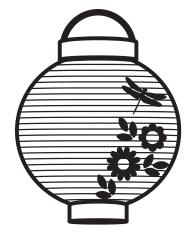


This celebration occurs in many Asian countries and prominently features animals.

Answer: Chinese (lunar) New Year

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

NULRA EDAARP YRAE OLCROS

Answer: Enjoy the lanterns



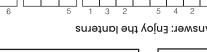
1759: The first American life is incorporated in Philadelphia.

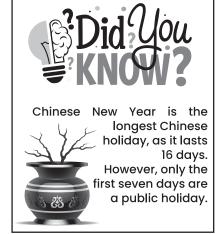
1908: Grand Canyon National Monument is created.

1935: Amelia Earhart becomes the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to California.



by the moon







Can you quess what the bigger picture is?

Yuswer: Dragon puppet

Fun By The

Then you'll love sudoku. This

puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so

mind-bending

pencil and put

your sudoku savvy to the test!

English: Snake Spanish: Serpiente Italian: Serpente French: Serpent German: Schlange

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Solve the code to discover words related to dog training. Each number corresponds to a letter (Hint: 24 = A)

20 13 24 12 1

Clue: Controls pet

В. 26 19 4 4

Clue: Give an order

12 24 7 13 25 2

Clue: Caution

D. 19 3 13 2

Clue: Follow commands

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C. safety

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Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will

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8	S	Þ	9	ļ	Z	6	ε	9	
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G	ω	8	7	9	Þ	L	S	6	
1	b	A	6	G	2	8	9	ε	
:H∃WSNA									

appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

DCRSD student rep attends MASR Conference

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District had a presence at the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Representatives (MASR) Conference in 2024 with School Committee Student Representative Anthony Avoglia attending the event to network and learn from his fellow young leaders from across the Commonwealth.

Avoglia recalled his experience at the conference during a meeting of the school committee in December. He was one of around 50 delegates that attended the event in Marlborough where participants could discuss and debate issues facing municipalities and school districts on both the state and national stage. Avoglia admitted he wasn't sure what to expect from the event but found the gathering to be insightful

"I met people from all around. They discussed a bunch of issues going around Massachusetts. Social and money issue are a big talk around this year. There was a lot of discussion about it, and a lot of problems going around. Actually, I went in with very low expectations, but I believe I gained a lot from it," Avoglia

The Massachusetts Association of Student Representative promotes its mission "to connect, train, and empower Student Representatives on school committees all across the Commonwealth." Part of their goal is to empower and enable student representatives to maximize their terms and provide a voice to school committees to help them better understand the in-school experience from a different perspective.

Avoglia said the conference was a great opportunity for him, so much so that he has now joined MASR for the remainder of his term.

'I met a lot of good people, and they provided me with resources. Turning ideas into action was one of their big things. They work at the state level to push stuff forward, when one student representative has a problem, they kind of join together and are able to push things forward which I thought was very cool,"

Avoglia plans to bring input from his meetings with MASR to future school committee discussions in the hopes of helping the Dudley Charlton Regional School District stay ahead of the issues and be a leader in providing the best education, opportunities, and quality of life for its students.



LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE CONTRACT NO. 2024-01 WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES **AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS** REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS **GENERAL CONTRACTORS AND** SUBCONTRACTORS FOR FILED **SUB-BIDS**

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) c.149 s.44A-M, the Auburn Water District Board of Water Commissioners is seeking qualified General Contractors and Subcontractors for Filed Sub-Bids for the Project known as the Arsenic and PFAS Treatment Plant for South Street Wells, Contract No. 2024-1. The Work consists of construction of a 400 gallon per minute arsenic and PFAS removal water treatment facilities, located at 9A Pine Valley Drive, Auburn, MA. The primary treatment process utilizes pressure filtration units with GreensandPlus media and Granular Activated Carbon media.

The Filed Sub-Bid categories include: Masonry; Roofing and Flashing; Miscellaneous Metals: Painting; Plumbing; Fire Protection; Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning; and Electrical.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be used to prequalify General Contractors and Filed Sub-Bid Subcontractors who will then be invited to submit a bid pursuant to Section 44E and 44F of Chapter 149 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The estimated total construction cost for this Project is \$12,000,000.

Interested General Contractors and Filed Sub-Bid Subcontractors shall submit a statement of qualifications in response to this RFQ using the Form available in the RFQ package. Each General Contractor and Subcontractor submitting an RFQ response must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAM).

RFQ responses must be received at the Auburn Water District, PO Box 187, 75 Church Street, Auburn, MA 01501 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on January 17, 2025, in order to be considered in the prequalification process. Contractors may obtain Documents at the office of the Engineer: Comprehensive Environmental, Inc., Attn: Michael Carmasine, 41 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740 or by email requesting the RFQ to be sent electronically to Francine Carrigan at fcarrigan@ceiengineers.com. All EMAIL requests must contain company information: address, telephone number. contact name, Bid category and e-mail address. CEI is not responsible for the non-issuance or receipt of RFQs due to any inaccuracies contained in Email requests.

AUBURN WATER DISTRICT INVITATION FOR QUOTES OFFICE EMERGENCY GENERATOR

January 10, 2025

REPLACEMENT

The Auburn Water District (District) seeks quotes under M.G.L. Ch. 30 Sec. 39M for a contract to replace a 30kw three-phase, natural gas generator and automatic transfer switch, and if required, any associated plumbing and/or electrical fixtures. Quotes must be delivered by 2:00 p.m., Friday January 24, 2025, to the District's Office, PO Box 187, 75 Church Street, Auburn MA 01501. Prospective bidders may contact the District at 508-832-5336 to schedule a site visit to take place no later than 12:00 p.m.,

Wednesday, January 15, 2025. All communication regarding this IFQ must be made in writing and directed to Greg Woods, Superintendent. Copies of the IFQ will be available beginning on 12/27/2024 on the Auburn Water District website at https://www.auburnwater.com/forms-and-applications/ and at the District office 8AM – 3PM M-F. January 10, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P4103EA INFORMAL PROBATE **PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Debra Elain Arrell Date of Death: October 30, 2024 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of : Petitioner Rochelle Rosenberg of Ja-

Estate Of:

maica Plain MA Will has been admitted to informal pro-

Rochelle Rosenberg of Jamaica

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

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

January 10, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate** and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P4355EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

> Estate Of: **Raymond R Froment** Date of Death: 03/01/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Darlene A Froment of Webster MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Darlene A Froment of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal 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 01/21/2025.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS **UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 23, 2024 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

(SEAL)

January 10, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

> 24 SM 004458 **ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: Scott Roseen; Kristine Roseen and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 11 Dalessandro Avenue a/k/a 11 D'Alessandro Avenue, given by Scott Roseen and Karen Roseen to Household Finance Corporation II, dated April 1, 2003, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29550, Page 155, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated April 11, 2023 and recorded at said Registry in Book 69122, Page 86 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 abovementioned 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 February 10, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on December 27, 2024.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder January 10, 2024

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 24 SM 003838 **ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:

John B Oliveira; Lillian Oliveira And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): Nationstar Mortgage LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 177 Gore Road, given by John B. Oliveira and Lillian Oliveira to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, dated March 6, 2020, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62003, Page 233, 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 abovementioned 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 February 3, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on December 20, 2024.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder January 10, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P4282EA

INFORMAL PROBATE **PUBLICATION NOTICE** Estate Of: Kelly M. Cofske

Date of Death: October 17, 2024 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of: Petitioner Taren Cofske of Webster

Also Known As:

Kelly Meghan Cofske

MA Will has been admitted to informal pro-

bate. Taren Cofske of Webster MA

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

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

Petitioner. January 10, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eddie Colon, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation, dated August 8, 2018, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59230 at Page 134, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation to Plaza Home Mortgage Inc., dated January 30, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59994, Page 83; by assignment from Plaza Home Mortgage, Inc. to Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC, dated May 20, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60531, Page 249; by assignment from Plaza Home Mortgage Inc. to PHH Mortgage Corporation, dated June 27, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60644, Page 343; by corrective assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation Successor by Merger to Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC to PHH Mortgage Corporation, dated February 14, 2023, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69519, Page 128; and by an assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee of the RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, dated July 26, 2023, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69519, Page 131, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on the 31st day of January 2025, at 76 Myrtle Street, Webster, MA 01570, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

The land with the buildings thereon located at 76 Myrtle Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southeast corner thereof at Valley Street;

THENCE extending westerly by said Valley Street, one hundred forty (140) feet to a corner;

THENCE extending northerly, fourteen

THENCE extending easterly, one hun-

To wit:

dred thirty-two (132) feet to said Myrtle Avenue: THENCE extending southerly by said

Myrtle Avenue, sixty-one (61) feet to the point of beginning.

Property Address: 76 Myrtle Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts

For title see Book 59230, Page 131. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) 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 wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 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. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced

at the sale. U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021

Present holder of said mort-

BKM-TT-V,

gage, By its Attorneys, Demerle & Associates P.C. 10 City Square, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02129 (617) 337-4444 January 10, 2025 January 17, 2025 January 24, 2025

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2025 is the year of the Monstera

Kick-off 2025 with the addition of a monstera plant to your indoor garden. You'll join other gardeners observing 2025 as the Year of the Monstera. Each year, the National Garden Bureau (NGB) selects and celebrates

one plant in each of the following categories: annual, perennial, bulb, edible, and shrub. The plants are chosen for their popularity, easycare nature, adaptability, diversity, and versatility.

Monstera certainly meets the criteria and as NGB declared it is "the world's most iconic indoor plant." The large, heart-shaped glossy leaves have distinct perforations called fenestrations. Scientists speculate these holes allow tropical downpours to pass through, minimizing plant damage.

There are several different monsteras, ranging in size and leaf shape including some with variegated leaves. Some are easy to grow while others are a bit fussier. Always check the plant label for specifics on caring for the



monstera vou select.

One of the most popular and readily available is the Monstera deliciosa, commonly called splitleaf philodendron, even though it is not a philodendron. It's known for its large heart-shaped perforated leaves on thick stems. In its native habitat, it can grow 66 feet tall but typically grows up to 7 or 8 feet indoors. The flowers that seldom appear indoors are like a peace lily with a coneshaped structure (spadix) surrounded by a cupped white sheath (spathe). The flowers may be followed by an edible fruit that tastes like a combination of pineapple, banana, and mango. This flavorful combination inspired its nickname, fruit salad plant, and the botanical name that

translates to delicious monstrosity.

In general, these tropical beauties prefer growing conditions like that of their native habitat. They prefer bright, filtered indirect sunlight. Avoid direct sunlight that can scorch or cause leaves to turn

yellow. Grow monsteras in a quality well-drained potting mix in a container with drainage holes. Water them thoroughly when the top two inches of soil are dry. Pour off excess water or place the pot on pebbles in a saucer. The pebbles elevate the pot above any water that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. As this water evaporates, humidity increases around the plant.

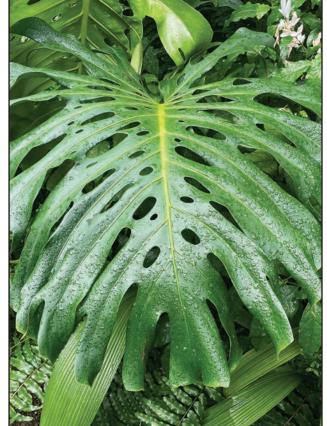
Further boost the humidity by placing your monstera with other plants. As one plant loses moisture or transpires, the neighboring plants will benefit.

Only apply houseplant fertilizer when the plants are actively growing, usually March through October. Let the plant and your garden goals be your fertilization guide. Fertilizers provide needed nutrients to plants in need of a nutrient boost or when you want to stimulate more growth.

Support the plant with a moss pole or trellis as it starts to climb. The large aerial roots attach to nearby surfaces to help them climb. In nature, these roots help monsteras to climb trees and have been used to make rope in Peru and baskets in Mexico.

Use these beauties to create an indoor tropical paradise or to provide some green relief. No matter your indoor décor, this unique plant will make a welcome addi-

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised 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 radio program. Myers is a columnist



The National Garden Bureau has declared 2025 as the Year of the Monstera, calling it "the world's most iconic indoor plant."

for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site

and contributing editor is www.MelindaMyers.

McCoy's Action Karate announces participation in National Martial Arts Challenge

Bingo Challenge, achieving 4 Bingos event, visit whistlekick.com/pages/

AUBURN — McCoy's Action Karate. a martial arts school in Auburn, MA, is proud to announce its participation in the wK Alliance Good Deeds Challenge, an initiative hosted by Whistlekick LLC. This event encouraged martial artists to positively impact their communities by performing acts of kindness from Dec. 5 through Dec. 22.

The wK Alliance Good Deeds Challenge invited martial artists to step outside their training spaces and into their neighborhoods, completing various acts of kindness. Participants used a special bingo card filled with good deed ideas—such as helping a neighbor, cleaning up public spaces, or supporting local organizations—to track their

Each row completed earned the school an entry into a drawing for a \$250 donation to a charity of their choice. McCoy's Action Karate of Auburn, Massachusetts submitted the winning entry drawn. The school was contacted and elected to have the donation sent to No Birthday Left Behind of Massachusetts, an organization that focuses on celebrating the birthdays of children in homeless shelters.

McCoy's Action Karate (M.A.K.) is dedicated to changing the world one student at a time by building confidence, discipline, and respect through martial arts. We're thrilled to have participated in the 2024 wK Alliance Good Deeds

and spreading kindness throughout our community.

As Saba Carrier said, "M.A.K. has absolutely knocked the challenge out of the park!"—and we're excited to continue making a positive impact together in the year ahead.

"The wK Alliance Good Deeds Challenge highlights the core values of martial arts—respect, integrity, and community," says Jeremy Lesniak, President of Whistlekick LLC. "It's a unique opportunity for martial artists to demonstrate how they make the world a better place, both inside and

outside the school." For more information about the online-challenges. To learn more about McCoy's Action Karate and our participation in the event, please contact Barbara McCoy Carrier at 508-832-4110. About McCoy's Action Karate

Founded in 1994, McCoy's Action Karate has been dedicated to developing both the minds and bodies of its students. The school emphasizes confidence, discipline, and respect, teaching not only martial arts techniques but also valuable life skills. Offering classes six days a week for students as young as two and a half years old through adults, McCoy's Action Karate has become a key resource in the martial arts community, providing a supportive environment for personal growth and achievement.

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Dudley's aggregation program on track for anticipated April start up

DUDLEY — The town's first electricity aggregation program was developed by Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda to reduce energy costs for Dudley resi-

Ruda worked with a municipal aggregation consultant, Colonial Power Group, Inc., and the state Department of Energy Resources to build a public aggregation in compliance with state

The purpose of the plan is to represent Dudley residents in competitive markets to negotiate rates for electricity. In doing so, it brings together the buying power of more than 11,900 consumers to provide reduced energy costs for residents. It further enables the town to take greater control of its energy options, which includes the ability to pursue price stability, savings opportunities and the amount of renewable energy procured.

At a Board of Selectmen's meeting Dec. 30, representatives of Colonial Power said residents can expect to receive mailers in February that will explain the program and its options.

Residents who are presently under contract with a third-party supplier, they said, may join the town program but suggests first checking with the supplier regarding possible fees for early contract termination.

Residents who do not have a third-party supplier and do not decline the service when offered in the February mailing will be automatically enrolled in the town aggregate program and may opt out at any time without fees or hassles.

The program start up is set to begin





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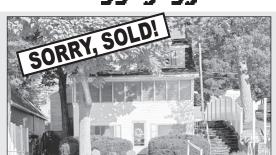


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Webster Lake - 237 Thompson Rd.

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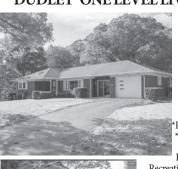
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Bay Path Nursing s tudent awarded MassHire training grant

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy student Miriam Botuo of Worcester was named MassHire Training Grant recipient, granting her \$8,000 towards completion of her certificate in practical nursing.

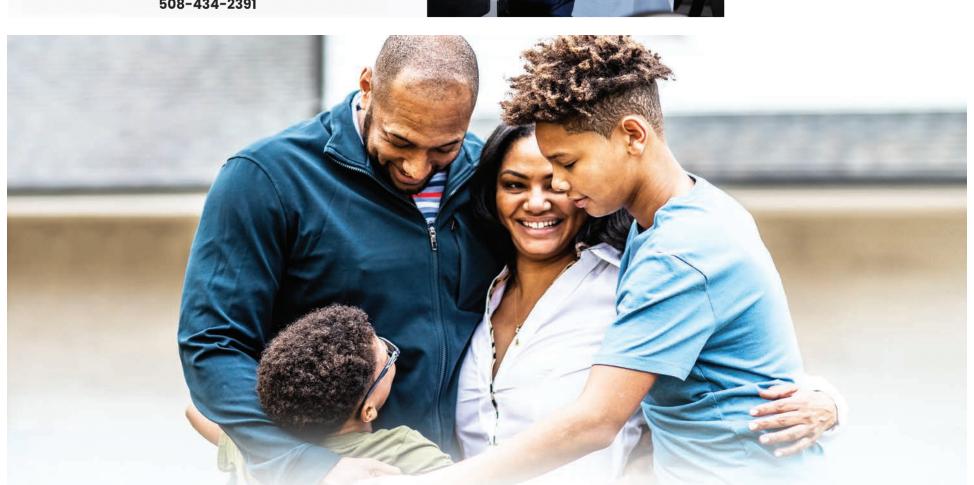
Botuo is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at St. Mary's Healthcare in Worcester, MA and has previously worked at Quest Diagnostics also in Worcester. She is an experienced phlebotomy technician and has performed venipunctures and transported specimens. Her other previous work affiliations include Reliant Medical Group and the US Labs & Radiology Inc. as a mobile phlebotomist.

Training grant funds encourage economic growth in the state and allow for additional training for the workforce. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Commonwealth Corporation encourage businesses to address workforce training needs. Interested parties are encouraged to visit www.commcorp. org/wtfp to learn more.

'We are grateful that MassHire continues to support our students," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. "Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumni who were MassHire grant recipients are successful in their transition to LPNs, and this is a wonderful time to reflect upon the blessings, the amazing opportunities our students and

graduates have and continue to have.

MassHire offers tremendous support."



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