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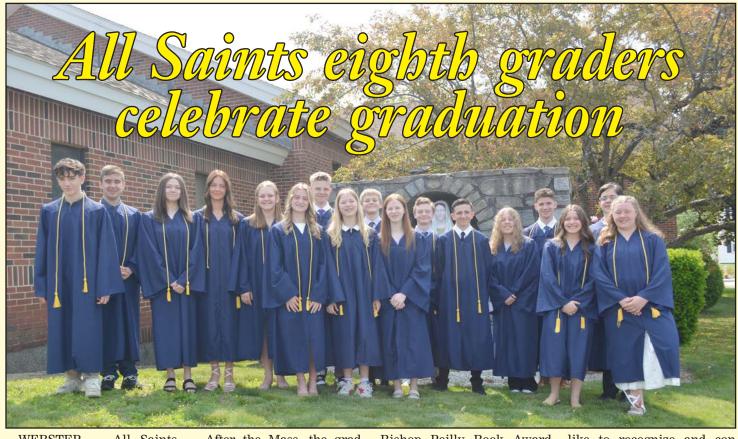


Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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©2025, Issue #26

Friday, June 27, 2025



WEBSTER — All Saints Academy's eighth grade students celebrated their last Mass of the school year and their graduation on June 6 at St. Louis Church in Webster, with their families, friends, Rev. Lucas LaRoche, Rev. Javier Julio and the entire student body in attendance cheering them on.

As the celebrant, Fr. Javier began his homily asking students if they played video games. While there were muted but audible groans from some of the parents, the students were more perplexed as to where the question was leading. Without saying they just finished the "easy" part, Fr. Javier explained that they have just completed one level of their schooling. He told them that as they continue with their education, the students will work harder to achieve each new level. And like any video game, the more levels one achieves, the more difficult the challenges, but the greater the reward will be.

After the Mass, the graduation ceremony was very personal and meaningful as each of the seventeen students were presented with gifts from the student body, teachers and administration. Individual classes put together their wishes for the upperclassmen as they leave behind All Saints Academy and ready themselves for high school and beyond.

As the eighth graders received their gifts, they were prepared to give gifts too. Each student had written a special thank you to their parents for sending and supporting them in school and in their extracurricular activities. While their English teacher, Mrs. Oakley, read aloud their words of appreciation, the students brought their moms flowers as a token of their gratitude.

The ceremony culminated with the conferring of diplomas and awards. A few students were recognized for their achievements both in and out of the classroom. The Bishop Reilly Book Award recognizes an 8th grade student who exemplifies kindness and truth in everyday life, enthusiasm for learning, and active involvement in service to the school, community and church. That award was given to Charles Maglich. The Pearson Memorial Scholarship is given to an outstanding student(s) who plans to further his/her education in a private secondary school, and who best exemplifies the qualities of achievement and dedication to excellence. The students recognized for that award were Sophia MacKenzie and Malcolm Parmentier. Lastly, the All Saints Academy Award is presented to the candidate(s) who have demonstrated effort in the classroom, good conduct, honesty, maturity, responsibility, good peer relations, service and dedication through out the year. The recipients of that award were Cole Adams and Amelia Wentworth.

All Saints Academy would

like to recognize and congratulate all of the graduating students and wish them success in their next chapter. Those students are: Sabastian Abusamra, chapter. Adams, Cole Emma Brooks, Thomas Burren, Ella Campbell, Alexander Delgaudio, Hayley Giroux, Autumn Hibbard, Sophia MacKenzie, Charles Maglich, Reyo Matthews, Matthew Monticelli, Lillian Morton, Malcolm Parmentier, Maria Sendrowski, Alina Turner, and Amelia Wentworth. Some of the schools these graduates will be attending in the fall are: St. Paul's Diocesan Jr/Sr High School, Marianapolis Preparatory School, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Woodstock Academy, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Shepherd Hill Regional High School and

## Dudley sees low turnout for town election

BY JASON BLEAU **CORRESPONDENT** 

DUDLEY — Dudley annual town election on June 16 was by most accounts one of the most uneventful in recent memory. After consecutive years of more than 1,300 voters casting their ballots, over 2,600 in 2023 alone, the 2025 election saw one of the lowest turnouts of the last decade with only 408 of the over 9,200 registered voters in town casting their ballots.

This could have been due to a number of factors, including the absence of major funding questions or a lack of compelling contests, as most races had been determined well before election day as either new candidates or incumbents faced no opposition. However, there was at least one major contest to be settled for the Board of Health which served as the only notable race of the day.

Even then, the results didn't change the course of the board as two incumbents, Roberta Johnson and Anna Chojnacki-Durgin, retained their seats with 257 and 209 votes respectively over challenger Thomas Chojnacki. Thomas Kempe also joined the Board of Health in an uncontested campaign for one of two two-vear-term seats. Eightvthree write-ins were also cast for the remaining available two-year seat. However, the winner was not declared in time for this report. The 2025 election came as the Board of Health entered a new

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

## Lafond gets another "excellent" review

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Not long ago, the selectmen gave Town Administrator Rick Lafond another strong review covering his second full year in the job.

As newly-elected chair Tom Klebart noted, the overall score was 4.64 out of 5.0, which he termed "excellent." Later, however, the board talked a little about how a numeric rating system is somewhat subjective, with Klebart observing that "excellent" will score differently to different people.

Lafond agreed. He said he doesn't use it to review department heads; instead, they have a "narrative, conversational" method looking at "the good, the bad and the day-to-day challenges" of their jobs.

You get to the point where you don't consider things 'problems,'" he added. "It's just what you do."

Klebart's summary of the review – which is public record, although the individual reviews are not included scores for various job areas and comments on both Lafond's strengths and suggestions on how to improve.

For example, the chair noted the board feels Lafond works well with them, "provides sound advice" because of his experience, and has "a high level of integrity, ethics and modesty." Members think Lafond is good at listening and responding to citizen concerns; works well with other town officials, regional, state and federal officials, and community groups; has done "a good job hiring and recruiting personnel;" and has "good judgement" but can also "consult experts when

necessary," Klebart said Among the suggestions were to review his annual goals more often, to recommend "rejuvenation, elimination or creation" of town boards as needed, and look 'for opportunities to provide the media with positive stories" about Webster.

Mark Rogers noted goal-setting is a shared board/ administrator responsibility, but the board hasn't been particularly good at figuring out the difference between goals and tasks and communicating those."

Elaine Davies said that will become easier about

Turn To **LAFOND** page **A11** dedicated figure in the

## Coaching staff leads Auburn U14 soccer girls to Tournament of Champions

Worcester Academy.



**AUBURN** In a remarkable display of dedication and skill, Mike Courtney, along with coaches Andy Paquette and Chris Wideback, has led the U14 United Soccer of Auburn Girls to a victory in the 2025 CMYSL soccer tournament. In addition, Courney, along with coach Matt Ferguson, has led the U19 United Soccer of Auburn Girls to a victory in the 2025 CMYSL soccer tournament. This remarkable achievement has earned them a well-deserved spot in the Massachusetts Tournament Champions (MTOC).

Courtney has been a

local soccer community, known for his passion and commitment to youth soccer. Alongside his fellow coaches, he has spent countless hours training and mentoring young athletes, instilling in them the values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. His commitment to the sport and his daughters' teams has been unwavering, making him a beloved figure in the local soccer community.

The 2025 CMYSL soccer tournament was a challenging competition, with teams from across the region vying for the top spot. Under the strategic guidance of Mike

Courtney and his coaching team, both the U14 and U19 United Soccer of Auburn Girls showcased exceptional skill and teamwork, ultimately emerging victorious. Their success is a testament to the coaches' ability to inspire and motivate their players, as well as the hard work and dedication of the young ath-

The success of Courtney, his coaching team and the players has had a profound impact on the community. It has brought immense pride and joy to the players, their families, and local soccer enthusiasts. The achievement also under-

scores the importance of parental involvement in youth sports, highlighting how dedication and support can lead to extraordinary outcomes.

As the teams prepare for the Massachusetts Tournament Champions, the journey of Courtney and his coaching team serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through passion, hard work, and unwavering support. The community eagerly anticipates their performance in the upcoming tournament, hoping for continued success and more memorable moments on the soccer field.

# JAK-L Foundation champions mental health with Paint Day for future nurses



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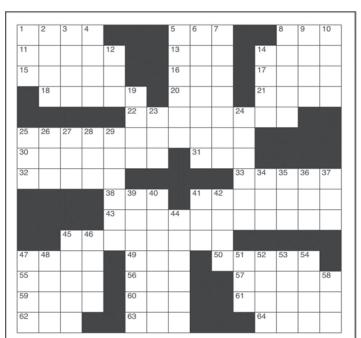
Donita Bytyqi and JAK-L Foundation Representative, Wendy Clouarte.



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#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Computer manufacturer
- 5. Noted space station 8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- 11. Automaton
- 13. Everyone has one 14. Incline from the vertical
- 16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- 17. Finishes off
- 18. Places to store things 20. Dutch painter Gerard
- 21. Smaller quantity
- 22. There's a North, South and Central of these
- 25. In an early way
- 30. More spacious
- 31. Short-term memory 32. One who possesses
- 33. Sesame 38. Forbid
- 41. A way to explain
- 43. Not around
- 45. Evoke or suggest
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea 49. Dekameter
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. "Luther" actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang) 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 61. Arabic name
- 60. Born of
- 62. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_
- pai dong 63. Not the start
- 64. Post

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Creative expression 2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- 3. City in ancient Syria 4. College army
- 5. More disturbed 6. Pays no attention to
- 7. Restored
- 8. Competitions
- 9. Lyric poems 10. Famed American lawman
- 12. Expression of disappointment
- 14. Scars 19. Satisfy
- 23. Central European river 24. Brass instrument
- 26. Propel with oars
- 27. Long period of time
- 28. Woman (French)

- 29. Type of plane
- 34. Pitching stat 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Pro sports league 37. Body part
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth 41. Feline
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Set out to attract 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish
- congregation 46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Tributary of the High Rhine 25. One who gets paid to perform 52. Prejudice
  - 53. C. European river
  - 54. Restrain
  - 58. Father
- S E N D 3 3 1 8 A A В 3 SOLUTION Y E P D K W 8 E B A O M A N O S 3 A V A N U Y | A | I | A | СГ B E N N E O W N E B R O O M I E R M T S J B R U T A M PUZZLE 3 B I A 3 M A О О 3 7 U R A C K S C E R N B D SI 1 | I A 9 В OA 3

Foundation, a local non-profit committed to expanding mental health awareness and preventing suicide, recently sponsored a vibrant mental health paint day for Bay Path Practical Nursing students at Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio in Sturbridge. This thoughtful initiative marks a significant step in supporting the well-being of future healthcare professionals and fostering a community dedicated to mental health.

Donita Bytyqi of Grafton, a member of the PN Class of 2025, played a key role in organizing the student nurses' participation, helping to make the event a success.

The paint day offered a much-needed therapeutic and creative outlet for the Bay Path Practical Nursing students, providing a welcome break from their demanding studies. Held at the popular Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, the event allowed students to express themselves through art, promoting relaxation and stress reduction. These are all essential components of mental well-being, especially for those entering the high-pressure field of nursing.

"We believe it's crucial to equip our future nurses with tools for self-care and resilience, even before they step into their professional roles," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. "The mental health paint day was designed to be a fun, engaging way to emphasize the importance of prioritizing one's own mental health, and we are grateful to the JAK-L Foundation for thinking about our student nurses."

Future plans: QPR suicide prevention training for students and

Beyond this creative endeavor, the JAK-L Foundation is excited to announce its plans to collaborate with Bay Path Practical Nursing students in the future for a comprehensive QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention training. QPR is an evidence-based program that teaches individuals how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, offer hope, and refer someone to professional help. This vital training will empower these aspiring

tially save lives and prevent death by suicide within their communities and future workplaces.

"Preventing suicide requires a collective effort, and we are thrilled that the JAK-L Foundation is considering offering QPR training to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Students in the future to empower them with these life-saving skills," Dr. Bolandrina added. "By training future healthcare provid-

ers, we are creating a ripple effect of awareness and support."

The JAK-L Foundation

is also considering extending QPR training to middle and high school students, as well as parents, further expanding its reach in suicide prevention efforts.

ready: Get JAK-L Foundation goes Vegas style on Nov. 15!

Looking ahead, the JAK-L Foundation is gearing up for its highly anticipated future fundraiser, 'JAK-L Foundation Goes Vegas Style," scheduled for Nov. 15. This exciting event promises an evening of entertainment and will be crucial in raising funds to support the foundation's ongoing initiatives in mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and educational programs. Further details about the Vegas-themed fundraiser will be announced closer to the date.

The JAK-L Foundation remains deeply committed to its mission of reducing the stigma around accessing mental health support and directly impacting the community to promote well-being and save lives. Through events like the JAK-L Foundation Strides for Mental Health 5K Memorial Run/Walk, the recent mental health paint day, and future QPR training, alongside impactful fundraisers, the foundation continues to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families across the region.

About the JAK-L Foundation:

## Hofstra University congratulates Dean's List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the spring 2025 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Local students who earned placement on the list include: Cooper Cooke of Dudley. Cooke's major is Computer

Molly Starczewski of Dudley. Starczewski's major is Dance. Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

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PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 860-928-1818, ext. 305 julie@villagernewspapers.com non-profit organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness, reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness, and actively supporting suicide prevention initiatives within the community. Through education, outreach, and partnerships, the foundation strives to promote mental well-being and save lives. Learn more at https://jak-l.

The JAK-L Foundation is a

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\$435,000, 14 Warren Rd, Pereira, Leigh A, to Tang, Dexuan.

\$417,000, 73 Appleton Rd, Pappas George Est, and Uzzell, Christine, to Atg LLC.

#### DUDLEY

\$740,000,96 Pierpont Rd, Penniman, Edward H, and Penniman, Ruth, to Field, Sandra.

\$205,000, 6 Warsaw Ave #2, Wolenski, Kenneth W, and Wolenski, Diane M, to Rigney 2nd, Jason M.

#### **OXFORD**

\$495,000, 8 Pond St, Sirard, Jeffrey A, to Fabian, Oviedy J, and Diaz,

\$490,000, 44 Church St, Sneade, John J, and Sneade, Leslie, to Mailea,

\$440,000, 81 Huguenot Rd, Campbell, Gail M, to Rocha, Jairo O, and Rocha, Luciana M.

Corrine M, to Fode, Kevin, and Felkley, Charlene. \$400,000, 64 Charlton St, Mcgrail Patrick Est, and Mcgrail, Brian A, to Walker, Hilary, and Bradley,

\$426,000, 82 Larned Rd, Devitt,

Elizabeth. \$380,000, 184 Sutton Ave, Jodoin, Matthew R, and Jodoin, Laurie J, to Gaucher, Christopher A.

\$352,000, 22 Thayer Pond Dr #6, Mccarthy Kathleen M Est, and Mccarthy, Bridget M, to Iozzo, James

#### WEBSTER

\$950,000, 19 Loveland Rd, Seraphin, Joseph R, and Seraphin, Jean M, to Aloisi, Kevin, and Aloisi, Sarah.

\$680,000, Bates Point Rd, Morse, Avy M, to West View Properties LLC. \$550,100, 25 Brodeur Ave, Ramsey, Michelle J, to Francilme, Mitchella. \$450,000, 250 N Main St, Thibeault, Matthew T, to Cote, Angela, and

Orsi, Joseph. \$431,200, 66 Old Douglas Rd, Fed Im Loan Mtg Corp F, to Rohena Inc. \$412,000, 9 Grandview Laureano, Juan M, and Delgado, Madelyn C, to Petit, Tigayot.

\$400,000, 6 Pinehurst Saengphuang, Maneerat, Mcpartlen, Nathaniel.

\$385,000, 11 Slater St, Beeman, Adelfa, and Keith, Richard L, to Karpowich Jr, Anthony.

\$375,000, 57 Ash St, Moskwa, Walter W, and Moskwa, Monika, to Gibbons 3rd, John J, and Gibbons,

Elizabeth. Oleary Jr, John R, to Pepin, Matthew S, and Podell, Kayla R. \$252,000, 25 Overlook Ave, Pearce,

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> WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212) For emergencies, call 911

Webster Fire Department (949-3875) Monday-Friday ......8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday......8 a.m. to 12 p.m.



# State legislators honor Bay Path Nursing graduate Loise Ngigi

Ngigi, a recent graduate of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, was honored on June 20 at her graduation and pinning ceremony held at the Overlook Performance Arts Center. State Rep. John J. Marsi, Jr. (6th Worcester District) and State Sen. Ryan C. (Worcester Fattman Middlesex District) presented Ngigi with a citation acknowledging her accomplishments, including being named the MassCTE.org Postsecondary Student of the Year for the Central

Citations are awarded to constituents who have reached significant personal or professional milestones. Representative

CHARLTON — Loise Marsi, who presented the citation, also did so on behalf of Senator Fattman. Both legislators are Republicans serving the Massachusetts General Court.

> Loise Ngigi, a resident of South Grafton and a member of the Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2025, was recognized for her outstanding achievement by MassCTE. org at a recent banquet and awards ceremony at the Renaissance Boston Patriot Place Hotel.

"What an honor to witness and celebrate this recognition for our nursing graduate," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. "We are proud of Loise for this achievement and grateful to both Senator Fattman and Representative Marsi."

Ngigi, who also served as a UNICEF Club officer, graciously accepted the award, stating, "I am for-ever grateful." She brings a wealth of experience to her nursing career, with seven years of direct experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and certified Home Health Aide (HHA). She earned her nursing assistant certification in 2017 from 3 Dimensions College in Worcester and obtained her high school diploma from Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya in 2012.

During her time at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Loise also

completed her Dementia Care certification and is certified in BLS/HCP/ CPR (Basic Life Support, Health Care Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), Medical Administration Program (MAP), and Mental Health First Aid. Her professional experience includes working as a CNA at River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Lancaster, and currently as a direct support professional at Venture Community Services in Sturbridge. She will be competing at the SkillsUSA national conference in Atlanta, GA as the Massachusetts state champion for First Aid/

#### STEM gets a boost at W orcester State University

- Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with throughout locations Central Massachusetts, is donating \$15,000 a year for the next three years, a total contribution of \$45,000, to Worcester State University's STEM Connections program. gift continues Cornerstone Bank's generous multi-year support of various STEM initiatives at Worcester State.

"This donation is personal for me," said Bank Cornerstone President Randy Webber, who graduated from Worcester State University with a B.A. in business administration and sits on the board

of the Worcester State Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the mission of the university. "I cherish my time spent at Worcester State, and I'm proud to be able to support the academic endeavors of students there

The university's STEM Connections program focuses on engaging junior and senior high school students from Worcester public high schools in fun and informative hands-on laboratory and data analysis projects at the Worcester State campus. Professors from chemistry, biology and environmental science lead the program, and a Worcester State student serves as the teaching assistant. The participants take field trips, hear from local experts, and participate in a variety of learning activities to encourage a love for science. The program also introduces pathways to higher education in STEM fields. Students gain valuable knowledge and skills about navigating the college application process through presentations by the university's admissions and financial aid teams.

The program is one of the university's signature summer educational programs, said Worcester State Vice President for University Advancement

Tom McNamara, adding, "The Cornerstone STEM Connections program has a tremendous impact on students by igniting their enthusiasm for science, building confidence, and enabling them to envision a future college education in STEM. We are tremendously grateful to Cornerstone Bank for providing this multiyear support. This gift represents an important investment in the future workforce for our region."

"I hope this donation helps open doors for students the way Worcester State helped me build a strong foundation for a rewarding career at Cornerstone

Webber. "The future is bright." About Cornerstone

Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help peoand businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses,

and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank. com or call 800-939-9103.

## DAR honors graves of Revolutionary War patriots





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AUBURN — General Ebenezer Learned Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), working together with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, was able to obtain a Minuteman Burial Marker for the West Auburn Burial Ground. This marker honors the four Revolutionary War patriots who are buried there. The patriots being honored were Colonel Jonah Goulding, Privates Daniel Dodge, Robert Fitts, and Abel Partridge. Colonel Goulding, Robert Fitts and Daniel Dodge answered the call on April 19, 1775. The dedication was held on Tuesday, June 17 at the burial ground.

Thanks to all who helped to make the dedication happen including, Ray Robichaud & the Auburn Cemetery Department, Massachusetts State DAR regent, Carolyn Nutt, State Historian, Charlene Goddard Lyle. Also Kathryn Toomey and Margaret Freeman of the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Sari Bitticks, president, and Zach Washburn of the Auburn Historical Society and Museum who help obtain the written documentation need to prove ownership of land, military records, and vital records of the patriots. The Auburn Board of Selectmen and former town manager, Edward Kazanovicz for the support of the project, when originally proposed. Also, the Oxford Jr. ROTC color guard, Auburn CERT, and Auburn Sportsmen's Club who helped on the day.



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Adult Programming

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am

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

Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidr practice to start your day on Wednesdays. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidr). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)

This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess for a one-hour relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Computer Basics - Thursday, June 26th at 3:00PM

Come learn some computer basics with Assistant Director Evan Hale and Adult Services Librarian Jess Fontaine.

Has Anyone Seen 500 Million in Art Lying Around Boston? – Thursday, June 26th at 6:00PM

An hour or so after the 1990 St. Patrick's Day ended, two men dressed as Boston cops entered the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, stayed for about 90 minutes, and left with 13 pieces of art. None of the items have been found. Numerous suspects have been named over the years; none have been arrested. Many are dead. Bob Ainsworth, the author of Duped, a fictional account of the robbery, will review the actual details of the theft, the suspects, and the motives behind the world's most valued art theft.

Stop the Bleed - Monday, June 30th at 6:00pm

The American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed program is all about stopping traumatic bleeding, like a wound you would get from tripping through a glass door. This education is used to prevent people from bleeding out before paramedics arrive. There is no blood shown. There will be hands-on demonstrations so everyone can use what they have learned in the class and practice. Every participant will receive a Stop The Bleed certificate for the class.

E para Todos: SMART goals en español – Monday, June 30th 6:00pm

Únete a E for All en un taller de objetivos SMART en español. ¡Los objetivos SMART te ayudan a trabajar con mayor eficiencia y a optimizar tu tiempo!

Programming for All Ages

Puzz Fest – Thursday, June 26th 6:00PM

Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us in the Community Room to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We'll have popcorn to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required. Children's and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt---- All Month Long
What's more 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.

Take and Make Craft--- All month long

New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up in the Children's room on the 1st of every month, while supplies last.

Maker Mondays – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00PM

Play with magnets, wooden blocks, and Legos.

Toddler Playtime--- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

Kids  $\overset{\circ}{0}$  to  $\overset{\circ}{0}$  are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

Storytime for Littles – Wednesdays at 10AM Join Andrew the Children's Librarian for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun,

and some free play. This storytime is geared toward ages 0 to 3, but siblings are welcome.

Play-doh Storytime – Fridays at 10AM

Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, play-doh, and fun! This storytime is geared toward ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

Beginner Origami-Fridays at 3:45PM

Are you interested in making origami, but you don't know where to start? You can start here. And if you do know how to make some origami, feel free to come make some as well. For kids of all ages.

Mobile Quest Adventures: BattleBots – Friday, June 27th at 3:00pm

Time to level up your skills in the MobileQuest arena, in this program, teen participants will modify our Dash robots with balloons, skewers, plastic straws, and more as they prepare for battle! Participants work individually controlling their battlebot until the last balloon is popped!

Terrific Tranquil Turtles Family Painting Class – Saturday, June 28th at 11:30am

This is an acrylic-paint program designed for families, but welcome to children and adults of all ages! Students will learn about brush stroke, color mixing, gradient blending, and more as they receive step-by-step instructions to complete their paintings on canvas. Adults and children alike will benefit from specific instructor feedback while still being encouraged to express their own artistic freedom. Registration is required.

Tom Knight Puppet Show

Monday, June 30th at

children, ages 3 - 6, who

are "Movin' On Up" to

preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade in Fall 2025. Families will enjoy songs, movement and laughs with

Tom Knight and his puppet pals. Registration is required through the YFCP website between June 9 and June 30. Every registered child will receive a book to take home. Siblings are wel-

Laser Tag for Teens -

Up to 20 participants ages 12-18 may take part

Monday, June 30th 6:00pm

in an outdoor laser tag

match. Sneakers and shoes are required. No flip flops. As a lot of running

is required, participants

with conditions such as asthma must have proper

medication at all times.

is celebrating

10:30am

come

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Webster Police Log

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 15-21.

Scott W. Shea, age 54, of Dudley was arrested on June 17 in connection

with a warrant.

Alfredo K Rivera-Luquis age 28 of Webster was arrested on June 18

Alfredo K. Rivera-Luquis, age 28, of Webster was arrested on June 18 in connection with a warrant.

A male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 18 for Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim and Strangulation or Suffocation.

Leonides Baez, Jr., age 38, of Worcester was arrested on June 19 in connection with a warrant.

A female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 21 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

## Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Dean's List

WORCESTER — A total of 2,331 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were named to the university's spring 2025 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Dean's List for Spring 2025:

Alysha Creelman from Auburn, class of 2025, majoring in Data Science

Kevin Duong from Auburn, class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Tien Nguyen from Auburn, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science Finn O'Donnell from Auburn, class of 2027, majoring in Electrical

and Computer Engineering
Nicholas Palumbo from Auburn, class of 2026, majoring in Computer

Science and Robotics Engineering
Matthew Arndt from North Oxford, class of 2026, majoring in

Mechanical Engineering
Mina Boktor from Dudley, class of 2027, majoring in Computer

Science
Nathan Card from Dudley, class of 2028, majoring in Aerospace
Engineering

Marlee Donohoe from Dudley, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Sarah Fenton from Dudley, class of 2025, majoring in Chemical Engineering

Juliana Fox from Oxford, class of 2025, majoring in Industrial Engineering

Elijah Gray from Oxford, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Chloe Hatstat from Oxford, class of 2025, majoring in Chemical Engineering

Abby Lewis from Oxford, class of 2028, majoring in Biomedical

Engineering Samantha Loy from Webster, class of 2028, majoring in Biology and

Biotechnology

Szymon Mamro from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Computer

Sofia Napierata from Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development

Benjamin Perry from Dudley, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development - Technology

Luke Poirier from Dudley, class of 2028, majoring in Civil Engineering Rami Rachid from Dudley, class of 2027, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Adrianna Roszkowski from Oxford, class of 2028, majoring in Civil Engineering

Catherine Sauter from Oxford, class of 2026, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

William Tyrrell from Dudley, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.



www.StonebridgePress.com Friday, June 27, 2025 • STONEBRIDGE PRESS • 5



Oxford Youth Soccer's U12 D2 Boys WON the CMYSL District Championship this past weekend with a 1-0 victory against undefeated Worcester in the semi-finals and 1-0 against an undefeated Leicester in the championship game. They now go to the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC). They won both playoff games with no substitutions and a second back-up goalie who recorded two shut-out performances.

# Auburn Public Library History, Part 6: Mona Adshead — 40 years of dedication



BY HELEN POIRIER

AUBURN — The history of the Auburn Library shows two long term directors, Abbie Shute who served from 1907 to 1927 and Mona Adshead, who took over from Abby and retired in December 1967 after 40 years as the director.

Mona's parents were from Manchester, England, and by 1887, they had migrated to Ontario, Canada where oldest sister, Eva was born on Feb.5. By 1891 sisters Jane and Mary had been born and maybe brother Ernest Jr. in Canada. The 1900 census had the family in Troy, NY where Mona and brothers Phillip and Allen were born. Their father was a gardener which eventually became the family business. The family made the move to Worcester County by 1916 where according to the Worcester Telegram, Mona placed first with cut flowers in the Worcester County Horticultural Society show. In the 1917 Street Directory for Worcester County, the Adshead family was living at 122 South St. in Auburn on a farm.

Mona graduated from South High School in Worcester because Auburn did not have a high school at that time. She went on to graduate from UMass Amherst and studied at Simmons College in Boston. Mona was listed as an assistant librarian in the 1919 Street Directory, working for 8 years in Worcester libraries and in 1927 she was appointed head librarian at the Auburn Public Library. Mona came with a mission to make the Auburn Library more than just a place to get books. Children hours were expanded. Speakers were brought in to expel on a variety of subjects like Arabella Tucker who talked about nature, and Lucie Jowers, head of the Worcester Art Museum Education Department who gave an illustrated talk: Hidden Treasures. The Women's Club and Grange had meetings at the library. Mona worked with funding from the town that was half of what similar sized towns were getting. Her yearly report emphasized the need for reference books, the library to be open for more hours, more shelving, and a bookmobile to service the outer parts of the town

By 1947, 20 years after Mona took over, she was adamant that there was a need for a new building, but instead what she got out of the town budget included the, interior walls and ceilings painted, Venetian blinds installed, plans for a new lighting system that were drawn up. drainage tiles laid to take surface and rainwater away from foundation. The idea of the bookmobile was brought up again in 1950, but it would cost too much. A summer reading program was conducted, and in December a story hour for upper grades was held with Mrs. Mark Morgan, the storyteller. The library hosted Bay Path Library Club, Mr. Bruch Lancaster, author of historical fiction, was a speaker, Mr. Fred A. Soliker, hobby painter, displayed some of his works, and the library staff received the Commonwealth Mass professional and sub-professional certificates of librarianship. In 1951 was the 100-year anniversary of legislation giving cities and towns the power to establish free public libraries. It also marked the 75th anniversary of American Library Association, 80th anniversary of the William Craig bequest of \$1,000 for the library, and lastly, 40th anniversary of Merriam Building dedication. The 34-by-40-foot building was too small for the modern library services, which included a 40-hour week, a May Children's Spring Book Festival, school class visits, reading clubs, and civic organizations meetings. There were a record number of

books being borrowed and the

Auburn Rotary Club donated a record player. The bookmobile finally came to be in 1954 and lasted until 1982.

In 1961, with the yearly reminder from Mona about the need for space, a proposed plan for a new library at Drury Sq. was shown, and a request to Capital Needs of Town in the next 5 years for a new building. By 1965 after 20 yrs. of trying, a special town meeting approved \$250,000 to erect a new library at the Auburn Pond. In July a federal grant of \$78,796 allocated to supplement town appropriation was awarded. The site preparation started, final plans were drawn up by O.E. Nault & Sons and approved by Permanent Municipal Building Committee. The actual construction started in spring of 1966. The library moved into its new facilities on November 20th of that year.

Mona Adshead resigned in December as Director of Auburn Library after 40 years. According to an article about her retirement in the Worcester Telegram, her legacy "\$328,791 new library, bookmobile in 1954, introduction of records & films, a change of role in community- reference center for students, offering newspapers, a record number of borrowed books and record recordings, 54 and a half hour week with 25 hour bookmobile program." Throughout her years as library director her yearly town report seemed to reflect the tenacity of a terrier, she had to get all these things into "her" town library. Her very last report gave the feeling that her mission was completed and now she could move on.

Mona was a busy lady all through her life. She was past chairman of the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults, member of American Library Association, Central Regional Advisory Council, Film committee of Worcester County Teen-age Arts Festival while she worked at the library. In 1968, a listening table was presented by the Friends of the Auburn Library in honor of Mona Adshead in the library to honor her years of dedication.

Outside of her library, Mona was involved in many clubs and activities. She enjoyed showing flowers at Horticultural Shows and won many ribbons and awards through the years. In all the census her father was listed as a gardener, and her brother, Allen, opened the Adshead's Garden Center at 22 South St. in 1962. Mona was a lifetime member of the Altrusa Club, The Altrusa Club which was established in 1917 in Nashville, Tenn., oldest women's service organization at the time and was worldwide. It was a membership of professional women, with the motto "Patriotism, efficiency and service." The club raised money for Worcester Girls Club, Christmas charitable organizations, and had a yearly fair. Mona held many offices in this organization through her tenure. She was part of Worcester Horticultural

Society. Auburn Garden Club, member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, member of the Auburn Historical Society, the Auburn Tennis Club and was helpful in fund raising for different organization like the Oxford Post #53 Welfare Fund. Several different local plays were put on through the years and Mona either played a role or did the directing. She was a member of the Auburn American Red Cross chapter. As a member of the UMass Alumnae, she organized and hosted many a tea. She was a lifelong member of the Auburn

Woman's Club for over 60 years, and held many offices. She also continued as a Library Trustee in her retirement.

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

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He's already a staff favorite, even spending time at the front desk, napping at our feet like a total pro. Jet is ready to find a family to help him keep blossoming, show him the ropes, and give him all the cuddles he can handle.

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Frank G. Chilinski STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> Brendan Berube **E**DITOR

#### **EDITORIAL**

## The power of a local reset: Why time off doesn't always mean getting away

In a world that is go, go, go, taking time off is often seen as a luxury. But it's not; rather, it's a necessity. And it doesn't require a plane ticket or an elaborate itinerary. sometimes, the best kind of break is the one you take without ever leaving town.

Stepping away from your daily grind, even for a few days, allows your mind to unclench and your shoulders to drop. Whether you're walking a familiar trail with no notifications pinging in your pocket or sipping coffee on your porch without a single obligation, local rest is

In small towns and rural places, we often think we have to "go somewhere" to recharge. But a reset can happen in your own zip code. Turn off the emails, skip a meeting and leave your to-do list for another day. Give yourself permission to be unavailable. That's not laziness, it's healthy.

We tell each other to check in on neighbors, to care for our communities, but how often do we check in on ourselves? Time off isn't selfish; it's how we stay grounded, how we avoid burnout, and how we keep showing up for others.

So, if you need a break, take one. Walk the back roads. Sit by the river. Read a book you already own. Say no to things that drain you, and yes to stillness. Even ten miles from home, you can still find the space to reset.

You don't owe the world constant productivity. You do, however, owe yourself a little breathing room every once in a while.

#### **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.

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

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next



Pictured are the 2025 Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival Frog Jumping Contest Champions. Back row, left to right: Casey, Sophia, Cali, Julia, Ray, and Jack. Front row, left to right: Kaden L.O. (3rd place), Juliette P. (4th place), Nicolo M. (2nd place), Jack

## Clarity in a confused world

BEYOND

THE

PEWS

By Fr. Luke

A. VERONIS

SAINTS

CONSTANTINE

AND HELEN

GREEK

ORTHODOX

CHURCH,

Webster

We live in an age of deep confusion. Reality is denied. Language is distorted. People cling to ideologies over absolute truth. And thus, many are overwhelmed by fear, anger, and division—looking for direction and clarity in all the wrong places. It can feel as if a grey fog has settled over the

Every week, I see new examples of this confusion:

I recently communicated with an extreme evangelical Protestant who defended the killing of the two lawmakers in Minnesota by telling me that God uses his servants to kill the wicked, and this murderer was killing politicians who were pro-abortion. He even noted to me how the shooter was a former Christian missionary in Congo, as if that was a badge of his faithful-

Utter foolishness!

A University of Florida Law School student received an academic honor recently after presenting his capstone project in which he argued how the framers of the US Constitution intended for the phrase "We the People," to refer exclusively to white people. From there, he argued for the removal of voting rights protections for nonwhites and even posted racist and antisemitic messages on X, saying that Jews must be abolished by any means necessary.

Utter craziness! Then recently, I've encountered four sets of parents estranged from their children. How sad when relationships between parents and their children devolve in a manner where they are ostracized from one another. At first, I thought this might be something unusual until I read several articles highlighting how the millennial and gen Z generation are blaming their parents for many of their problems and see the only solution as cutting them out of their lives.

Where are the attempts of reconciliation from both sides that come from forgiveness, humility, repentance, mercy, and grace? Our world is falling into deeper delusion and confusion.

Yet through this fog the voice of Jesus still calls out: "Follow Me." The call is as clear today as it was on the Galilean

Too many people in our society have lost any sense of a Christian worldview where unconditional love and mercy, forgiveness and grace, humility and repentance, reconciliation and peace lie at the center of a healthy and mean-

Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life" Seen through Christ's lens, the world's chaos is exposed as counterfeit reality. "Truth," says Saint Basil the Great, "is God's most loving gift; delusion is the devil's subtlest snare.'

Christ's light shows us how to live. Life is about sacrificial love and merciful compassion. It is about deep repentance and turning back toward God daily. It is about receiving God's grace and then forgiving others  $70 \times 7$ . It is about washing the feet of those who may even betray us.

Are we willing to trust Jesus and follow Him, as Peter and John did 2000 years ago, leaving behind the ways of

To follow Him means leaving behind our world of fear, hatred, divisions, and violence.

To follow Him means setting aside our destructive habits, addictions, and

To follow Him means casting aside our insecurities with all our guilt and regret.

To follow Jesus means searching for eternal meaning and significance in our shallow society of entertainment and pleasure.

To follow Jesus implies entering into His kingdom of divine love and finding rest for our

"To live in the world without belonging to the world,' the noted spiritual guide Henri Nouwen writes, "summarizes the essence of the spiritual life. The spiritual life keeps us aware that our true house is not the house of fear, in which the powers of hatred and violence rule, but the house of love, where God resides.

St. Isaac the Syrian says: "As the sea is full of water, so is the heart of a merciful person full of love." This is the heart of one who follows Christ.

During the ideological storms of the 20th century, thousands climbed the rocky paths of Mount Athos to reach a humble cell where an elder saw with unclouded eyes. One anxious visitor recited a litany of political outrages. Saint Paisios the Athonite listened, then pressed a prayer rope into his palm, and said, "For every knot offer a prayer, peace, it will know what to do."

Saint Paisios firmly led confused pilgrims back to Christ's healing path of forgiveness, repentance, and mercy. "Some people live in a fantasy world and mistake it for spirituality. The true spiritual life is love, sacrifice, humility."

Today, we see how easily the name of Christ is misused. Christian nationalism, violent ideologies, and manipulative politics dress themselves in religious language to justify hatred, division, and control. These are false gospels. As St. John Chrysostom declared: 'To be Christian is to love one's ene-

So, how do we live with such clarity in our world today?

We root ourselves in Christ. We turn off the noise of the world and tune in to the quiet voice of God in prayer.

We take an honest look at ourselves, go to confession, and repent. Name the fog within us; a cleansed mind "sees things as they are," as Saint Maximus the Confessor said.

This week, reconcile with one person and relieve one stranger's burden.

News. Replace fifteen minutes of scrolling with reading a Gospel chapter or a life of a saint—let's replace the noise with words of wisdom.

St. Maximus the Confessor adds, "The mind that has been purified sees things as they are.'

The early Church did not change the world through violence or coercion. They changed it following Christ and imitating His life. They ministered to the sick, forgave their persecutors, fed the poor, and welcomed the stranger. They saw Christ in the other. That's how they overcame the confusion of the world.

Let's do the same. Let our lives be shaped by following the Master and imitating Him. "In our times," St. Paisios offers, "God is asking for silent heroism, for inner struggle, for love without

May we walk with that kind of clarity. And in a world filled with noise and confusion, may others see in us the quiet, radiant truth of Jesus Christ.

# The importance of setting strong financial goals



FINANCIAL Focus

**DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS** 

There's a quote about the importance of setting goals that says, "If you don't know where you're going, any path will take you there." You probably have dreams about retirement, vacations, hobbies and more. But if you don't have a strategy with financial goals in place, you may not make the choices that can best set you on the path to achieve those dreams.

Setting goals helps define and showcase your purpose, passions, and priorities. And establishing your own strong financial goals can help you earn and enjoy a wide variety of short- and longterm achievements throughout your life. When you reach your financial goals, you can feel a sense of accomplishment in seeing your efforts literally pay off. But how do you get started?

Prioritize your needs wants. Think about the things that are most important to you and then outline them as financial "must-haves" and "wish-list" targets. Start with the big-ticket items and work through to ideas that may not cost as much. A must-have for many people is having enough to live comfortably through retirement. Being able to afford the college of your child's choice, without incurring mounds of debt, is another. Your wish list, on the other hand, may include things like saving for vacations, hobbies, or entertainment expenses.

Create detailed short- and long-term goals within your financial strategy. It's important to be specific about the goals you want to achieve and how much you'll need to achieve them. One way to do this is by making your goals measurable. Assign estimated dates and costs to each goal so you can plan how much to save and how much time you have before you need the money. For example, for your retirement goal, be specific not an argument. When the heart is at about how many years before you want to retire. And once you do, how you plan to spend your time — perhaps traveling the world, turning your hobby into a business or taking your grandkids on outings. These can have vastly different

> Be willing to compromise. Reaching one, or more, of your goals may mean compromising. If your must-have is building your dream home but it's not looking quite affordable, you may need to make a trade-off — build it a bit smaller, work a year or two longer or trade in some of your wish-list goals so you can stay focused on your must-

Hold yourself accountable to stay on track. Once your strategy is in place, it's not a set-and-forget exercise. Actively tracking your progress and managing your decisions and actions can help you be better positioned to reach your goals. We consciously offer acts of mercy. Use time-tested principles for making financial decisions, not predictions. Diversify, own quality investments, and We fill our minds with the Good keep a realistic perspective, especially for your long-term goals. Maintain your focus and don't let your emotions control your investment decisions. It can be helpful to meet with a financial advisor at least annually to review your full financial strategy, address any changes in your life or your goals, and discuss your progress and new ideas.

> As you achieve certain milestones, celebrate them. You may even want to refresh your outlook with new goals. Take pride in your ability to strategize and accomplish a personal financial goal for yourself by following the path you envisioned and created.

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

## Readers Share Favorite Hacks and Hints

Summer is gearing up, and thanks to readers who took time out from their busy summer activities to share tips and tricks they've discovered to make life a little easier. From whipping up a foot detox to halting hiccups, the following ideas from readers, are sure to be helpful!

And remember readers, send in your favorite, hints for a chance to win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House in Sturbridge!

A reader sent in an informative tip that's out of this world!:

If you consume Dill, it improves digestion, and reduces gas.

Russian astronauts consumed dill before boarding the international space station.

Helen Krispien



TAKE THE HINT

**KAREN** TRAINOR

Sturbridge, MA

This reader shares how to turn pantry staples into a soothing soak:

Here is a recipe for a foot bath to detox: Mix together ½ cup Epsom salts and ½ cup Braggs Apple Cider Vinegar (with the Mother). Add to a basin of warm water. If needed, rinse and dry.

Rose Angelo Webster, MA

The following trio of assorted tips and tricks tackle life's little hassles:

leaf on water.

1. When you have a recipe that calls for chopped onions, you should put the onions in the freezer for 15 minutes. This will reduce eye irritation.

2. The best way to get rid of hiccups is to breathe into a bag. Study say that carbon dioxide in your bloodstream is the key to hiccup relief. When you blow into the bag, you blow in carbon dioxide. Then you breathe it in and this eliminates the hiccups.

3. If you want ice cubes to be clear and less cloudy, you should use boiled water. Boiling water removes impurities that make ice cloudy.

Donna Lewandowski Charlton, MA

This reader is basically the McGyver of eating on the cheap while traveling!:

Last month I made it to our Kentucky Derby family reunion. Airport food is expensive with Logan and elsewhere charging over \$15.00 for a salad. Eating more healthy food is my goal, so I improvised:

I used an XL-plastic

soda cup with lid; my brother had, added bagged salad from the local grocery (used a coupon and it was reduced as the next day was the shelf life- \$2.00 bag made four salads). I added some celery, baby carrots, cucumbers and 2 tablespoons of dressing. Shook the cup, put in a plastic fork, sealed it all in a Ziplock bag. I ate one for lunch before boarding and one with my healthy vegetarian sandwich for dinner, after landing (which due to a New England rain storm was a four hour delay). I was able to eat healthy and well within my budget!

Viola Bramel Northbridge, MA

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Helen Krispien of Sturbridge, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared the dill tip above.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on

Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

## Observe!

Imagine your alarm blaring at 6:30 a.m. You hit snooze, sit up, and feel your chest tighten as your mind floods with errands—grocery

run, project meeting at ten, soccer pickup at five. Maybe you spill coffee on your shirt, making things worse. Thoughts rush like rapids: "Did I send that report? Where are my keys? Ugh, traffic."

But you don't have to jump into every rapid. You can sit on the riverbank of your awareness and simply watch each swell of thought roll past like a

**POSITIVELY** SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

Later, you're stuck in traffic, brake lights glowing ahead, and a car horn blares behind you. Your mind churns: "I'll be late. My boss will be

furious. I'm failing."

Don't drown yourself in worry. At that moment, I shifted roles from panicked swimmer to calm spectator. Name the feeling—"That's anxiety"—then take a slow, deep breath, picturing the worry as a single leaf drifting downstream.

As Eckhart Tolle teaches, "You are the observer of your thoughts, not the thoughts themselves." From your spot on the bank, the swirling water can't reach you.

Back at your desk, you open a harsh email from a coworker—"They must think I'm terrible at my job." Your gut tightens, and your first urge is to fire off a reply as you press your coffee to your

Take a pause and imagine that sharp feeling as just another small wave on the river. Push your feet onto the floor and let your shoulders relax.

Marcus Aurelius wrote, "You have power over your mind—not outside events." Allow yourself to stand on solid ground at the river's edge, not in the rushing current.

At lunch, you scroll through social media and feel that familiar tug of comparison—"Everyone else's life looks perfect." Your soup grows cold as images of smiling faces and highlight reels wash over you.

Instead of diving in, stop and ask, "What am I feeling?" Maybe it's envy, stress, or boredom. Then, take a full, slow breath, feeling your shoulders drop. Picture that thought as a stray twig on a river, carried away around a bend until the surface smooths out again.

In the afternoon, a friend or family member offers criticism, and your stomach flips like a turbulent whirlpool. Your eyes may narrow, and your heart might race. You might want to snap back or explain yourself.

Instead, mark thought—label it "hurt" "defensiveness"—and step back on the bank. Picture the idea as a swirl in the water. Breathe in, breathe out, and feel the pull of that mental current weaken as it drifts away. Let yourself remain dry and solid at the river's edge and choose how-or whether—to respond.

That night, lying in bed, your mind replays every awkward comment or mistake on a nonstop loop, turning your thoughts into a rushing river.

Your mind is shining a spotlight on your errors. With practice, you can whisper, "I'm just getting caught up in the stream of worry again," and step back, then let it float away until it disappears. You stay on the bank-fully awake and free. If new worries arrive—about work, money, or relationships—you do the same: name it, breathe, and

Why does this help? The instant you step off the mental treadmill and onto the riverbank of awareness, you carve out a tiny

gap between stimulus and reaction. That gap may feel small—just a breath but it's enormous in what it gives you: choice.

In that space, you decide whether to wade into the current or stay dry. Over time, as you observe and label each mental flow, your responses soften. Your brain calms, and you make smarter moves instead of getting swept away.

You can practice this anywhere — walking to class, waiting in line, or sitting at home. When a thought pops up—nerves about a test, panic over a project, or judgment about a friend-stop, name it, breathe, and picture it drifting away.

This habit takes just seconds but changes everything. You are the riverbank, not the torrents. Notice the current, label it, breathe, and let it pass. In that simple act of observation lies true freedom—and a calmer, more joyful life.

# Maximize your harvest with succession planting



A second planting after harvesting your first crop is possible if there is enough time for it to mature and be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Make the most of every square inch of garden space and containers with succession planting. As you harvest your first crop of the season, consider replanting the space with a vegetable that will mature and can be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Start by calculating the number of frost-free days remaining in your growing season. Next review the plant tags and seed packets for the number of days from planting to harvest. Compare these two to see if you have time to replant one or maybe even two more quick-maturing vegetables in that

Keep in mind that cool season crops like lettuce. spinach and radishes perform and taste best when grown and harvested during the cooler months of spring and fall. Consider using these quick-maturing vegeta-bles as your last planting of the season.

Others, like broccoli, collards and kale, taste even better after a light frost. Planting these so they mature in fall is another way to extend the harvest for maximum flavor and nutrition.

Warm season vegetables, like beans and cucumbers, are perfect for a summer planting. They prefer warm air and soil for the best growth and productivity.

Here are a few vege-

GARDEN MOMENTS MELINDA **MYERS** 

tables you may want to include in your succession planting this summer. Leaf lettuce and spinach prefer cooler temperatures and depending on the variety are ready to harvest in 30 to 60 days. If you can't wait for cooler weather, try growing more heat-tolerant greens, like Sandy and Red Sails lettuce, and although they are not true spinaches New Zealand and Malabar are more heat tolerant and provide a similar flavor.

End the season with a harvest of peas. Short varieties, like Patio Pride and Sugar Ann sugar snap peas and Maestro and Laxton's Progress #9 shelling peas, are perfect for containers and small

spaces. Root crops make great additions to succession plantings. Salad radishes are ready to harvest in 25 to 30 days, beets in 50 to 60 days, and carrots in 60 to 70 days.

Bush beans prefer warm temperatures and are ready to begin picking in 50 to 80 days. Mascotte compact snap beans are productive compact plants perfect for containers and window boxes. You'll start harvesting these in as few

as 50 days.

Cucumbers and summer squash are another option for summer plantings. Vining varieties can be trained onto a support to save space or crawl over the ground. Bush types are perfect for containers and small spaces. Check the seed packet for the number of days from planting to harvest.

Increase the health and productivity of your second planting by preparing the soil before planting seeds and transplants. Mix an inch of quality compost into the top six inches of soil. You'll improve drainage in heavy soil, increase water retention in fast-draining sandy soils, and add micronutrients that feed the soil, building microor-

ganisms. Once your seeds and transplants are in the ground, be sure to water properly. Keep the seedbed and roots of transplants moist the first few weeks. Gradually reduce watering frequency as seedlings sprout and grow and transplants become established.

You may need to adjust your succession planting schedule based on the weather. Hotter and cooler than normal temperatures can delay seed germination, harvest times, and flavor.

With a bit of planning, succession plantings, and regular harvesting you can enjoy fresh vegetables throughout the growing season.

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



# Community Connection



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Vice President

508-868-3765 jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

## Dudley hosts annual Strawberry Festival



DUDLEY — The Dudley Grange hosted its annual Strawberry Festival on June 19 benefitting from the federal holiday Juneteenth and drawing a massive crowd on a beautiful day on Center Road. The 2025 event included plenty of strawberry theming including actual strawberries for sale and the snack of the evening, strawberry shortcake, with a line down the street waiting for the dessert. The day also included music, photo opportunities, a petting zoo and more making for a delightful family event to wel-



shortcake.



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Melissa Joyal brings a box full of strawberry shortcake to serve the members of the Old Fiddlers Club of Rhode Island, the musical entertainment of the day.



Servers prepare strawberry shortcake to serve a massive line of waiting customers. The line stretched out the door and down the sidewalk along Center Road



The Shepherd Hill National Honor Society helped the Grange sell fresh strawberries keeping with the theme of the festival.







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Maverick Spears and father Andrew enjoyed a delicious shortcake together.





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## **OBITUARIES**

#### Edward Zachara, age 84



Edward Zachara, age 84, died peacefully at his home with his loving family by his side on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 in Webster, MA. Edward was born September 11, 1940 in Webster, MA.

He was the son of the late Valerian Zachara and Frances (Kiwak) Zachara. He was predeceased by his brother Paul Zachara.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 55+ years, Carol (Giakoumis) Zachara, and one daughter, Kimberly (Zachara) Poirier and her husband Andrew Poirier of Charlton, MA. He also leaves his cherished grandson and grand-daughter, Joshua Zachara and Madison Poirier and his adored great grandson, Cameron Zachara, along with many special nieces and nephews that he held close to his heart.

He served in the Army during the Vietnam war, stationed in Germany. He worked in the auto industry, retiring in 2011 after many years of selling auto parts for General Motors and Ford Motor Company.

He was also a volunteer on the Webster ambulance squad and also on the Webster Planning

and Zoning board. He took much joy, serving his home church in various ways through the years.

He enjoyed bowling, dancing, music, cars and above all else, spending time with his family, whether camping or family parties.

Calling hours will be Saturday, June 28th from 3 to 5 p.m. at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA.

A time of Remembrance will be held 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 28 at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, with Military Honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Honor Guard. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

#### Ferdinand E. Sugar, 77



DUDLEY – Ferdinand E. "Fred" Sugar, 77, died Wednesday, June 11, 2025 in Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Webster after a period of declining health. He leaves 2 nephews,

Albert J. "Butch" Peck and his wife Andrea of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Darryl J. Peck and his wife Caroline of Holland, MA; a niece, Carol A. Boye of South Burlington, VT; 3 grand-nephews, Benjamin M. Boye, Timothy R. Peck and his wife Melissa, and Daniel C. Peck; and a grand-niece, Kimberly L. Lamoureux and her husband Rob; 2 great-grandnephews, Alexander M. Boye and Gabriel E. Lamoureux; and two great-grandNieces, Lilly G. Peck and Katheryn J. Peck. He was preceded in death by his half-sister Alice T. Peck and by his nephews William A. Peck and Jeffrey J. Peck. Mr. Sugar also leaves his lifelong friend, Jim Duszlak with whom he shared a special bond. Jim and his wife Jill were a great support system for Fred throughout his illness. He was born at home in Dudley on February 25, 1948, a son of Emil J. Sugar, Jr. and Mary B. (Biesiadecki) Sugar and was a life-long resident. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1965 and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from the then Lowell Technology Institute. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1970 and worked at the executive level in finance in Asia (Thailand) Europe (Germany and Sicily), and in the United States from the east coast (Maine) to the west coast (Washington), retiring in 1990 as a Senior Master Sergeant. He served with pride and appreciated the ability the Air Force

afforded him to travel extensively. Mr. Sugar had many interests and roles after his time in the service: he was a recorder for the Town of Dudley committee meetings for local access television



for many years, and a founding member of the Providence and Worcester Railfan Club and Museum in Webster where he currently served as treasurer. Mr. Sugar also enjoyed being a sportsman. He was a lifelong fisherman, including ice fishing, and a hunter, activities he shared with local friends. He had a great love of football which began with watching the NY Giants with his dad. However, he later became an avid Patriots fan and holder of seasons tickets for many years. He was fond of cats and had several as his companions during his life. He also enjoyed collecting Star Trek memorabilia. His family would like to thank the nursing staff at Webster Manor and Brookside Rehab for their compassionate care and support of Fred, whom they affectionately called "Sugar". A graveside service will be held on Friday, June 27, at Noon in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Old Worcester Road, Webster. The Webster-Dudley Veterans Council will provide military honors. Donations in his name may be made to either the Providence and Worcester Railfan Club, 3 Davis Street, or to the Community Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Road, both in Webster, MA 01570. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. www.websterfunerals.

Send all obituary notices to Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news



#### Riley Peluso, LPN honored with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's Community Service Award



CHARLTON — Riley Peluso, LPN, of Dudley, distinguished alumna from the Practical Class 2023, received the 2025 Service Community Award at the Bay Path Practical **RVTHS** Nursing Academy's commencement and pinning ceremony on June 20. The prestigious award recognizes Peluso's outstanding volunteer work in forging critical part-nerships between the Academy, the broader Bay Path community, and Worcester County.

The Practical Nursing program at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is dedicated to preparing local students for vital careers in healthcare as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The Community Service Award was established to honor individuals who make significant contributions to the Bay Path Practical Nursing community through their time, actions, talents, and unwavering dedication to volunteerism. The selected honoree serves as a role model for compassion, service, and a commitment to making the world a better place. This year, the award was fittingly named in honor of Ruth "DeeDee" Betz, LPN, from the PN Class of 2015, an embodiment of these very ideals.

A passion for Pay It Forward: Peluso's dedication to student success

Peluso, LPN, is a highly hardworking and passionate nurse with exceptional organizational skills. She currently holds a position at the Webster Manor Rehabilitation and Health Care Center,

where she excels by utilizing her strong interpersonal skills, excellent time management, and effective problem-solving abilities

Beyond her professional role, Peluso has demonstrated a profound commitment to supporting future nurses. She held dedicated tutoring sessions for members of the PN Class of 2024 and made herself available numerous times for the PN Class of 2025. Her efforts are particularly impactful for the Practical Nursing Class of 2025, which includes a diverse student body encompassing minority, low-income, and underserved students.

Research consistently highlights the benefits of one-on-one tutoring, proving it to be an effective way to help students improve study skills, manage time wisely, and take responsibility for their learning. Peluso offers crucial help to at-risk nursing students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, providing both in-person and online tutoring via Zoom. According to Academy

Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, "tutoring can be expensive, with industry standards ranging from an average of \$25 to \$100 per hour." However, at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Alumni Tutoring is cost-effective because alumni volunteers do it for free. This invaluable has led to a documented improvement in academic performance and self-esteem among students. Alumni Tutors utilize the course syllabi,

required textbook, personal notes, and guide current students through first hand experience.

When asked why she dedicates her time to helping nursing students, Peluso shared, "I used to be in their situation; I used to struggle with knowing how to study and trying to find the right study material and strategies to help me pass my courses to become a nurse."

She added, "I would not have gotten to where I am now in life if I didn't have that one person who was there for me and helped me study and tried pushing my limits to know what I was learning and what I was talking about. There are some things that you won't fully understand until you are pushed to that point, and to have someone to push you helps. That is why I understand what they are going through and how hard they are trying to get to where they should be in life; it will always be an uphill battle, but in the end, it is all worth it." A track record of

achievement and service Peluso is a proud graduate of the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Class of 2019 Health Technologies. She briefly attended Becker College in Worcester (2019-2020) until the institution closed. She then continued her education at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, where she obtained certifications in Dementia Care and Mental Health First Aid. Demonstrating commitment to her patient safety well-being, she completed her Domestic Violence Training with a perfect 100% score. Peluso also attended the COVID-19 Clinical Update and Stop Bleed Training. Her dedication to service extends beyond the classroom; she was a member of the UNICEF club, a district competitor for SkillsUSA Medical Math, and a volunteer for Shepherd Hill Onsite Medical Care. A testament to her comprehen sive preparation, she sat for her NCLEX-PN and passed on her first try.

Riley Peluso's unwavering commitment to her fellow students and the community truly embodies the spirit of the Ruth "DeeDee" Betz Community Service Award.

## **LEGALS**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 001841 Date Filed: 06/18/2025 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Michael A. Robidoux and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as legal title trustee for PRL Title Trust I claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, 81 Bancroft Street, given by Michael A. Robidoux to CitiMortgage, Inc., dated April 11,2005, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 36093, Page 267, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 08/04/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance

with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 06/18/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson,

Recorder. June 27, 2025 (SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket 25 SM 001717
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:

Osvaldo Figueroa Jr.; Sondra I. Figueroa

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY as Trustee for INDYMAC INDX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-AR39, MORTGAGE PASSTHROUGH CERTIFICATES Series 2006-AR39,

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 151 Lower Gore Road, given by Osvaldo Figueroa, Jr. and Sondra I. Figueroa to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns, dated August 10, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39619, Page 202, as affected by a Loan Modification dated October 4, 2011, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 48054, Page 328, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants'

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you

Servicemembers status.

may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before July 28, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on June 10, 2025. Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 24-017266 June 27, 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. WO24P1005EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE

Alan Gene Broden
Also known as:
Alan Broden, Alan G Broden
Date of Death: 02/10/2024
To all interested persons:

**Estate of:** 

A Petition has been filed by

Dominic Rocco of Barrington RI
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that:

Dominic Rocco of Barrington RI

be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 07/08/2025.

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 no-

lowed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being adminstered under formal procedure by the Personal Personal

formal 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 recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can 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: June 16, 2025

Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate June 27, 2025

#### **DUDLEY**

continued from page **A1** 

era, expanding from three members to five and filling the gaps during the election. Johnson, Chojnacki-Durgin, and Kempe will join Heather Arnold on the new Board of Health with write-ins likely deciding the final member.

Otherwise, the 2025 election was rather uneventful, although there are some new names of note. The Board of Selectmen has a new member with Christopher Starczewski moving over from town moderator to the board following Mark Landry's decision not to seek reelection. Jason Johnson also rejoins the Board of Selectmen for another three-year term.

Lori Smith was unopposed for Town Clerk, while David Durgin was reelected as Assessor and to the Planning Board without contest. Joining him on the Planning Board is newcomer Thomas Chojnacki. Richard Padden Clark, Benjamin Craver, and Jean Tilly were elected to the Library Trustees. Clark also earned a one-year term with the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District joined by Timothy Schur who took a three-year seat. Thompson Fournier and Robert Sullivan secured three-Fournier year terms on the Water & Sewer Commission, and Caitlynn Panczyk returns to the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee for another three years to round out the results.

#### LAFOND

continued from page A1

a year from now, when the new master plan is complete; then, many of Lafond's goals will be "easier to pull out and track.'

Until then, she added, "It's been an absolute delight to work with you." To Lafond, it's not a one-man show.

'You can't be success-

ful without good people around you," he said, noting that "political stability in this town is unprecedented right now. ... The board has created a healthy environment [to work in] and it has trickled down to the whole organization."

Most of the rest of that meeting was a quick overview of Lafond's report, which referred to a property cleanup project Webster's watching, praised the health director for her service on a regional commission, and updated on recent renovation work in the veterans' office. Lafond also noted the state is considering a bill that will return liquor license control to the towns as long as towns develop and follow a plan for them and submit it to

the state. "The real tight control [of liquor licensing] goes back to the end of Prohibition [1933], so it's good to see how quick things change in government," he remarked.

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

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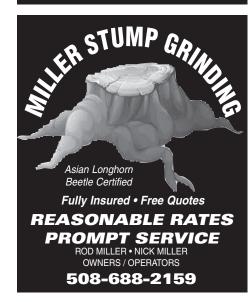
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Burj Khalifa is the tallest skyscraper in the world. It is 2,722 feet tall and can be found in this country.

Answer: United Arab Emirates

#### What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B

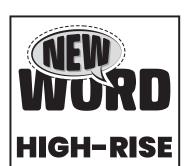


4. Left building is taller building 3. Missing C&C from building sign Answers: 1. Boat in water 2. Extra antenna on

1848: A photograph of the June Days uprising becomes the first known representation of photojournalism.

**1947:** "The Diary of a Young Girl" is published.

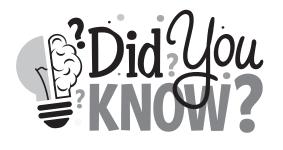
1997: The National Hockey League approves expansion franchises for four cities.



a building with occupied floors more than 75 feet above street level



**English:** Elevator Spanish: Ascensor Italian: Ascensore French: Ascenseur **German:** Fahrstuhl



Chicago's Home Insurance Building is widely considered the world's first skyscraper. more offices or homes



Skyscrapers enable to be built in urban areas.





Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

yuzwer: Skyscraper top

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so

sharpen your

your sudoku

pencil and put

savvy to the test!

 $\bigcirc \ ^{**} \ \triangle \ \textcircled{0} \ \ ^{*} \ \sim \ \mathbb{O} \ \ ^{\circ} \ \wedge \ \ ^{*} \ + \ \times \ \ ^{*} \ \blacktriangle \ \ ( \ \ * \ \ ^{\circ} \ \star \ \ \land \ \ \land \ \ \land \ \triangle \ \ \lozenge$ ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Solve the code to discover words related to roller coasters. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = E)

18 24 1 1 22 Α.

Clue: Velocity

2 1 14 25 2 26 В.

Clue: How tall

26 6 11 3 23 18

Clue: Rails

11 4 9 18 1 4 1 5 D.

Clue: Diversion

## SUDOKU

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#### Here's How It Works:

Answers: A. speed B. height C. tracks

D. amusement

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

ε	8	Z	6	mende	9	ç	2	†
6	S	undi	ε	Þ	9	9	L	8
G	Þ	9	L	8	2	6	හ	asolu
L	9	3	ţ	9	8	samb	6	2
quun	6	8	2	G	Z	†	9	ε
7	9	7	nonda	3	6	8	9	Z
Þ	ε	6	9	L	and	2	8	S
9	L	ç	8	2	Þ	3	done	6
8	denn	2	S	6	3	L	Þ	9

**ANSWER**:

## University of Hartford students named to Dean's and President's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,228 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the University during commencement ceremonies held in May: spring 2025 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among the local honorees are:

Kyle Ghiz of Dudley - Dean's List

Max McPhee of Dudley - Dean's List and President's List

Ty Millette of Dudley - Dean's List

Isabella Sund of Auburn — Dean's List

Alek Popovich of Dudley - Dean's List and President's List

Congratulations to all the honorees on their hard work and academic success! Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.

## Area residents named to Dean's List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD, Maine — The following students have been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2025.

Auburn Kyle Kennedy

Dudley Taya Lawrence

Webster Tori Granato Maryn LaPlante

Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sci-

## Local students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — The following students received degrees from Quinnipiac

Christopher Willis, Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Christina Gunsalus, Bachelor of Science in Nursing Owyn Law, Bachelor of Science in Finance

Nickole Biedrzycki, Bachelor of Science in Health Science/OT

Jasmine Creighton, Bachelor of Science in Health Science Studies Rachel Dube, Bachelor of Science in Health Science Studies

**About Quinnipiac University** 

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,400 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked among the top 100 in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2025 Best Colleges in the U.S." and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges." The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners, developing dynamic corporate partnerships, and is completing a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

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## Friday's Child in



**Yomiah** Age 14 Registration #5871

Yomiah is a joyful and curious boy, known for his sweet nature and deep love of music. Whether he's singing classics like "B-I-N-G-O" or tunes by Lady Gaga, music is a big part of his world—he especially enjoys holding musical toys up to his ears to listen closely. Active and independent, Yomiah enjoys exploring on his own but also delights in connecting with trusted adults, often reaching for their hands or settling into their laps for comfort and interaction. He receives supportive services to help him grow across all areas of development. Yomiah communicates through a combination of spoken words, sign language, and augmentative tools, and he's also

learning to use tactile symbols and Braille. His warm spirit and determination shine through in all that he does.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/22554784812

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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.



## Eunice Osei graduates from Elms College

Osei of Webster received a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Elms College following the conclusion of the Spring 2025 semester.

Osei was among 279 students who received their degrees in December.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

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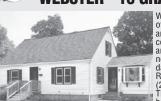
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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan\* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Maureen Cimoch \* Bryan Pelletier

#### Featured New Listing! **WEBSTER - 18 GRAYSTONE AVE**



Welcome to this "CLASSIC CAPE" offering the perfect blend of modern amenities. Recently remodeled open concept kitchen living room & dining area featuring granite countertops, new flooring & recent appliances. Updates include roof, windows, doors, Roth oil tank & Hot Water Heater (2021). New heating system in 2023. This is a "GEM" Possibility of a 4th bedroom/home office. 1 car under \$405,000

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NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/ Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Open Concept Plan. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the 2-1/2 Rathe, Spacious Main BR, Suita w/Molla in Class Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath w/5' Tiled Shower, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed for future expansion FHA Heat & Central AC! Garage. **\$649,900** 

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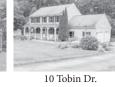
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Two frog-jumping participants get their amphibian ready for



A young lady gets a temporary tattoo of a flamingo.



WESTVIEW

COMMONS

Alex Rodinski serves up a dish of fries.

## Grange invokes summer with strawberries

DUDLEY — If it's June in Dudley, it must be time for the Dudley Grange's annual Strawberry Festival. And, sure enough, that happened last week, with sun and music, fire vehicles and frogs, and, of course strawberry shortcake - to name just a few things.



Happy kids wave around their frog-fump trophies as event volunteers cheer them on.



coffered ceilings, and oversized bathrooms!

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