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Friday, June 9, 2023

Music program being rebuilt at Bartlett

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The School Committee approved recreating a music teacher's post that had been cut from the budget as part of an effort to rebuild the Bartlett music program. Specifically, it will restore band there.

According to Superintendent Monique Pierangeli, the plan is to have

this new person work out of the high school but assist at the middle school to “build more interest” at that level. It had been cut as student numbers in music fell during Covid, with only a handful doing it now. But they're seeing more interest in music among seventh and eighth graders.

Pierangeli said she felt extracurricular programs like this are often attrac-



File Photo

Bartlett jazz band members play at this year's Empty Bowls fundraiser.

Oxford selectmen appoint Grniet interim police chief

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — At their most recent meeting, the newly-reconstituted selectmen voted to appoint Sgt Jeromy Grniet the interim police chief and hire a retired chief as an advisor. He will serve from July 1 until a permanent chief can start, which the board estimated to be about two months later.

Technically, their vote was to “appoint the senior person as interim and hire a part-time retired chief to help him out.” But since the department is seeing three senior people leave at the same time – Chief Anthony Saad, Lt. William Marcelonis, and Det. Kevin LeBreton – that makes Grniet the senior remaining person. (Joseph Conlon is also a sergeant.)

This issue came as a result of this year's Town Meeting vote to require the chief's post be subject to civil service rules. By then, the town was already well into a chief search without such requirements, and was close to announcing finalists.

“The handoff would be underway” by now, had that change not occurred, Town Manager Jen Callahan said.

She has already posted the job again, with a new deadline for applicants on June 6. Within the following week, the reviewers “will come up with those who will go forward” to a new assessment center slated for June 16. Civil Service will allow test participants to appeal their rankings until July 17.

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tive to students, who may opt to choice-out to other districts without such an option. It only takes four departing students to equal the cost of one teacher. This will be funded by federal ESSER grant money, not local taxes.

Middle School Principal Heidi Peterson

said she's looking to run a band camp this summer “to create energy and interest” and “populate the program from early on.” Bartlett Principal Ryan Collins later added the music department also plans to create a new alumni choir and possibly a band.

Speaking of Bartlett, the superintendent smmarized the building project, noting a major goal is to be able to “start the fall without having to make changes” to school routines later. That means a lot of coordination now on such things as building access, including creating a one-way traffic flow for both middle and high schools that prevents clashes between cars and kids walking to the modular classrooms. She noted the modulares will be in use from day one, but contractors won't actually start work until November because of the bidding schedule.

When Linda Millett asked about winter sports, Pierangeli said they're working on schedules with other schools because the gym “will be off-line for the first year and a half,” and maybe two seasons. She noted that will likely mean more away than home games and increased transport costs, but sports will happen.

Regarding student data, Collins reported this year has seen a major decrease in tardiness, both between classes and at the start of school days. For the first category, he said the previous year amassed around 7,000 total late-to-class incidents, but this year's was just around 1,000. For the second, a “high day” used to be around 70 late students, but now it's 20, he said.

Hr also announced three summer programs: a “typical credit recovery” that'll allow kids to make up failed classes, a new one allowing students “get ahead” and “get a [new] course out of the way,” and the 10-day “Bartlett Bridge” program to help incoming freshmen understand the school. The latter starts Aug. 7; the other two start July 10.

The board also voted to create a new assistant principal's post at Park Avenue to help handle such things as giving adequate time to teacher evaluations and supervision, which Pierangeli described now as being “a drive-by, quick chat.” The school has the largest student body – 774 – and most of the district's teachers – 123.

It also accepted the sole bid, \$5.7 million, for a new five-year bus contract – AA Transportation, which has provided the service for 24 years now. Pierangeli said the bid's 5 percent increase was good when other districts

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Causeway dedicated to Nancy Vajcovec

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The town of Dudley honored one of their most notable citizens during a special ceremony on June 3 renaming the Hayden Pond Causeway the Nancy J. Vajcovec Causeway. Vajcovec was arguably one of the most dedicated and active volunteers in the town's history right up until her passing in November of 2022, helping spearhead conservation efforts and serving as an active member of numerous community groups and non-profits along the way. When the concept came to light to dedicate the causeway on Hayden Pond Road overlooking her family home there was no debate. This would be the first time

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Jason Bleau

Dudley Conservation Land Trust President Paul Wieloch presents a sign that will forever acknowledge the Hayden Pond Road Causeway in honor of Nancy Vajcovec.

DA Early supports safe post-graduation event in Auburn

AUBURN — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. is helping fund a safe post-graduation event in Auburn this year thanks to his annual grant program, now in its fifth year.

“These events should be times of celebration for our students and their families, but these celebrations can turn into tragedies as we know that life can and often does change in the blink of an eye when alcohol and drugs are involved,” Mr. Early said. “We will continue to offer these funds to help provide students with these fun and safe events. Our goal is prevention of tragedies before they happen.”

This year, the District Attorney's office awarded a total of \$25,000 in grants to 18 different schools across Worcester County to fund events, organized and overseen by dedicated adults, that offer safe drug- and alcohol-free environments where students can celebrate after celebratory events like prom and



graduation.

District Attorney Early felt it was vital to continue supporting

these programs and is utilizing his Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Program this year to

provide these funds. Funding to support these grants was previously provided by the

Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund.

Turn To **MUSIC** page **A18**



Grand Marshall Adelard Marier leads the parade through Webster.



Town leaders from Webster and Dudley greeted guests along the parade route welcoming them to the Memorial Day festivities.



Local American Legion Riders make their way down the streets of Webster.



4. It wouldn't be a Memorial Day parade without at least one military vehicle adding that special touch.



Musicians from Webster Middle School got to share in the festivities as one of several musical acts in the parade.



Young bike riders, with patriotic décor, accompanied the St. Joseph School on their way down the parade route.



Girl Scout Troop 65118 wave to the crowd as they march in the annual Memorial Day parade.



The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Marching Band played a medley of patriotic tunes on their way through Webster.

Webster, Dudley celebrate Memorial Day with annual parade

WEBSTER — The towns of Webster and Dudley came together for their annual Memorial Day celebration which say individual ceremonies in each community bookend a dual-town parade through the streets of Webster. The parade features schools, organizations, town officials, and veterans from both Dudley and Webster coming together on Memorial Day to honor those who have fought and given the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the freedoms of the United States of America.

St. Joseph School graduates Class of 2023

WEBSTER — On Saturday, June 3, the St. Joseph School Class of 2023 held their graduation ceremony following a special 4 p.m. Mass in St. Joseph Basilica. Seventeen eighth grade students were recognized by their Home Room Teacher, Mary Ann Weaver. Each eighth grade student received a St. Joseph School Graduation Certificate as well as recognition for their academic excellence and participation in clubs and organizations.

Catherine Barbale: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors; Jackson Meehan: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors; Shayley Szela: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, AAA Safety Patrol/Morning Greeter; Gabriela Pianka: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Children of Mary, Altar Server; Gianna Rosario: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Band, Drama Club; Ike Rudnicki: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors; Emerson Bernard: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, AAA Safety Patrol/Morning Greeter; Bobbi Enman: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, AAA Safety Patrol/Morning Greeter; Haleigh Creighton: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, AAA Safety Patrol/Morning Greeter; Jacob Perry: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors; Bella Calnan: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors; Aiden Muchiru: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Student Council Grade 8 Representative; Brett McCarthy: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Altar Server; Leah Boudreau: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Children of Mary, Altar Server, Student Council – President, Drama Club, AAA Safety Patrol/Morning Greeter; Vanessa Zeglen: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Drama Club, AAA Safety Patrol/Morning Greeter; Marcus Muchiru: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Student Council -Vice President, Drama Club; and Zachary Gambacinni.

In addition, Headmaster, Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski and Principal, Beth



St. Joseph School Class of 2023 (Front L to R) Emerson Bernard, Haleigh Creighton, Bella Calnan, Brett McCarthy, Vanessa Zeglen, Mrs. Mary Ann Weaver - Grade 8 Home Room Teacher (Middle, L to R) Gabriela Pianka, Bobbi Enman, Jacob Perry, Aiden Muchiru, Leah Boudreau, Marcus Muchiru (Back, L to R) Headmaster & Pastor Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski, Principal Beth Boudreau, Zachary Gambacinni, Jackson Meehan, Ike Rudnicki, Catherine Barbale, Shayley Szela, Gianna Rosario, Rev. Allen Alexander M.I.C., and Associate Pastor Rev. Anthony Kazarnowicz.

Boudreau distributed medals to the top two students who achieved academic excellence in the individual subjects. The student with the highest grade-point average received a gold medal on a red ribbon inscribed with the words, "Outstanding Academic Achievement" and their name. The student with the second highest grade point average received a silver medal on a white ribbon inscribed with the words, "Recognition for Academic Achievement" and their name.

English/Language



One of several patriotic floats that celebrated the United States and its veterans on Memorial Day.



Victory Jankowski, Commander of the Webster-Dudley Veterans' Council, made his annual appearance as part of the Memorial Day parade.



WMS STUDENTS BRING "THE GRUNCH" TO THE STAGE

Students at Webster Middle School made their stage debut on Thursday, May 18 in the musical comedy "The Grunch." Approximately 30 students took part in the production, both on stage and participating in the technical crew. Most of these students had never been in a play before, much less a musical. This was their first experience with auditioning, rehearsals, memorizing lines, and becoming a character or using their creativity to create props, work the curtains, and deal with the lights. This group took the challenge and rose to it, making WMS "muffin, pizza, proud!" Inspired by "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," "The Grunch" tells the story of Rudy Grunch, a grumpy sixth grader who always feels like an outsider. When the entire school gets excited about the annual school musical, he comes up with a perfect plan to ruin it for everyone; he'll steal the sets, costumes and lights the night before it opens. But will the spirit of theatre prevail?

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YMCA OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

“Everybody can be part of being a pollinator”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Oxford cares about bugs. Last weekend, despite slightly chilly conditions, Joslin Park was buzzing with activity that included arts, Scouts, conservation issues, farmers and a few crafters all focused on one critical topic – survival of our pollinators.

“Everybody can be part of being a pollinator,” said one presenter, Lynn Hartman of Barre, whose Hartman’s Herb Farm was offering edible and medicinal herbs of many kinds, often perennials. “Even if you see a bug or spider you don’t like, you should think they pollinate something.”

A lot of the day’s focus was on bees. At one table, youths showed how to make a simple kinds of beehive using straws in a cup. Other displays offered honey for sale, bee-themed clothing, and students’ insect art. Elsewhere, there was information on the variety of native bees here in New England; many of them are smaller and less obvious than the famous honeybee or bumblebees, which are European transplants. They live in numerous settings, with some making homes in trees, underground or even by hijacking other insects’ nests for their own eggs.

According to the World Animal Foundation website, there are about 20,000 worldwide bee species, with 4000 here in the US and 80-100 million managed beehives globally (and many more wild ones). Each colony houses from 10,000-60,000 bees.

“In North America, bees pollinate almost 90 crops,” and 71 of the top 100 global food crops, it states, but goes on



Gus Steeves
(Left) Lynn Hartman talks about the medicinal, food and ecological value of Calendula (a.k.a. marigold).

to note the US lost about 128,000 managed bee colonies (40 percent of the total, and about 30 percent of the overall bee population) in 2018 alone. Those declines were primarily due to colony collapse disorder (caused by pesticides) and varroa mite infestations.

“You want [insects] to be here,” Hartman said. “We don’t want this to disappear. ... You can be part of it just by picking up a bee and putting it outside” or growing plants that attract and feed them.

Mark Cohen of Oxford Farms agreed, noting his wife started their farming effort because she suspected toxins (including pesticides) in food were causing her son’s autoimmune disorder, and she didn’t like “how that food gets to your table.” Studies have shown there are around 80,000 chemicals in circulation in our environment, many of them manmade since World War II

“Each one might not be that bad, but they don’t know how it interacts with all the others,” Cohen observed. “... It really is great to support small farmers and hobbyists who generate the quality of food we need.”

Pollination activity actually goes far beyond bees. Many are indeed insects – butterflies, moths, flies, and bugs – but the list includes many birds, bats, wind, water, and some animals. Some of them display what’s known in biology as convergent evolution – very different species that evolve similar behavior and body shapes. A case in point are the many similar-looking fly and small bee species, plus the hummingbirds and hummingbird

moths. Both of the latter pair feed off flowers and pollinate them using long, flexible mouthparts.

As anyone who has watched farmers in greenhouses also knows, humans do a fair amount of pollinating ourselves. Sometimes, we use the laborious, intentional method of dabbing plants with paintbrushes, sometimes, the easy, accidental one of just brushing pollen from our clothing.

The local pollinators’ group, dubbed Grow Native for Pollinators, is less than a year old. It was founded largely by Conservation Agent Judy Lochner, and started public outreach a few months ago with a talk at the Senior Center.

“I think the pollinator thing is great,” Cohen said. “It highlights the bees and how critical they are to ecohealth and our health.”

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

Country Bank receives marketing awards

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that it has received two marketing awards from the New England Financial Marketing Association (NEFMA) for its 2022 marketing efforts.

Country Bank achieved first place with a gold award for its “Made to Make a Difference” rebrand. In May 2022, Country Bank introduced the rebrand in partnership with the bank’s advertising agency, Financial Marketing Solutions (FMS). The new tagline was created from focus groups that consisted of Country Bank team members, board members, consumer and business customers, non-customers, and community non-profits throughout its marketplace.

Since 1850, Country Bank has been a part of the fabric of the communities it serves; so, it was essential to include the community in the process. As a result, the tagline was created with meaningful insights and feedback. The common theme of how the bank ‘made a difference’ became a clear indicator of how its stakeholders received the brand in the market.

“The introduction of the tagline ‘Made to Make a Difference’ has accomplished outstanding results in the past year. Our team, communities, and customers have embraced the new tagline wholeheartedly. Team members are essential to any brand’s success, and ours has undoubtedly made a difference through the rebrand. Our team truly believes that we are here to make a difference for our customers, communities, and one another. With the team embracing the new tagline, we saw our social media engagement increase by 60 percent, followers by 40 percent, and volunteerism by 124 percent in seven months,”



Courtesy

Country Bank’s Marketing Team: Audrey Moulton, digital marketing specialist; Mike Dias, product and data marketing manager; Travis Pacheco, intern; Jodie Gerulaitis, VP, community relations; Shelley Regin, SVP, marketing & PR; Devon Wonderlie, marketing specialist; and Justin Roberts, VP, marketing.

stated Shelley Regin, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at Country Bank. “The brand has been positively impacted in many ways, and it is exciting to witness the team’s engagement and the brand’s growth!”

In addition, the bank received a silver award for its Police vs. Fire Baseball Game in association with the WooSox Foundation. This game was a century-old tradition brought back to life on Sept. 26, 2022. Part of the game is giving back to the community, something the WooSox Foundation and Country Bank are passionate about. The teams chose the Manny 267 Foundation, which received a \$15,000 donation.

“As a founding partner of the Worcester Red Sox, we are honored to bring back this tradition and support the police and fire departments in Worcester. It was a tremendous effort of the WooSox Foundation, the police and fire departments, and the Country Bank marketing team to make this happen. We look forward to the re-match this August, where the teams will again battle for the trophy and bragging rights. The game will also donate to a deserving local non-profit,” stated Regin.

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Green Path Cannabis in Southbridge, Massachusetts, is proud to offer a monthly record expungement program! Each month, Green Path will choose one interested person to receive legal services to evaluate and assist their petitions to seal or expunge a criminal record of cannabis possession. Green Path will give hiring consideration to qualified participants as well as their spouses and children if an employment vacancy exists.

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

TODDLER TIME
Wednesdays @ 11:00AM and 3:45PM
Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs! This program is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

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

LEARN TO PLAY DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
Thursdays @ 6:00PM
"Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? We have an experienced Dungeon Master ready to run a new game of Dungeons and Dragons, the world's number

one role playing game. We are missing just one thing ... YOU! This is for those that are looking to learn more about playing and do some short adventures!

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

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

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

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

PAINT NIGHT
Thursday, June 8 6:00PM-7:45PM
Returning favorite Jean Walker will lead a paint class intended for those 16 years of age and older.
Space is limited, so registration is required.
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford

Endowment.
DEB'S SING AND SWING
Thursday, June 15 10:30AM-11:15AM
This is an interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!
Children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Library
TRAVEL FILM: NEW ENGLAND
Thursday, June 22 6:30PM-7:30PM
Visit some of the iconic locations in New England and get some ideas for summer vacation destinations with a video tour of New England.
Free popcorn and water provided.
Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
SUMMER READING KICKOFF!
Saturday, June 24 11:00AM-12:30AM
Come and meet Gilbert the Party Pig and Violet! You will get a chance to see them do tricks, feed them, and some get some fun photos with them!
While you are here you can sign up for Summer Reading!!!!
Sponsored by the Hugh and Harriet Crawford Endowment.
SING ALONG MOVIE: ENCANTO
Monday, June 26 3:00PM-5:00PM
Join us for popcorn and sing along with the movie "Encanto."
All children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
ADULT BOOK GROUP
Monday, June 26 6:00PM-7:00PM
All are welcome to join our adult book group for a

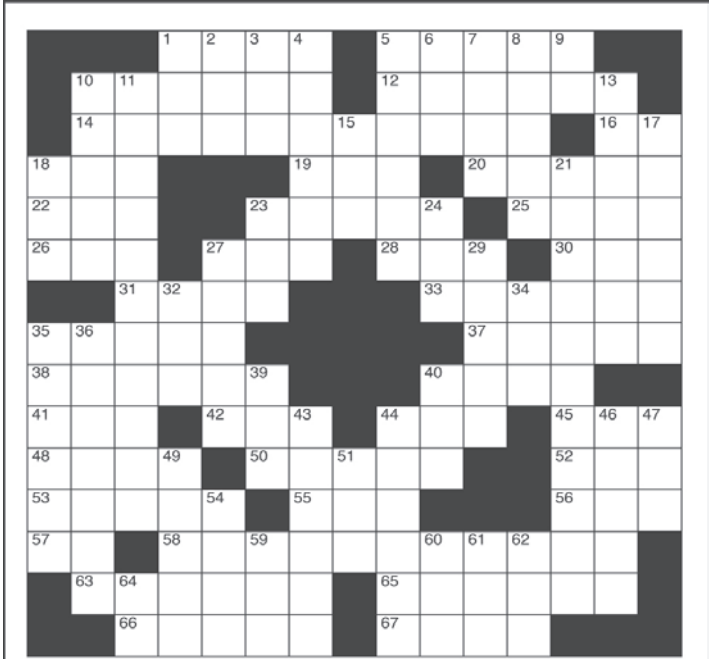
discussion of this month's title, My Beloved World, by Sonia Sotomayor
Copies of the current title are available at the circulation desk one month prior to the meeting.
CROCHET A SCARF
Monday, June 26 6:00PM-7:00PM
Crochet a scarf to keep or give away. Learn the basics of crochet. You will get a hook and a skein of yarn. This is for ages 10+. This is a 6 week class, register for the first class only!
Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
Sponsored by the Hugh and Harriet Crawford Endowment
DROP IN CRAFT: MAKE A SHRINKY-DINK KEYCHAIN
Tuesday, June 27 200PM-4:00PM
Drop in and create your own keychain and then watch it shrink! Ages 5+, children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

LUNCH AND STORYTIME
Wednesday, June 28 Noon-1:00PM
Come and picnic in the children's room! Bring your lunch and listen to Ms. Lida read stories, sing songs, and get a take home craft!
All children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
DROP IN CRAFT: DESIGN A FLAG
Thursday, June 29 11:00AM-1:00PM
If you had a flag what would it be? Come and make a flag to represent you!
Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
MAKE A CHAINMAIL BRACELET
Thursday, June 29 6:00PM-7:45PM
Learn the basics of chain mail making with the experts from Castle Nitor. By the end of this class you'll have made a chain mail bracelet to take home!
This program is suitable for those 13 and up.
Space is limited: registra-

tion required.
Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.
MESSY ART
Friday, June 30 3:00PM-4:00PM
Come and get messy! Come and play/create in messy art mediums. This is for ages 15months - 5 years old.
All children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

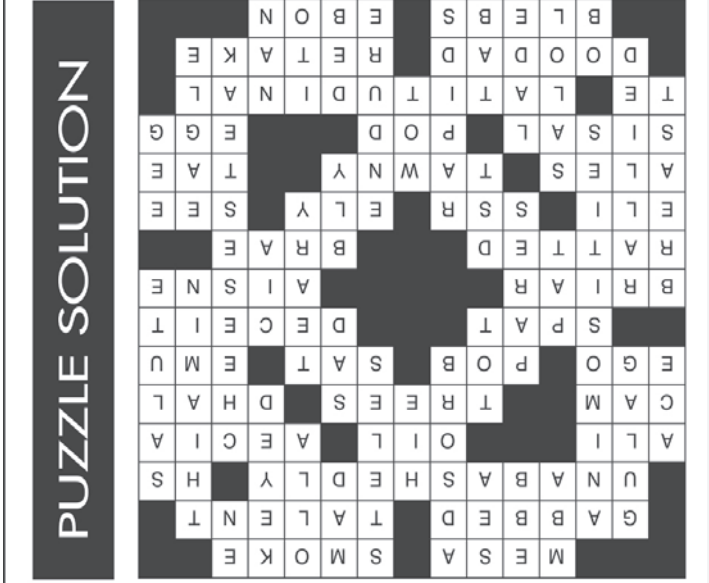
DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the month of May.
Nicholas Kenneth Pecore, age 24, of Charlton was arrested on May 6 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lines Violation, and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.
An individual whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 6 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.
Travis Norman Kennett, age 40, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on May 7 in connection with an out of agency warrant.
Alfredo K. Rivera-Luquis, age 26, of Webster was arrested on May 8 in connection with an out of agency warrant.
Xavier Albaladejo Albaladejo Marquez, age 42, of Southbridge was arrested on May 9 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Trafficking in Cocaine.
An individual whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 14 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.
Arthur Tolman Christian, age 37, of Dudley was arrested on May 18 in connection with multiple warrants.
Tito David Berry, age 40, of Dudley was arrested on May 19 for Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Disorderly Conduct, Threatening to Commit a Crime, and multiple counts of Vandalization of Property.
Jaime Samuel Mrazik, age 33, of Dudley was arrested on May 20 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (second offense) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.
Jesse Foisy, age 30, of Dudley was arrested on May 21 in connection with multiple warrants.
An individual whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 24 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.
David Arthur Milosh, age 62, of Dudley was arrested on May 31 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, Possession of a Class E Drug, and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
 - 5. Where there's __, there's fire
 - 10. Talked incessantly
 - 12. Skill
 - 14. Without shame
 - 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
 - 18. Boxing's GOAT
 - 19. Used to anoint
 - 20. Cluster cups
 - 22. Footballer Newton
 - 23. They make up a forest
 - 25. Split pulses
 - 26. Self
 - 27. Post-office box
 - 28. Test for high schoolers
 - 30. Large, flightless bird
 - 31. Expectorated
 - 33. Falsehood
 - 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
 - 37. French river
 - 38. Told on
 - 40. Hillside
 - 41. Peyton's little brother
 - 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
 - 45. Witness
 - 48. Brews
 - 50. Yellowish-brown
 - 52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
 - 53. Mexican agave
 - 55. A type of "cast"
 - 56. Encourage
 - 57. Atomic #52
 - 58. Relating to position north of south of equator
 - 63. Gadget whose name you forget
 - 65. Another recording
 - 66. Small blisters
 - 67. Dark brown or black

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
 - 2. " __ and flow"
 - 3. A very large body of water
 - 4. Accumulate on the surface of
 - 5. Central cores of the stem
 - 6. Angry
 - 7. Ceramic jar
 - 8. Scraped a car
 - 9. __ route
 - 10. Soviet labor camp system
 - 11. Strong hostilities
 - 13. Vitamin of the B complex
 - 15. Go quickly
 - 17. Toast
 - 18. A team's best pitcher
 - 21. A Philly culinary specialty
 - 23. Small child
 - 24. Unhappy
 - 27. Trims away
 - 29. Characterized by crying eyes
 - 32. Soft touch
 - 34. American spy organization
 - 35. A person's chest
 - 36. Came from behind to win
 - 39. Fall back
 - 40. Nellie __, journalist
 - 43. Great places to kayak
 - 44. Suffer patiently
 - 46. Majestic bird
 - 47. Electroencephalograph
 - 49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
 - 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
 - 54. Ship as cargo
 - 59. The bill in a restaurant
 - 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
 - 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
 - 62. One's grandmother
 - 64. Siberian river



REAL ESTATE

AUBURN
\$360,000, 50 Oxford St N, Feliz, Katheryn, and Feliz, Enmanuel, to Akomah, Dorcas.
\$350,000, 35 Preston Ave, Webb, Jacob A, and Webb, Lauren L, to Parajuli, Ranjit.
\$300,000, 10 Old Farm Rd, Lynch John F Est, and Coleman, Jessica M, to Coleman, Jessica.
\$290,000, 27 Warwick St, K& s Realty Investors Inc, to Rodriguez, Carmen, and Nolzaco, Leonel D.

DUDLEY
\$725,000, 22 Noble St, Depot Road Charlton LLC, to Avakian, Margaret, and Avakian, Jason.
\$400,000, Hall Rd (off), Valley View Rt, and Zajac, Jeffrey C, to Nichols College.
\$375,000, 22 Sawmill Rd, Nicoletti, Leonard S, to Prendergast, Eden D, and Weiland, Jeremy.
\$362,500, 5 Francis Dr, Lavoie, Dawn J, to Karagiorgas, Dimitrios, and Karagiorgas, Loree A.

OXFORD
\$285,000, 624 Main St #A, Belanger, Mckenzie R, and Rodriguez, Alexandro E, to Covert, Aaron M.
\$267,750, 22 Hudson Rd, Ameriquet Mtg Securities, and Deutsche Bk Natl T Co Tr, to Valentin, Alyssa.

WEBSTER
\$375,000, 804 Beacon Park #804, Ramstrom, Patricia R, to Gagliastro, Francis.
\$300,000, 192 Thompson Rd, Fenuccio, Paul F, and Fenuccio, Lisa L, to Fuzz, Maureen P.

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Stronger through collaboration: Academic progression in nursing

CHARLTON — On Friday, May 19, Fitchburg State University Professor Linda McKay, MSN, RN and alumna Elizabeth Lartey, BSN, RN traveled to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy to speak to Practical Nursing Class of 2023 about academic progression. In short, “the LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge Program is designed to transition the traditional or military trained Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to the role of a baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurse (RN).”

According to McKay, “Graduates of this program are prepared to meet societal healthcare needs in a variety of settings. Respect for diversity, social responsibility, and a commitment to excellence in nursing are emphasized.”

Lartey stated that her training at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy fully prepared her for her journey at Fitchburg State University. It is important to note that Lartey, who graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2018 and Fitchburg State University recently, passed NCLEX-PN to become an LPN and NCLEX-RN to become an RN both take one, on her first try.

From the Fitchburg State University Web site, “The LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge Program is unique as it spans both School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education (SGOCE) and Day course schedules, creating an accelerated curriculum. This approach allows students to attain their goals as quickly as possible as

well as stay on a schedule that works with their career demands. Courses offered or taken through the day division in fall and spring carry the undergraduate day tuition and fees. Courses offered in the evening, winter, or summer through SGOCE carry the undergraduate SGOCE tuition and fees.”

“We are proud of Elizabeth’s accomplishments and grateful for her time and willingness to speak to the PN Class of 2023,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. “We need more BSN-prepared nurses to meet the growing health care needs of the nation, and to address the nursing shortage. We are equally grateful for Professor McKay! She did a similar presentation pre-COVID, in 2018 that inspired Elizabeth towards her academic progression! We look forward to welcoming more of our Bay Path graduates heading towards academic progression in nursing.”

Once the rigorous 10-month program and the NCLEX-PN exams are successfully completed, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduates are eligible to work as LPNs in various healthcare settings throughout Massachusetts. Please visit the Practical Nursing Office for assistance in job placement as well as the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Facebook page for employment opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/BayPathPracticalNursing2015> Advancement Opportunities Bay Path Regional

Vocational Practical Nursing Academy is offering a great opportunity for students to continue his or her education after completing our 10-month program. Bay Path Regional Vocational Practical Nursing Academy in collaboration with Fitchburg State University (and Worcester State University) offer a seamless transition from an LPN to a BS in Nursing.

“This is better access to education for our diverse populations, and we are excited that our graduates are taking advantage of these opportunities,” added Bolandrina. This collaboration opens up a world of future growth prospects for Bay Path LPNs and gives greater possibility for academic progression, to which we are profoundly grateful.”

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health, Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn). The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org).

Cornerstone Bank welcomes Kara Wiersma as VP, learning and development partner

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has welcomed Kara Wiersma, a resident of Auburn, as its new vice president, learning and development partner. In this role, she is responsible for developing, coordinating and executing employee training and development.

“Kara comes to us with a wealth of experience in employee development, training and engagement,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We are committed to providing our employees with the tools and skills they need to learn and grow in their careers, and Kara’s expertise will ensure our success in this regard.”

Wiersma earned her bachelor’s degree



Kara Wiersma

in management from Boston University and is a Certified Professional in Talent Development. She has more than two decades of experience in the banking industry, nearly a decade of which has been spent in the areas of learning, development and colleague engagement.

“I’m thrilled to be joining the Cornerstone team and look forward to building on its strong foundation of employ-

ee development,” said Wiersma. “The passion people have for their work here really shines through, as does the leadership’s dedication to employee satisfaction and success.”

A member of the Worcester Business Journal 40 under Forty Class of 2019, Wiersma also serves on the Board of the Central Massachusetts Association for Talent Development as the vice president of programming.

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 people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based bank-

ing 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 tag line, 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.

The USS TRUXTON and Norman Hall

AUBURN — On Christmas Day 1941, the Truxtun departed Boston in the screen of Convoy HX-168. She arrived at Reykjavik on 13 January 1942 and, six days later, headed back to Argentia, Newfoundland with Convoy.

At 4:10 in the morning on Feb. 18, while acting as escort to USS Pollux (AKS-2) in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, Truxtun ran aground in a howling gale; between the out-port communities of Lawn and St. Lawrence, near Chambers Cove. (There was a fierce storm and zero visibility at the time.) She broke up almost immediately after grounding and, despite the heroic efforts of the local populace, lost 110 members of her crew to the elements. Forty-six men survived.

The USS Pollux was also wrecked with 93 fatalities, and USS Wilkes also grounded, but made way with no fatalities.

At Bryn Mawr Ave. and North Oxford Street, there is a monument to Norman Francis Hall where every Memorial Day, the Honor Guard from the Chester P. Tuttle Post American Legion along with an Auburn Police escort give a four-gun salute and a pray in remembrance of F2C Norman F. Hall.

Norman Hall and his toy sailing ship are the inspiration for the Auburn Historical Society and Museum’s Summer Program cardboard ship building for kids and adults. These ships will then be on display throughout the museum. More information about the shipbuilding will be forthcoming.

New leadership coming to DCRSD

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — As the school year draws to a close the Dudley Charlton Regional School District is faced with a familiar scenario for any district, changes in personnel. As new opportunities present themselves it’s not uncommon for educators to seek promotions or a change of scenery and in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District at least four leadership positions will see new hires before the end of the summer.

Interviews for two positions, Director of Pupil Services and Charlton Elementary School Principal, were held in May. Following the announcement

of Robert Bergeron’s departure earlier this year, the search for a new Director of Pupil Services has led to two candidates who were to interview with Superintendent Steven Lamarche before the end of the school year. The finalists are Heather Harriman, currently a Special Education Coordinator at Charlton Middle School, and Jennifer Toth, the Director of Pupil Services in Harvard. The Charlton Elementary School Principal position, most recently occupied by Jennifer Lilley, has also been narrowed down to two candidates. Laura Ramos, Assistant Principal of Leroy Mayo Elementary School, and Carolyn Robbins who most recently served as Principal of Anne Ware Jackson School in

Plainville, are the top choices for the position and are also slated to meet with Superintendent Lamarche in the coming weeks.

While the search for a new Director of Pupil Services and Charlton Elementary School Principal are well underway, two more openings were announced at the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committees May 24 meeting with Superintendent Steven Lamarche revealing that Dr. Brian Ackerman, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, will be leaving for an unspecified job in education at the end of the school year. Ackerman is notable for being the first individual hired utilizing Zoom meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and has

Turn To **LEADERSHIP** page **A18**

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of May 28 to June 3.

A 28-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 30 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

David Arthur Milosh, age 62, of Dudley was arrested on May 31 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, Possession of a Class E Drug, and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.

Mary Wheeler, age 22, of Webster was arrested on May 31 for Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace.

Revel Pedro Rivera, age 45, of Webster was arrested on June 1 in connection with a warrant.

Marissa R. Coy, age 25, of Dudley was arrested on June 2 in connection with a warrant.

Michelle L. Boulay, age 38, of Webster was arrested on June 2 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order and in connection with a warrant.

Joseph R. Manion, age 36, of Webster was arrested on June 3 for Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official and in connection with a warrant.



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JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

The Library Lobby will be home to some very special friends for the month of June! Watch as 7 chicken eggs incubate throughout the month, then stop in or watch on Facebook Live as they hatch around June 13th. Don't miss seeing these adorable, fluffy chicks before they head back to the farm in early July! Funded by the friends of the library.

Our Friends group will be having their annual book sale June 8th- 10th.

Adult Programming
YOGA WITH JULIE – Saturday June 3rd, 17th

and 24th at 9:30 AM
Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves 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.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT-- Tuesday June 20th--6:00 PM

Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn!

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES--- SUNTA AFRICA BAND--- Thursday June 8th 6:30 PM

This concert will be held outside weather permitting so bring your lawn chairs!! If weather is bad it will be held inside the lobby. The Sunta Africa Band is a force of Funk mixed with

some Soul, R&B Reggae & Blues, that brings an eclectic selection of original music and covers to any stage they play on! Funded by the friends of the library.

CHICKENS AROUND THE WORLD---Monday June 12th 5:00 PM

Learn how to care for chickens in your own backyard or a sustainable farming operation. Funded by the friends of the library

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP--- Thursday June 15th at 6:30 PM

The Group will be reading and discussing Amor Towles's The Lincoln Highway Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880 or email rcox@cwmmars.org for inquiries.

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

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we

will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

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

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

MOM'S DROP-IN GROUP --- Tuesday Mornings 10 AM

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

BABY MASSAGE CLASSES--- Thursday afternoons in June at 1:30 PM

Baby Massage can help with gas, constipation, bonding, soothing, and sleep. Sheryl will model the strokes on a doll as the parents practice the techniques on their babies.

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION--- Wednesday mornings in June at 10 AM

Children and their caretakers are welcome to come explore their sense of touch as they play in different sensory-stimulating materials like rice, orbies, Epsom salt, and more.

A N I M A L A D V E N T U R E S --- SUMMER READING KICKOFF--- Monday June 26th at 10:00 AM

Join us for this exciting outdoor event marking the kickoff of summer reading! There will be animals of all shapes and sizes. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

ONE UP GAMES: OPEN GAME PLAY WITH VR--- SUMMER READING KICKOFF--- Monday June 26th at 3:00

PM
One Up Games brings a variety of next-gen consoles and gaming monitors to the library, along with popular games, classic games and retro games. Up to 30 teens can play what they wish, with the freedom to move to any system and play any game. Funded by the Friends of the library.

MR. VINNY THE BUBBLE GUY--- Thursday June 29th at 10:00 AM

Using giant bubble wands he designed and constructed by the Bubble Guy himself, will gather kids for an hour long game of watch, chase, and pop the bubbles!

ESCAPE ROOM-- ESCAPE FROM THE ROGUE PLANET--- Thursday June 29th at 4:30 PM

You and your group have crash landed on a Rogue Planet. Repair the ship, plot a return course, & survive the journey home! Up to ten participants ages 12-17 can take part in this program from Wicked Fun Games

Marianapolis gradates class of 113

THOMPSON, Conn. — On June 4, 113 students (93 seniors, eight postgraduates, four joint diploma students, and eight international diploma students) will graduate from Marianapolis Preparatory School. Alumnus Thomas Dodge '73, Trinity Foundation Board member, will be the keynote speaker. In addition, Valedictorian Abbie O'Brien of Dayville, Conn., Salutatorian Felicia Fongemie of Ashford, Conn., and Head of School David DiCicco will also speak.

Dodge attended Marianapolis from 1969-1973 and attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. He spent more than 35 years in the financial services industry, most recently at Fidelity Investments, where he retired as Director of Operations in Benefit Plan Services. A true believer in service, he has also been an active contributor to his parish, the President's Council at Holy Cross, the Marianapolis Alumni Council since 2014, and the Trinity Foundation Board of Directors since 2019.

"We appreciate Mr. Dodge's leadership and commitment to the School as an alumnus and member of the Board of Directors and thank him for sharing his insights with the Class of 2023 and our entire community," shared Head of School David DiCicco.

Valedictorian Abbie O'Brien, daughter of Jessica O'Brien of Dayville, Conn., and James O'Brien of Moosup, Conn., earned the highest grade-point average in the class of 2023. She has taken eight honors and 11 AP® level classes at Marianapolis and was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. O'Brien will deliver the valedictory address at commencement on June 4.

O'Brien is a NECTFL Award Winner for Excellence, the University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award winner, and an AP® Scholar with Distinction. She is also a three-sport athlete and captain of the indoor track and field team.

"Abbie has set a standard for her peers in engagement and excel-

lence across all parts of school life," DiCicco said. "We celebrate her success and the way in which she has invested herself fully in all she does."

O'Brien will attend Clarkson University and pursue a bachelor's in engineering.

Felicia Fongemie, daughter of Liz and Christian Fongemie of Ashford, Conn., earned the second-highest grade point average in the class of 2023. In addition, she has taken 15 honors and AP® level courses at Marianapolis and was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. Fongemie will deliver the salutatory address at commencement on June 4.

During her time at Marianapolis, Fongemie has been a NECTFL Award Winner for Excellence, an AP® Scholar with Distinction, and the recipient of the Sophomore Chemistry Award. She is also captain of the girls' varsity basketball team.

"We are so proud and impressed with all that Felicia has accomplished," said DiCicco. "She has truly demonstrated grit and resilience and been a role model for our full community."

Fongemie will attend Wesleyan University as a Biology major on a pre-med track.

Marianapolis Class of 2023 in alphabetical order

Collins AchuFon, Milford; Andrew Andrianopoulos, Worcester; Carlota Azar Sanchez, Merida, Mexico; Isata Bah, Westborough; Daniela Baños Ruelas, Leon, Mexico; Emine Barik, Istanbul, Turkey; John Barnwell, Danielson, Conn.; Ana Paula Beltran Perez, Villahermosa, Mexico; Giacomo Bertone, Milan, Italy; Emma Blanchard, Dayville, Conn.; Michael Bokis IV, North Brookfield; Faye Boligan, Thompson, Conn.; Grace Booth, Webster; Benjamin Bouchard, Douglas; Campbell Braun, South Grafton; Jonathan Briggs, Andover; Vu Bui, Hanoi, Vietnam; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, Conn.; Domenic Capalbo, Worcester; Ana Sofia Casillas Morales, Chihuahua, Mexico; Amin Chejin

Farah, Chetumal, Mexico; Dominika Chmielewski, Webster; Sophia Civitenga, Webster; Gabriele Concetti, Pesaro, Italy; Kaito Correa Wagatsuma, Merida, Mexico; Claire Crossman, Oxford; Anna Czechowski, Webster; Jayden DeSimone Upchurch, Providence, R.I.; Charlie Dietz, Southborough; Joseph DiPietro III, Worcester; Victor Dogre Conde, Chetumal, Mexico; Danielle Doiron, Charlton; Bridget Duffy, Shrewsbury; Benjamin Duquette, Webster; Pham Hoang Duy, Hanoi, Vietnam; Klara Elezaj, Tirana, Albania; Ava Fabiano, Killingly, Conn.; Nicholas Fennelly, Charlton; Felicia Fongemie, Ashford, Conn.; Oskar Forsy, Wegrzce, Poland; Vu Thu Giang, Hanoi, Vietnam; Maxwell Golden, Millville; Quynh Bo Ha, Bien Hoa, Vietnam; Emily Hammond, Sutton; Tran Thuy Hanh, Hanoi, Vietnam; Brig Hannon, Putnam, Conn.; Angelina Hargrave, Charlton; Lily Hayes, Danielson, Conn.; Donovan Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Sophie Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Franklyn Herasme, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Duy-Anh Hoang, Hanoi, Vietnam; Thu Hoang, Hai Phong, Vietnam; Tuan-Long Hoang Ly, Hanoi, Vietnam; James Hoban, Millbury; Patrick Hoban, Millbury; Hyunwoo Jeon, Seoguiipo, South Korea; Raymond Johnson, Douglas; Filip Kalis, Prague, Czech Republic; Ethan Kalmin, Dudley; Avery Kurzontkowski, Shrewsbury; Kate Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Molly Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Camille Larson, Charlton; Hoang Minh Le Tuan, Hanoi, Vietnam; Julia Lech, Millbury; Lauren Lemire, Southbridge; Xiunan Li, Yuhuan, China; Yihui Luo, Jiangsu, China; Audrey Madden, Killingly, Conn.; Remonda Mankarios, Dudley; Benjamin McGarry, Thompson, Conn.; Katherine Melnick, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Sara Michailides, Chepachet, R.I.; Joshua Mobley, Webster; Olivia Montione, Dudley; Rachel Morin, Chepachet, R.I.;

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Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College recognizes the following local students for being named to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the 2023 spring semester:

Nicole Boutin from Auburn. Boutin has a primary major of Education.

Sage Kaplan from Auburn. Kaplan has a primary major of Biology.

Jillian LaBonte from Auburn. LaBonte has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

Grace Levansavich from Auburn. Levansavich has a primary major of Physical Ed Hlth/FCS.

Danielle Schmeling from Auburn. Schmeling has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Hunter Audet from Dudley. Audet has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Sydney Clark from Dudley. Clark has a primary major of Comm. Sci. and Disorders.

Hannah Cushing from Dudley. Cushing has a primary major of Physical Ed Hlth/FCS.

Audrey Hayes from Oxford. Hayes has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-OT.

Ryan Steiner from Oxford. Steiner has a primary major of Sport Management.

Jennifer Walker from Webster. Walker has a primary major of Exer Sci / Pre-AT.

Patrick Welliver from Oxford. Welliver has a primary major of Sport Management.

Lucas Yash from Webster. Yash has a primary major of Sport Management.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Julie Dwyer of Webster recognized for academic excellence at Assumption

W O R C E S T E R — Assumption University honored 75 students with academic awards for excellence in their individual fields of study. The annual spring Honors Convocation is an opportunity to recognize students who have received one of the University's academic departmental honors, special awards, and Augustine Scholarships.

Julie Dwyer, Class of 2023, of Webster, received the Donec Formetur Christus Presidential Award.

"The annual Honors Convocation recognizes Assumption students who embody the Assumption mission through his or her academic excellence and commitment to learning," said Paul Douillard, Ph.D., interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Receiving these awards is a noteworthy achievement for students engaged in a journey of Catholic liberal education that seeks to awaken in them a sense of wonder and purpose."

The departmental and special awards allow faculty to honor the most meritorious students in each of their primary programs of study while Augustine Scholarships are awarded to rising juniors and seniors

whose academic achievement, leadership, character, and community service embody the Assumption mission.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England University for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and dedication to the common good. Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, Assumption has undergone a series of major advancements since transitioning to a university, including new academic buildings, degree programs, and athletic facilities for our NCAA Division II student athlete population. The University offers 38 majors and 50 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, and professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Spotlighting one group’s struggle does not negate another’s

We’ve heard some rumblings about why a Pride Month exists, and how other groups of people should have a month-long celebration. Pride Month isn’t a federal holiday like other groups.

Just because a group of people are celebrated doesn’t mean any other group shouldn’t be. Any such comparisons are a case of apples being set against oranges.

The reason we celebrate Pride is simply to applaud overcoming and still working to overcome hate and bigotry the LGBTQ community has received for hundreds and hundreds of years. The same goes for Black History month. It’s to celebrate the people who have been and still continue to be oppressed. Whether or not you experienced it with your own eyes doesn’t matter: It exists.

Simple rights such as not being able to get married and afforded the same rights under federal law as straight couples, not being seated in a restaurant, getting gun downed for being in a gay nightclub, getting murdered for being gay, not feeling comfortable holding hands in public, fear of getting gawked at or harassed, not being able to rent an apartment or buy a house are a few things members of the LGBTQ community has faced.

Even though those things are legal now, it’s still an uphill battle. Bad things certainly happen to everyone, but not because of who they love. It is discrimination that fuels that evil.

Pride is simply about being proud of who you are. The most important thing for any individual is to simply be kind, obey the law and focus on your own lives. To judge who another person loves would be odd at best.

Pride Month was initially inspired by the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, and works to achieve equal justice and opportunity for LGBTQ Americans. The purpose of the month is to recognize the impact that LGBTQ individuals have had on society locally, nationally, and internationally.

In some states, it is still illegal for same sex couples to adopt children or acquire fair employment.

The Stonewall Uprising took place on June 28, 1969, and was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the 1960s, the Stonewall Inn in New York City’s Greenwich Village was a gay club and refuge for many in the LGBTQ community. On that day, the New York City police raided the inn, sparking a riot among bar patrons and neighborhood residents with the police.

The riot involved hundreds of people and led to six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement outside the bar.

A year later, thousands of people marched from the Stonewall Inn to Central Park in what was then called “Christopher Street Liberation Day” marking what is now recognized as the nation’s first gay pride parade. Since 1970, LGBTQ+ people and allies have continued to gather together in June to march with pride and demonstrate for equal rights.

We are all Americans, and we must continue to look out for each other and ensure that each and every one of us are treated equally under the law. True freedom is not for just one group of people, it is for all people. Anything less is un-American.

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.

VIEWPOINT

My strength is made perfect in weakness

“My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Saint Paul heard these words from Jesus Christ when he was trying to figure out why he suffered so much, even though he prayed for relief. Throughout Saint Paul’s life, he suffered to an extent few could ever relate with - five times he was whipped with 39 lashes; three times beaten with rods; once stoned almost to death; three times ship wrecked, even drifting out at sea for a night and day; numerous times imprisoned; threatened continuously by robbers, by his fellow Jews, by Roman authorities; often traveling in hunger; sleeping in the wilderness; and possibly the greatest suffering of all was the emotional rejection he felt from people he so greatly loved.

The Apostle Paul understood suffering and could relate with the worst of turmoil. In addition to his physical pain, he says that “a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, unless I think too highly of myself.” Some other inner Cross antagonized the Apostle to such a degree, that he begged God to remove this burden. “I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me, but God said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’”

One of the greatest saints pleads with God to take away his suffering and the Lord doesn’t remove his cross. Instead, Christ teaches St. Paul an invaluable lesson – “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in your weakness.”

Too often people are confused with the crosses they bear in life. One dear lady I frequently visit always says to me, “I don’t



BEYOND THE PEWS
BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
GREEK
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know what I did to deserve all this pain and suffering. I am a good person. I went to church regularly all my life. I’ve tried to treat others well. Why is God making me suffer now in my old age? What have I done to deserve this?”

I try to explain to her from the saints throughout history that they weren’t exempt from suffering, pain, and even horrible deaths. Think about how the 12 disciples of Christ, the closest friends of Jesus, all suffered terribly throughout their lives. St. Peter was crucified upside down. The other apostles endured torture. All but one of the twelve disciples died as martyrs and the one who didn’t was imprisoned and exiled.

St Paul describes the apostolic life in this manner: “To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. We labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now... We are unknown, yet well known; we die, yet behold we live; are chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

To follow Christ, and His teachings, is no guarantee that life will be a bed of roses. Sometimes people actually believe these ridiculous televangelists who promise health, wealth and prosperity if one believes in Jesus. That’s a total distortion of the Gospel. Yes, Jesus Christ promised his followers an “abundant life,” but not in a worldly, materialistic sense!

Turn To **BEYOND THE PEWS** page **A12**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No new fossil fuel infrastructure

To the Editor:

Making a transition to renewable energy is not going to be an easy thing, but certainly within reach by the year 2050. But in order to make it a smooth transition, the sooner we get started, the easier it will be. But rather than having to switch over at the last minute, the smart thing to do would be to just stop building any new fossil fuel infrastructure now that will only have to be abandoned before it has reached its useful lifespan.

Building a fossil fuel energy plant with a 40 year expected life span, and then having to close it down in 20 or 30 years just does not make it easy or financially sensible. The time is now for the Commonwealth to put a stop

to all new fossil fuel infrastructure, it being new power plants, pipelines, gas hookups, airport expansions, and LNG facilities. The Commonwealth, under the leadership of Gov. Baker, put forth the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030, yet we are rapidly failing to meet those goals just a few years into the implementation of it. Taking action now will not only be much more cost effective than having to react to at the last minute, it is also the right thing to do for future generations. We need to tell everyone at the State House to wake up and take action.

Gerry Frank
Dudley

A moment for seniors

To the Editor:

Do you ever wonder why 99 percent of the patients in nursing homes are in wheelchairs? These elderly people that maybe have had one incident, one single fall at home, suddenly find themselves in a nursing home and into a wheelchair. They are told they are incapable of walking alone anymore. They need 24/7 care.

So, all you sons and daughters in the 50-plus age group, my question to you is, if you tumble down the stairs in your house, will your future be spent the same way as your father’s is? Or of your mother? Will you end up in a nursing home in a wheelchair, just like you did to dad or mom? After all, a fall is a fall. It shouldn’t matter how old you are. That’s

just an excuse. Will some “loving and concerned family member” sell your home without your knowledge? How is that even done in today’s day and age. But it happens.

To our seniors out there who are in their 80s and 90s, be careful who you put your faith and trust in. Be careful what you are signing. Those who claim To be acting in your best interest, are often acting in their own best interest. When they put you in a nursing home and don’t ever allow you to leave or go out for an afternoon with a friend, then you should know the real reason why you are sitting in that wheelchair in that nursing home. They did it for themselves.

Tina Giza
Thompson, Conn.

Dudley’s taxpayers deserve more fiscal responsibility

To the Editor:

#ideserve has become a slogan in recent weeks of teachers, parents, and recent graduates who believe they are entitled to demand excessive amounts of money from the Dudley taxpayers. They compare Dudley (average income \$75,465) to Charlton (average income \$118,133) and to Webster (average income \$65,583).

Baypath, a regional vocational high school, has 1,100 students. The Baypath renovation cost \$78.8 million. Bartlett has 390 students. The renovation cost \$101.417 million. If you look further east, Somerville (1,215 students) spent \$256 million on a new high school. Newton (2,075 students) spent \$197.5 million. I cite this information to demonstrate that the likely outcome of a desired, not mandatory, feasibility study will undoubtedly recommend a renovation of Shepherd Hill Regional High School at a cost that far exceeds what this town can afford.

I spoke at our Town Meeting, Board of Selectmen and School Committee meetings in recent weeks, offering reasonable opportunities to reduce controllable expenses without impacting any teacher or any student’s school experience. I also questioned each municipal department that had detailed line items with a source of state funding, but a dollar amount on the override request. While some departments have received reimbursement, at least one has not in more than 10 years. Why has no-one pursued that? What I said is on record. If you twisted my words, or thought you heard something else, go back and listen again. I have and continue to support the police, fire, highway, and veterans’ departments for the 36 years I’ve lived in Dudley. But I cannot support other departments with numerous part-time employees given full-time benefits. Combine multiple part-time positions into fewer full-time positions.

What really disturbs me is that those we elected to the

Board of Selectmen, FAA, and School Committee attempted to sneak in more than \$1 million of time-bound capital costs into a permanent 30 percent override in April. Anyone who manages a budget is aware that expenses and capital are separate. After that fiasco, I lost confidence in these people.

Ballot Question 1 asks for a permanent increase to the tax rate for operational expenses. It seeks to add \$1.84 to the current \$10.16 per thousand. This is an 18.11 percent permanent increase. If you’ve taken a close look, you will notice that neither the town nor the School Committee reduced their operational expenses since April.

Ballot Question 2 violates the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Question Requirements, which state the ballot question cannot be worded so as “to promote or advocate for the override or exclusion.” The wording you will see does just that. It also attempts to mislead voters into thinking we are required to participate in a feasibility study. We are not required to participate! If Ballot Question 2 passes, it will add 32 cents/thousand for one year and the implication of long term spend is unimaginable.

Year 1: A permanent 18.11 percent increase if question 1 passes, or 21.25 percent increase if both questions pass

Year 2+: 18.11 percent continues, 32 cents will be replaced by the cost of the Dudley Middle School roof (to be repaired this summer). We will have to pay for the roof regardless of these ballot questions.

#dudleytaxpayersdeserve that our elected officials are transparent and fiscally responsible.

Remember to vote June 12 at the town hall between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Robin Watson
Dudley

Your job is not done

To the Editor:

To the people of Dudley who came out to vote on April 25...if you thought your job was done, it is not!

You will need to vote again on a new Proposition 2 ½ override that will be at the forefront at the Annual Town Election on Monday, June 12 at the Town Hall.

However, it is “not so new” at all. In fact, it is the same, simply repackaged differently.

This time, the proposed Override will be stated in two separate Ballot Questions.

But let it be known that both the Town and School budgets remain the same. There were no changes made, no adjustments, no cuts in their request for a total of \$2,668,797.

This is permanent. The Feasibility Study is \$463,000. The combined requests will result in a 21 percent tax increase for the taxpayers in Dudley.

Also be aware that the Dudley Middle School roof replacement and other projects costs of over \$2 million will be in FY 2025. That increase will be added to your taxes next year. Taxes will continue to rise.

You must exercise your right to make your voice heard at the Town Election on June 12. Your job is not done! You need to vote again!

Kathy Hurst
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strongly consider your vote on June 12

To the Editor:

As July 12 approaches, I wanted to speak on the upcoming override vote on June 12. As everyone is aware, the vote failed back in April by a 3 to 1 margin. I believe town officials heard the people, as they were against the initial vote.

The biggest concern of the people was lumping everything together into one vote. After attending all the meetings regarding the vote there was one recurring theme — separate out the school roof and the school feasibility study. The town officials heard that and separated out the two. The roof has been postponed until next year, which will be a separate debt exclusion, and the feasibility study is also separated as a separate question listed as a capital override, which is like a debt exclusion, it will be on for one year and dropped off after year one, meaning it goes away. Some of the people that voted no in April said they would be willing to vote yes if the two previously mentioned items were separated, so that's what was done.

Dudley currently has a tax rate of \$10.16 per thousand. The new proposal would add \$1.84 to the tax rate, and make the tax rate \$12.00 per thousand, which keeps Dudley in the lower third of lowest tax rates in the state out of 352 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Year two, 22 cents drops off, as the feasibility study is completed. Leaving a net increase of \$1.62 per thousand. Currently a house valued at \$500,000 pays \$5,080 in taxes annually. That would increase to \$6,000 if the override were to pass. Meaning an increase of \$920 per year. This is an increase of \$230 per quarter, or \$77 per month. This is reasonable, considering you have a full-service town. Obviously, many will pay less than that, as the average house value in Dudley is \$361,000, which would result in an annual increase of \$664.24, \$166.06 per quarter, or \$55.35 a month, and some will pay more as a few houses are worth more. I used \$500,000 as a value because it is easy math.

The reason I bring all this up is that the effects of this override not passing is devastating to the town. It would set the town back 15 years, and the town will probably never recover. I understand people don't like taxes, and neither do I, but occasionally it needs to be done to keep pace with inflation. Public Safety and the schools are service departments, we provide services to the town, without the town's support we cannot effectively run these services. We are trying to provide the best service to the town possible. I have been in this budget for 12 years, attended close to every meeting in those 12 years. There is minimal waste in these budgets, and the town is audited every year. There is no mismanagement at the town level; we are not perfect, but have squeezed a lot out of a bare bones budget.

I understand this town has fiscally conservative values, and it has shown over the years, since 1982, the year prop two- and- half went into effect, there

have been a total of three override votes, two failing and one passing in 2018. So, in 41 years, one override vote has passed. That's a good track record for keeping taxes low. These are override requests. Debt Exclusions are not included. We are now asking that you help the departments and the schools that normally are here to help you. An approved override will greatly help these departments and the school continue to run at a top level. Without this money, these departments will falter and run inefficiently. The fire department responds to roughly 2,500 calls per year for service, and the police more than that. We just can't continue to run at these levels without additional funding. From a fire department perspective, we have procured \$1.6 million in grants, and bring in \$600,000 per year in ambulance receipts.

So, we are always looking for alternative funding. We want to continue to provide this good service to the townspeople. We really don't want to ask for the money, but at this point it is needed. We are only asking as a last resort, and we are at that point now. Our ambulance revenue will also drop as result of a failed override as we will have less coverage and be forced to give calls away to neighboring towns, which will result in that town collecting the ambulance fees. I cannot stress enough how a no vote will devastate this town. I remember when the police were struggling due to socially charged issues, and how the actions of a few painted a broad brush of the entire law enforcement system. The town responded, putting up signs of support for the P.D. Now, we are asking for your support again to keep these important services running. This is a small local town with local needs, our political views really do not play a role in how we choose to support and run the town. I would be remised if I didn't mention the veterans of our community. These people gave the ultimate sacrifice, and for anyone to suggest cutting veterans benefits is just mind boggling, what kind of person suggests that? They need support more than any of us.

One more point to bring up is social media. Social media has destroyed us, while it occasionally offers good communication, often it spreads incorrect, or inflated information, and negatively portrays every aspect of life. I read some of the forums, and the hate and animosity expressed is ridiculous. I guess some people are just happy to go scorched earth on everything and everyone 24/7. If you want to get the facts, come to a meeting, come to the fire station, and talk to me, I will show you and tell you anything you want to know. If you really want the facts, just ask. All that being said, I am just asking you, the people to strongly consider your vote on June 12 as this could be a huge turning point for the town that will have ramifications for years to come. Thank you.

Dean Kochanowski
Fire Chief
Dudley

A crossroads for Dudley

To the Editor:

The looming June 12 vote in Dudley represents more than just two simple ballot questions. It represents a turning point in our town; a critical moment that will determine what Dudley will look like in the months and years to come. Much has been made about the monetary cost of a yes vote, so we won't rehash the same tired arguments here...we are all well aware that the cost of services increases over time. What we would like to address instead, are the other; and in our opinion more severe "costs" of a no vote.

John Adams once wrote of public schools, "The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people, and must be willing to bear the expenses of it. There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the expense of the people themselves. . ." The role of the local taxpayer is to support and maintain the schools that in turn benefit their children, and thus their town. For years, the taxpayers of Dudley supported and maintained our district in a state of excellence. However, in the past 10 years, there has been a shift from striving toward excellence, towards accepting an education that is "good enough." People speak with pride about Dudley spending the least amount per student in the state. We beg to differ: That is a point of embarrassment that has left our schools in a sad state. In fact, Shepherd Hill has fallen in state ranking from 75th in 2003, to 171st in 2022. A steady diet of cuts has turned our district from one that families with children moved here to get into, into one where those same families are contemplating leaving. That being said, the proposed 2 1/2 override does not add additional services for our students. It doesn't contemplate improved curriculum, added technology, greater opportunity or expanded class offerings. It merely keeps it from getting worse. This is where the race to the bottom mentality of the last decade has led us. We are now in the unenviable position of having our backs

to the wall: a no vote will be impossible for our schools to recover from. We all know the facts: 18 full time educators lost, reduced tier two supports in math and ELA for elementary students, less curriculum options for high schoolers, and a loss of middle school athletics and music just to name a few. Don't our students deserve more? The value that our schools bring to our town is immeasurable: increased property values, involved children who grow into well rounded adults, a source of pride in our athletic and music groups. While I understand and appreciate that for some residents even a small increase in taxes is financially hurtful, an individual's financial hardships are not the prerogative of the public. Public schools are.

Additionally, as we have all heard, town services will be drastically cut should the voters choose not to support the Proposition 2 1/2 override. While the selectmen did not come back with additional cuts after the first failed vote, their original proposal did not add a single position or service. This budget is to keep things the same. In other words, there is nothing left to cut. During Covid, Dudley drastically reduced town services to the point of offices only being opened a few days a week and positions being condensed so one person can do the work of three. Those positions were never restored. The town is already operating on a shoestring. There's only so much fat you can cut before you're cutting into bone: the essential services that all citizens of Dudley, even those who don't value their worth, are able to receive. A town that cannot provide basic services to its residents is not a place where people want to move and it's not a place where people want to stay. What do you think having poor services will do to the value of your home?

On June 12, it is time for us to decide what Dudley will look like. Our sincere hope is that with the passage of the override, it can continue to be a place we are proud to call home.

Michelle LeBlanc and Mary Norton
Dudley

Cold weather catches anglers off guard



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS

RALPH
TRUE

The cold weather that moved into New England this past weekend was a shocker to both gardeners and anglers. It sure hit the anglers hard, who planned a trip on a charter boat, with the wind and cold, but some did brave the nasty weather. Some anglers that trav-

eled north did very well aboard a charter boat, catching a lot of haddock. A big difference from a week earlier, when some anglers in search of haddock could not find many. Freshwater ponds and streams are still producing some impressive trout, as well as some of the Rod & Gun Club ponds. There were a lot of fishing derbies in the last couple of weeks, which is a good sign that the sport of fishing is alive & well!

A local farmer reported losing most of his peach crop during the recent cold snap, and some of



Courtesy

This week's picture shows William Toner with a striped bass he caught fishing around Block Island recently .

Turn To **OUTDOORS** page **A12**

Biggest threats to a comfortable retirement?



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS

If you save and invest for decades, you'd like to know you can retire without financial worries. Nonetheless, you still have to be aware of some threats to a comfortable retirement — and how to respond to them.

These threats include:

Inflation – Inflation has been high recently, but even a mild inflation rate can seriously erode your purchasing power. In fact, with just a 3 percent infla-

tion rate, your expenses could double in about 25 years — and your retirement could easily last that long. So, if you're going to rely on your investment portfolio for a sizable part of your retirement income, you will need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks or stock-based funds, whose potential returns can equal or exceed the inflation rate.

Excessive withdrawals – Once you retire, you should establish a withdrawal rate for your portfolio — an amount you can take out each year and still feel secure that you won't run out of money. Some people make the mistake of withdrawing too much, too soon once they're retired. Your withdrawal rate should be based on several factors, including your age at retirement, the size of your portfolio and the amount of income

Turn To **FINANCIAL** page **A12**

Positively speaking!

Toby Moore

Focus can transform your journey

As an individual driven by ambition, I often find myself brimming with the can-do spirit, ready to conquer all that lies ahead. Yet, this enthusiasm often leads me to over-commit, to bite off more than I can chew. With so many tasks and responsibilities flooding my plate, discerning where to focus my efforts becomes a task all on its own.

One of the overwhelming tasks I had to accomplish recently was creating more garage space! So fun.

On my quest for more garage space, I found myself rummaging through the cluttered caverns of my garage, moving dusty boxes, and sorting through a lifetime's worth of memories. That's when I stumbled upon an old book: "The ONE Thing: The surprisingly simple truth behind extraordinary results" by Gary Keller—the co-founder of Keller-Williams Realty.

I cracked it open, and one chapter - "The Focusing Question" - leaped at me.

Let's take a moment to meditate on the concept.

What do the thousand-mile journey and life's goals have in common? They both begin with a single step. However, how do we ensure our first step is in the right direction? We would want to avoid finding ourselves in the middle of nowhere, miles away from our desired destination. Here's where the wisdom of Keller strikes - he says, "The Focusing

Question is what keeps our first step from being a misstep."

Yes, you heard right! A question. Why should we care about a question? Isn't it the answers that we seek? But think about it this way: the quality of your answer is only as good as the quality of your question.

As Voltaire said, "Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers."

Gandhi also noted, "The power to question is the basis of all human progress."

So, what is this magic question you ask?

Well, here it is:

"What's the ONE thing I can do that, by doing it, will make everything else easier or unnecessary?"

The genius of this question lies in its simplicity.

Consider my life: running my dream business, managing my mother's water filter business, working a full-time job at a leading hospital, and penning this column for you all. Phew! That's a lot on one platter.

I should have been asking this question years ago!

How can I sift through all these duties, figure out what truly matters, and let go of tasks that don't serve my goals?

This, my friends, is where Keller's question shines. It guides you like a roadmap that points you toward the best possible decision at any given moment.

Now, let's delve into the depths of this focusing question and dissect its parts to reveal its wisdom.

"What's the ONE thing I can do..."

By singling out ONE thing, we streamline our tasks, cutting through the chaos and helping us focus on what truly matters.

"...Such by doing it..."

This is where the domino effect comes into play. It assures that doing this ONE thing will set other things in motion.

"...Everything else will be easier or unnecessary?"

This realization can be groundbreaking: We often find ourselves caught up in a whirlwind of busy work, only to discover later that these tasks didn't contribute to our goals.

The Focusing Question is a dual tool that can clarify our big-picture ambitions and the immediate steps needed to get there. Asking, 'What's the one thing I can do?' allows us to identify our overarching goal.'

Once that's clear, we can ask, 'What's the one thing I can do right now?'

This refines our focus, breaking down the grand task into manageable, immediate actions. This way, we're consistently moving closer to our ultimate goal. We take the first step in the right direction and keep building upon it, one well-considered step at a time.

In the end, remember this: The Focusing Question is not a one-time magic spell. It's a compass you must consult regularly to keep you on track, helping you hone in on your next priority.

Since I've started asking myself this question, I've noticed a marked increase in my focus and always know what to do next.

I challenge you to harness its power, and watch how it transforms your journey to success, one step at a time!

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO23P1259EA
Estate of:
Richard E. Sarkissian
Date Of Death:
December 13, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner
Lynn R. Sarkissian of Auburn MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Lynn R. Sarkissian of Auburn MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
June 9, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Keith M. Paquette, Viki S. Paquette to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, dated May 4, 2016 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55380, Page 239, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, recorded on April 20, 2022, in Book No. 67461, at Page 365
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on July 14, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 Hillside Street, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
Real property in the City of AUBURN, County of WORCESTER, State of Massachusetts, described as follows:
THE LAND IN AUBURN MORE FULLY DESCRIBED AS THE LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS NOW THEREON ON THE NORTHWESTERLY SIDE OF HILL STREET, ALSO KNOWN AS HILLSIDE STREET, SITUATED IN AUBURN, IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER AND COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, BEING LOTS NUMBERED 45, 46 AND 47 AS SHOWN ON A PLAN OF LOTS AT PAKACHOAG HEIGHTS, DATED MAY 1904, DRAWN BY W.I. THOMPSON, CIVIL ENGINEER, RECORDED IN THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 9, PLAN 6 AND FURTHER BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTHWESTERLY SIDE OF HILL STREET, SAID PINT BEING THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF THE LAND HEREIN CONVEYED AND THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LOT NO. 48 ON SAID PLAN;
THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY BY SAID LOT NO. 48, ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET TO A POINT AT THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LOT NO. 56 ON SAID PLAN;
THENCE NORTHWESTERLY BY LOTS NUMBERED 56, 57 AND 16, SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FEET TO A POINT AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT NO. 17 ON SAID PLAN;
THENCE NORTHEASTERLY BY LOTS NUMBERED 17, 18, 19 AND 20, ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET TO HILL STREET;
THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY BY SAID HILL STREET, SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 7,500 SQUARE FEET OF LAND.
Commonly known as: 8 HILLSIDE ST, AUBURN, MA 01501
APN #: 6/ 17
For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds

in Book 51806, Page 298.
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
22948
June 2, 2023
June 9, 2023
June 16, 2023

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket Number:23 SM 002255
ORDER OF NOTICE**
TO: **Heather M. Stock, Individually and Personal Representative of the Estate of Carol A. LaRose, Matthew D. LaRose and Michelle LaRose Matthews**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq)
Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential
Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 14 Silver Street, given by Carol A. LaRose and David F. LaRose Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for HSBC Mortgage Corporation, dated April 25, 2008, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42764, Page 273, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, have filed with this court a complaint for determination of 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 07/17/2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 6/1/2023
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
June 9, 2023

**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. W023C0289CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Joan Marie Michel
A Petition to Change Name of Adult**
has been filed by **Joan Marie Michel** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jay Aaron Michel
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/27/2023. This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, HON. LEILAH A KEAMY, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 24, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
June 9, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO19P1973PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR RESIGNATION
OF A GUARDIAN OF AN
INCAPACITATED PERSON
In the matter of:
Patrick Flannery
Of: Westfield, MA
RESPONDENT
(Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person)**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by David Milewski of North Adams,, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Conservator
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/20/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 23, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
June 8, 2023

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 106 § 9-601 and in compliance with the terms of a certain mortgage given by Elite Rivers LLC to New Silver Lending, LLC dated May 31, 2019, recorded with the Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 60493, Page 323, which mortgage was assigned to AlphaFlow WH, LLC by Assignment dated June 10, 2019, recorded in Book 60781, Page 100, as affected by Corrective Assignment recorded in Book 68873, Page 266; further assigned to AlphaFlow, Inc. by Assignment dated July 24, 2019, recorded in Book 60823, Page 138; further assigned to JAFW by Assignment dated July 24, 2019, recorded in Book 60823, Page 142; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust VII-B by Assignment dated November 29, 2022, recorded in Book 68873, Page 274, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on 5th day of July 2023, at the mortgaged premises described and known as 25 Tanyard Road, Dudley, Massachusetts described in said mortgage, to wit:
A certain tract of land situated in said Dudley on the southwesterly side of Tanyard Road in the Town of Dudley, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the Southeasterly corner thereof at an iron pin on the southwesterly line of said Tanyard Road, said iron pin being at the northeasterly corner of land owned by the inhabitants of the Town of Dudley;
THENCE South 17 degrees 45’ West by land of said inhabitants of the Town of Dudley for a distance of one hundred (100.00) feet to an iron pin at land of Nichols College;
THENCE North 54 degrees 00’ West

by land of said Nichols College, for a distance of one hundred and seven hundredths (100.07) feet to an iron pin on the southerly line of a thirty-three (33) foot right of way and land of said Nichols College;
THENCE North 36 degrees 00’ East by the Southeasterly line of said right of way for a distance of one hundred sixty-seven and sixty-three hundredths (167.63) feet to an iron pin on the southwesterly line of said Tanyard Road;
THENCE South 7 degrees 39’ East by the southwesterly line of said Tanyard Road for a distance of one hundred one and three hundredths (101.03) feet to the point of beginning.
Together with a right of way thirty-three (33) feet in width northwesterly of and parallel to the third (3rd) course described above.
The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The Mortgagee further reserves the right to open the bidding at the time, date and place appointed for sale, and if no bids are received, or the bids received are deemed unacceptable to Mortgagee, to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation.
Said premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens and other public taxes, assessments or liens, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any.
In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with Mortgagee’s attorneys the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to said second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.
TERMS OF SALE: Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be required to bid and be paid in cash or by certified check at the time and place of sale as earnest money. The balance is to be paid in cash or by certified check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale at the offices of Murphy & Lupan, P.A., 5 Commonwealth Road, Natick, Massachusetts 01760. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of any typographical error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY,
FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE
OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST VII-B
Present holder of said mortgage,
By its attorney,
Michael J. Murphy
Murphy & Lupan, P.A.
5 Commonwealth Road
Natick, MA 01760
Tel: (508) 650-9252
June 9, 2023
June 16, 23023
June 23, 2023

For Legal
Advertising
Information
Call
508-909-4127
email:
legals@
stonebridge
press.news

Author Judith Ferrara to appear at Bookovers’ Gourmet

WEBSTER — On Saturday, June 24, from 3-5 p.m., Bookovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St., Webster, will host a book release and signing event with Judith Ferrara and her new biography "A Feast of Losses: Yetta Dine and Her Son, the Poet Stanley Kunitz."

The event is free and open to the public. Signed books will be available for purchase. For more information, call 508-949-6232 or email deb@book-

loversgourmet.com.

“‘A Feast of Losses’ documents and celebrates the life of Yetta Dine, the poet Stanley Kunitz’s mother; a fierce, loving, magnificent woman truly worthy of our attention. Kunitz often remarked that a poet makes a myth of his life as a way of traveling the labyrinth of memory and experience to transformation. Close readers of Kunitz’s luminous poems will, in reading this book, gain a sense of the layers of

life from which his myths emerged,” writes Marie Howe, author of four books of poetry, the most recent, “Magdalene.”

Perhaps the most enduring poet of his generation, Stanley Kunitz once observed that “poetry is for the sake of the life.” Based on his mother’s recently recovered memoir, diary and letters, Judith Ferrara’s A Feast of Losses offers fresh and intimate insights into both her own and her son’s lives.

Yetta Dine emigrated from Lithuania to New York’s Lower East Side in 1890 and learned the garment trade before moving to Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1893 to marry Solomon Kunitz. Readers will have an unprecedented opportunity to hear Yetta’s own voice, understand her story and explore the influence she had on Stanley Kunitz as a poet and a person.

Who was this woman, immortalized as the mother in “The Portrait”

who “slapped me hard” when Stanley found his dead father’s portrait in the attic? Yetta’s original papers and the striking details of her life have emerged against all odds—a story within a story.

Judith Ferrara, Ph.D., holds degrees from the University of New Hampshire, Fitchburg State University and the State University College at Buffalo. Her publications in the field of education include Peer

Mediation: Finding a Way to Care (Stenhouse Publishers). Her poems, essays and artwork have appeared in three collections and in journals. She received a Worcester Cultural Commission/ Massachusetts Cultural Council Creative Arts Fellowship in 2003. In 2018, she received the Stanley Kunitz Medal from the Worcester County Poetry Association. Ferrara lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, with her husband John Gaumond.

LEGALS

DUDLEY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE DEFINITIVE PLAN OFF SAWMILL ROAD

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41 Sections 81T and 81U, the Dudley Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on a Definitive Subdivision Plan off Sawmill Road entitled “Sophie’s Way” at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, June 28, 2023. The meeting will take place in the Dudley Municipal Complex, Room 321-A (DMC, Veterans Memorial Hall), 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571. The plan contains four proposed lots and an approximately 300-foot-long road with a cul-de-sac that will serve 5 homes. The property is located in a RES 15 zoning district. The subdivision road is intended to remain a private way in perpetuity. Copies of the plan and application are on file in the Planning Board Office and the Town Clerk’s Office, both of which are located in the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA. The Planning Board will receive public input at the hearing. If you wish to comment but are unable to attend, you may submit written comments to the Planning Board Office or via email to planner1@dudleyma.gov before 4:30 p.m. on June 27, 2023. Guy Horne, Chairman
June 9, 2023
June 16, 2023

**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. W023P1471EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Gary M Germata
Date of Death: 03/27/2023**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Appointment of Personal Representa** has been filed by **Jeffrey Emco of Oxford MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection **at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/20/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 18, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 9, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gordon R. Terry, Kelly J. Patterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for NationPoint a division of Nat.

City Bank of IN, dated April 3, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39116, Page 182, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-FF10 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FF10, recorded on March 5, 2010, in Book No. 45533, at Page 120 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on July 7, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 40 Lakeview Avenue, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side line of Lakeview Avenue at the northwesterly corner of the lot to be described; said point being S. 06° 26' 04" W. and 434.11 feet from an angle point in said line; THENCE S. 83° 33' 45" E. along land, now or formerly, of Conrad Allen for a distance of 115 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water line of Merino Pond; THENCE in a southerly direction along the high water line of Marino Pond for a distance of 102 feet, more or less, to a point; THENCE N. 83° 33' 56" along land, now or formerly, of Samuel Perichino for a distance of 125 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of Lakeview Avenue; THENCE N. 06° 26' 04" E. along the easterly side of Lakeview Avenue for a distance of 100.00 feet to the point of beginning. For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39116, Page 180. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
Adesposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF10 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-FF10 Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
22399
June 9, 2023
June 16, 2023
June 23, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 89-91 Slater Street, Webster, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kristen Ann Piskator to

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as mortgagee, as nominee for E Mortgage Management, LLC d/b/a EMM Financial its successors and assigns and now held by AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, said mortgage dated March 22, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60181, Page 117, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated March 27, 2020, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 62110, Page 237, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on June 16, 2023 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in said Webster, being a certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated on the southwesterly side of Slater Street, in said Webster and bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a stake driven into the ground on the southwesterly line of said Slater Street at Lot #48 as designated on a plan hereinafter mentioned, and being the most easterly angle of the tract hereby conveyed; Thence southwesterly one hundred nineteen and three tenths (119.3) feet by said Lot #48 to a stake in the ground at land of the Town of Webster;
Thence westerly ninety (90) feet by said land of the Town of Webster to a stake in the ground at Lot #28; Thence northeasterly seventy-eight and six tenths (78.6) feet by said Lot #28 to a stake in the ground at Lot #46;
Thence deflecting to the right and extending northeasterly a distance of ninety-six (96) feet by said Lot #46 to a stake in the ground on the southwesterly line of said Slater Street;
Thence with an included angle of 86 degrees 50` and extending southeasterly ninety-two (92) feet by said Slater Street to the point of beginning.
Being Lot #47 as shown on a Plan in Sub-Division showing properties of Slater Mills, Inc. and Slater Co., Inc., Webster, Mass., drawn by B.A. Wakefield, Eng. Dated April. 1935 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 85, Plan 37. The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated March 22, 2019, and recorded in Book 60181, Page 114 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200 MLG File No.: 22-03202
May 26, 2023
June 2, 2023
June 9, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 1 Malden Street, Oxford, MA 01540
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kimberly S. Derby to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Radius Financial Group Inc.,

and now held by **Citizens Bank, N.A.**, said mortgage dated February 11, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61903, Page 256, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as Mortgagee, as nominee for Radius Financial Group, Inc. to Citizens Bank, N.A by assignment dated October 4, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68319, Page 11; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** July 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land together with the buildings and other improvements thereon in the town of Oxford, being Lot #10 as shown on a Plan of Lots owned by A. Esposito, drawn by Vincent F. Kubic, Surveyor, dated February 26, 1954, and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 215, Plan 77, more specifically described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner of the premises herein conveyed at a point on the southwesterly line of a proposed street, now known as Hubbard Street, which point is One Hundred Ten (110) feet northwesterly of the intersection of the Old Worcester Road; THENCE S. 40 degrees 10’ W. One Hundred Forty and 9/10 (140.9) feet, partly by Lot #1 and #2 to a point at Lot #9; THENCE N. 50 degrees 02’ W. Ninety-Five (95) feet by Lot #9 to a point on the southeasterly line of a proposed street, now known as Malden Lane; THENCE N. 40 degrees 10’ E. by the southeasterly line of said street a distance of One Hundred Two (102) feet to a point; THENCE by a curve to the right whose radius is Twenty (20) feet connecting the southeasterly line of said Malden Lane with the southwesterly line of Hubbard Street to a point; THENCE S. 63 degrees 47’ E. along the southwesterly line of said Hubbard Street to a distance of Eighty-two and 24/100 (89.24) feet to the point of beginning. Said premises are further shown as Lot 10 on plan approved by the Planning Board and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 229, Page 39. Subject to building restrictions contained in a deed dated July 22, 1958 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 3957, Page 266. Being the same premises described in a deed from Kimberly Gasser and Daniel Gasser to Kimberly S. Derby dated February 10, 2020 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 61903 Page 252

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated February 10, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61903, Page 252.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A.
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
June 9, 2023
June 16, 2023
June 23, 2023

Preserve the beauty, fragrance, and flavor of your garden



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

Enjoy your garden throughout the growing season and beyond. Preserve its beauty, fragrance, and flavor in artwork, crafts, and food.

Cell phones with cameras make it easy to capture the seasonal changes in our gardens and environment. Use a favorite photo as the wallpaper on your computer or phone. Turn them into greeting cards to send or pictures to hang on walls, lifting your spirits on gray winter or rainy days.

Break out the colored pencils, markers, or paints and capture the beauty of individual flowers or gardens. Creating art, like gardening, can help elevate your mood, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem.

Start a garden journal, if you haven't done so already. It's a great way to capture successes and even failures to help plan next year's garden or changes to the landscape. Create your own journal on the computer or in a spiral notebook. A waterproof and smudge-proof option like the Rite in the Rain Waterproof Garden Journal can go with you into the garden.

Preserve some of your favorite flowers and memories with a flower press you make or buy, like an heirloom flower press (gardeners.com).

Just place freshly picked leaves and flowers between pieces of paper in the flower press. Use flowers at their peak of beauty for the best results. Arrange the leaves and petals as desired before pressing, since

they dry the way you place them. Once your flowers are placed in between the paper, close the press and secure the layers. Your dried flowers will be ready in a few weeks.

Speed up the process with the help of your microwave. The Terra Cotta Microwave Flower Press allows you to harvest, press, dry and create all in the same day. Place the flowers and leaves between the wool felt dividers and secure them inside the terra cotta top and bottom. The wool pads and terra cotta absorb the moisture as the microwave heats for quick drying.

Capture the color, fragrance, and relaxing benefits of lavender by filling small sachet bags with flower buds to place in a desk, nightstand, or drawer. Take this one step further and create lavender wands from 10 to 30 flowering stems and a bit of ribbon. These attractive wands capture the lavender fragrance and make great gifts.

Pickle cucumbers or other vegetables to enjoy throughout the garden season and beyond. You'll find an assortment of pickling crocks on the market but consider elevating your pickles to gourmet status by fermenting them in The Amazing Pickle Barrel made of lightly toasted white oak. You and your guests will enjoy the subtle and unique flavor the oak barrel adds.

Keep the flavor of your garden alive all year long. Pick and dry herbs for winter meals and holiday gifts. Gather the herbs into small bundles and secure them with a rubber band. As the stems shrink so does the rubber band. Use a spring-type clothespin to hang the bundles from a clothesline in a dry, airy place that is out of direct sunlight for drying. Save space and dress up the display with an herb drying rack that holds six bunches of flowers, hot peppers, or garlic.



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Terra cotta microwave flower presses provide the opportunity to harvest, press, dry and create in the same day.

Keep carrots, beets, and turnips fresh and crisp for months after harvest with proper storage. Most gardeners don't have a root cellar or sufficient room in the refrigerator. Consider packing them in layers of damp sand or sawdust placed in a root storage bin. Set the bin in a cool dark place and retrieve the vegetables as needed.

Try these and other creative ways to extend your garden enjoyment beyond the end of the growing season.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply Company for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

A READER EXCHANGE OF HELPFUL HINTS AND HANDY TIPS

Tips Choose the Pick of the Crop

Fresh fruits and vegetables from the backyard garden are a harvest treat like none other. So what's the next best thing to a homegrown crop? Look for weekly Farmers Market events during the harvest season to ensure the freshest picks. Not sure how to choose fabulous fruits and vegetables at an outside market? Read on for our annual guide to help you pick perfect produce from early crops through the end of the season.



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

Beans, snap: Look for small seeds inside straight, fleshy pods. If you can see large seeds through the skin than the beans are probably too old. Avoid beans with dry-looking, rusty, wilted or damaged pods.

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower: Look for tightly compacted flower clusters on broccoli and cauliflower, and compact, uniform sprouts. Avoid wilted, yellow, or dirty heads, and avoid loose, open sprouts or those that are yellow or pale green.

Cabbage and head lettuce: Look for firm compact heads that are heavy for their size. On leaf lettuce, choose unwilted, compact, crisp-looking compact plants.

Carrots: Look for deep orange colored and smooth skinned roots. Avoid carrots with purple or green shoulders or pale in color, or ones with forked or crooked roots. Oversized roots usually mean they are woody. If tops are still attached on carrots, they should be fresh.

Celery: Choose large, firm stalks with uniform stalk and a white bottom. Avoid spindly, wilted stalks.

Chard: Look for fresh, dark green leaves with bright, tender stalks. Avoid wilted, poorly colored leaves.

Collards and kale: Check for tender, green, full-sized leaves with tender tips; avoid wilted, tough or overly large leaves.

Corn on the cob: Choose for well-filled cobs with plump, straight rows of kernels. Avoid large, wrinkled kernels.

Cucumbers: Pick long, slender cukes that are medium to dark green.

Peppers: Look for firm, darkly colored fruit with uniform size, color, and number of lobes. Avoid wrinkled or shriveled ones or fruits that are sunburned (contrasting color spots).

Radishes: Choose medium-sized, firm, crisp roots. Avoid wilted or soft roots or those with growth cracks or insect damage. Oversized roots will be pithy. Sunburned crowns are also not desirable.

Summer squash: Choose ones that are uniform in size, color, and shape. Avoid large fruits (over mature) or ones with scarred skins, missing stems, or that are soft or wilting.

Tomatoes: Look for smooth skinned, firm fruits with uniform color. Avoid fruits with growth splits, sun scald, or overripe (soft) fruits.

Apples: Choose firm, well-colored fruit that feels crisp.

Blueberries: Pick plump, firm, deep blue berries with their natural waxy silver coating.

Cantaloupe: Look for a smooth shallow base; thick, coarse, corky netting that stands out from skin. Should yield slightly when pressed on non-stem end and have the slight scent of cantaloupe.

Cherries: Should be dark in color, glossy, plump, with fresh looking stems.

Mangos: Pick fruit that has plump, smooth, dark green skin with patches of red, yellow, or orange color; should be slightly soft.

Nectarines: Fruit should be plump, slightly soft along "seam"; either orange-yellow or greenish between red-blushed areas depending on variety.

Oranges: Choose firm oranges, heavy for its size; smooth-textured, with bright-looking skin.

Peaches: Should be somewhat firm, becoming slightly soft; red with creamy, orangy base color.

Pears: Look for firm fruit, just barely beginning to soften. Bartlett's: pale to rich yellow; Boscs: green to brown yellow.

Pumpkin: Look for a pumpkin with an even orange hue. Give it a thump; if it sounds hollow, it is ripe and ready to be picked. Look for hard skin and a hard stem. Leave several inches of stem when you harvest a pumpkin. Doing so will slow down the rotting process

Watermelon: Should be symmetrical with bright green rind with a creamy yellow underside. Choose a watermelon that's heavy for its size.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Area residents named to Bridgewater State dean's list

BRIDGEWATER — The following Massachusetts residents were named to the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University:

Auburn
Emily Healy, Jenna Nelson and Ava Novakoski.

Blackstone
Madison Abrants, Zoe Bergeron, Meagan Brodeur, Brad Chausse, Cassandra Demotte, Alexis Harrison, Erin McGuire, Matthew Montgomery, Abigail Putnam, Mia Russo, Stephanie Spear and Alex Staples.

Brimfield
Spike Austin and Giana Uwazany

Brookfield
Sarah Tavares

Charlton
Samantha D'Arcangelo, Shaelyn Donovan, Molly Johnson, Matthew Kustigian and Ryan McKenzie.

Charlton City
Kayla Canty

Douglas
Madalyn Carr, Samantha Gibson, Alisa Guertin, Lauren Johnson, Joshua McCullen and Cody Winchell.

Fiskdale

Nate Eliason and Allison Morin

Grafton
Ashley Berardi and Sabrina Lincoln-Salfity

Milford
Julia Cacciola, Shane Cosquete, Jayden Fernandes, Tiago Filadelfo, Bianca Guerreiro, Ashley Haley, Sami Houston, Tesha Houston, Ashley LaVergne, Devin MacLean, Brenna Mackie, Nick Matias, Anthony Miano, William Pointer, Yasmin Silva, Eric Stockwell and Kayleigh Wilcox.

Millbury
Jackson Cudmore, Madie Forget, Audra McDuffie, Derek Paris, Ty Pogorek, Blake Samuelson and Zack Smith.

Millville
Aaron Canali, Charlie Dakai, Myra Dehestani and Justin Sauter.

North Brookfield
Sam Rischitelli

Northbridge
Meghan Coughlin

Oxford
Taylor Carter, Corinne Holmes, Danielle Johnson and Abigail Rice.

Rochdale

Jane Toohil

South Grafton
Stratos Bonos and Thomas Waller

Southbridge
Adryanne Gonzalez, Kolby Lamoureux and Amelia Tieri.

Spencer
Richard Butler and Morgan Girard

Sturbridge
Megan Hooker

Sutton
Kyla Rae and Nathan Tougas

Upton
Allison Ceruti and Patrick Dunham

Uxbridge
Lilyanna Bain, Amanda Brochu, Geovanna Freire, Grace Martel, Brenna Neill and Samuel Warner.

Webster
Brett Smith and Aryanah Walker-Sanchez

West Brookfield
Paige Latter and Adam Tweraser

Whittinsville
Jill Casey, Mackenzie Gifford, Omar Osman, Kim Shorey and Nathaniel Survell.

Local students named to Dean's List at Stonehill College

EASTON — The following local students were among nearly 1,000 students named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College:

Max de Freitas of Auburn
Isabella Therrien of Auburn
Briana Reidy of Auburn
Samantha Katz of Dudley

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they

were registered.

About Stonehill College
Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person. Through more than 100 aca-

demic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

SPORTS



Nick Ethier
Bay Path left fielder Jacob Delvalle gets underneath a pop fly in foul territory and records the out.



Nick Ethier
Shortstop Grace Jones of Bay Path records an out on a popup near the second base bag.



Nick Ethier
Bay Path's Miranda Linde sits back and waits before swinging at the incoming pitch.



Nick Ethier
Matt Rousakos of Bay Path tossed a complete game victory versus Bristol-Plymouth.



Nick Ethier
Bay Path's Dale Nussey catches the ball and waits to tag out a Bristol-Plymouth runner attempting to steal second base.

Bay Path teams battle in State Vocational Tournaments

Baseball advances to championship, while softball falls in title game

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — The State Vocational Tournament gives all of the vocational technical high schools throughout the state a chance to shine against their own and, luckily for Bay Path Regional, both the baseball and softball teams qualified for their respective four-team Large School tournaments.

In baseball, the top seeded Minutemen played host to No. 4 Bristol-Plymouth on Wednesday, May 31. And softball, ranked third, first beat No. 2 Monty Tech on Tuesday, May 30

before hosting No. 4 Greater New Bedford for the championship on Thursday, June 1. The baseball team defeated the Craftsmen, 5-1, and will play No. 2 Shawsheen Valley for the State Vocational title, presumably after both teams conclude play in the MIAA's Division 4 State Tournament, where both squads are seeded in the top five of the 40-team bracket. Softball, meanwhile, defeated Monty, 5-2, and then lost in the title game to Greater New Bedford, 5-1.

"This is when it's fun," said baseball head coach Mark Sansoucy of tournament time. "This is what you wait the whole season to play, and to win the league (Colonial Athletic League) on top of it, is great."

For the baseball team, starting pitcher Matt Rousakos shook off his prior start — a 6-0 loss to Hudson High in the semifinals of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors



Nick Ethier
Bay Path's Sam Buchanan throws a pitch against Greater New Bedford.



Nick Ethier
Second baseman Rachel Gormley of Bay Path calls for the ball while right fielder Gabbi Lapan plays it in. The end result was a play at the plate, where the Minutemen successfully recorded an out.

Association's Class B Tournament — and was very effective against the Craftsmen, tossing a complete game seven hitter, allowing one run with seven strikeouts and a walk. The run Rousakos surrendered came in the top of the first inning.

"Matt always seems to get stronger as he goes. His ERA was under 1 for the whole season up until the last game," Sansoucy said of Rousakos on the hill.

When asked about the start of the game, Rousakos said: "In the first inning they got two good hits, sat on my curveball. And then I settled in and my defense played great."

Rousakos then gave a shout out to center fielder Zack Moody, who made back-to-back diving catches to end the third inning and keep the Minutemen within reach at 1-0.

"That kind of turned the momentum," said Rousakos. "That was the third inning and then in the fourth inning we put up two."

"How about Zack Moody out in center field? The most unselfish player, he doesn't even hit a lot and he just plays defense. He's unbelievable," added Sansoucy.

In the bottom of the fourth, Joe Fritze and Zack Fritze led off with singles and Rousakos followed with a one-out, two-RBI single into left field. That turned out to be the winning base knock.

"He threw me a first-pitch curve. I was sitting on curve and I saw a fastball," Rousakos said of the pivotal at-bat. "I just got my hands on it, it was inside and I turned on it."

"He's batting .480, he's our lead-



Nick Ethier
Joe Fritze of Bay Path rounds the bases while scoring a run for his team.

hitter. Matt's just having a year," added Sansoucy. "He's a gamer."

Bristol-Plymouth threatened in the sixth inning with a one-out single, but Bay Path catcher Dylan McDonald easily threw the runner out while attempting to steal second base.

"Since the day he came to Bay Path, he's just gotten better and better every year. He's the one kid that I saw progress more than anybody," Sansoucy said of McDonald, a senior tri-captain along with Rousakos and Zack Fritze, who went 2-for-3 and scored a pair of runs against the Craftsmen.

The Minutemen put the game away with a three-run sixth inning.

"That was huge. It gave me a lot of confidence going back out there," said Rousakos.

Jacob Delvalle provided a two-RBI double to left, and McDonald added an RBI single up the middle.

Rousakos then tossed a 1-2-3 seventh to finish things off in style, as he threw the complete game in 97 pitches.

Bay Path then opened the Division 4 State Tournament on Monday, June 5 by hosting No. 29 Whittier Regional Vocational Technical in the Round of 32. There,

the Minutemen improved to 19-3 with a 5-1 victory.

Over on the softball diamond, Savannah Steiner helped Bay Path defeat Monty with a home run and a single. And, against Greater New Bedford, Steiner kept up the offensive surge with a 3-for-3 day, including an RBI triple to left field in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"She's been swinging the bat very well, one of our hottest hitters the last couple weeks," head coach Rich Carrero said of Steiner's recent play.

Unfortunately for the Minutemen, the team combined for four total hits and 10 strikeouts, four looking.

"My biggest disappointment would be the backward K's," said Carrero. "We normally don't strike out 10 times a game."

The Bears scored twice in the top of the first inning to set the tone and then added two more runs in the fifth and once more in the seventh for their five runs.

"They're a good team," Carrero said of Greater New Bedford. "They play a really tough schedule. Last year they won Division 3, the whole thing."

The Bears won the Division 3 State Championship

last spring and they are seeded 10th this year.

"They swing the bats well, they play good defense (and) their pitcher was deceiving. She didn't look overpowering, but she could send it," Carrero said of lefty pitcher Hayleigh Silva.

The Minutemen appeared to have gotten to Silva in the fifth inning as they looked to make a comeback. Steiner singled, but pinch runner Kalli Sheehan was thrown out trying to steal second. Kirsten Congdon then drew a walk, but Rachel Gormley's line drive was caught at third base and Congdon was doubled off first, ending the inning.

Carrero remained optimistic about his team, though.

"We still have the big one coming," Carrero said of the Division 4 State Tournament. "We wash it away and start fresh on Monday."

The Minutemen, the No. 18 seed in the bracket, played at No. 15 Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical in the Round of 32 and won the game, 5-4, with Steiner continuing her hot streak via a two-run homer in the seventh inning.

Both the baseball and softball teams will compete in the Round of 16 after press time.

✿✿✿

Friday's Child

✿✿✿



J'Quan

Age 10

Hi! My name is J'Quan and I am very caring!

J'Quan is an active young child. J'Quan would describe himself as humorous, kind, and fun to be around. He is a very affectionate child and enjoys showing his love to those he cares about. J'Quan's favorite activities are playing with his Legos, riding his bike, and playing outside.

J'Quan would thrive in an attentive, supportive family with one or two parents. A family for J'Quan will need to support the relationship that J'Quan has with his sister. A family should also be able to maintain contact with members of J'Quan's birth family. J'Quan would also benefit from a visiting resource.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7705>

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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.

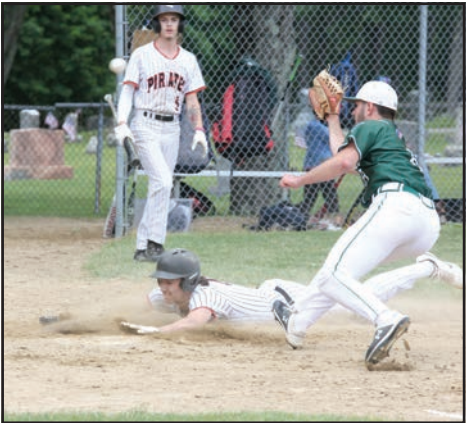
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SPORTS



Nick Ethier

Oxford's Connor Fantasia leans back to avoid being hit by the pitch.



Nick Ethier

Lucas Lambert of Oxford dives safely into home plate for a run.



Nick Ethier

Oxford pitcher Evan Remington rears back before firing the ball toward the plate.



Nick Ethier

Oxford's Cody McDonald hustles his way down the first base line.

Remington helps pitch Pirates past Tahanto, into Round of 16

OXFORD — On Monday, June 5, the Oxford High varsity baseball team began its foray into the Division 5 State Tournament. And, on that day, Pirates' pitcher Evan Remington was nearly unhittable.

Remington tossed a complete game one-hitter as third seeded Oxford upended No. 30 Tahanto



Nick Ethier

First baseman Zak Parmenter of Oxford watches the ball sail into his glove for an out.

Regional, 4-2, in the Round of 32. The Pirates

(15-7) were next set to host No. 14 Frontier

Regional (15-6) place after press time. in the Round of 16, which took

POSTSEASON SCOREBOARD

Postseason Scoreboard after press time.

All results are through Monday, June 5

Monday, June 5 Division 2 Softball Round of 32

(20) Shepherd Hill 8, (13) Agawam 5 — The Rams pulled off the upset and improved to 9-10 in the process. Shepherd Hill had another tall task ahead of them in the Round of 16, where they played at No. 4 Burlington High. That game was played after press time.

Division 5 Softball Round of 32

(24) Oxford 2, (9) Westfield Tech 0 — The Pirates went on the road and delivered an upset to advance to the Round of 16. There, Oxford (15-7), was scheduled to face No. 8 Drury,

To reach the Round of 32, the Pirates defeated No. 41 Salem Academy Charter, 17-1, in the Preliminary Round on Thursday, June 1.

Division 3 Girls' Lacrosse Round of 32 (1) Newburyport 22, (32) Auburn 1 — The Rockets took on the top team in the bracket and saw their season come to a close. Auburn finished with a record of 8-14. They won their Preliminary Round game against No. 33 Hoosac Valley, 10-8, two days prior.

Saturday, June 3

Division 3 Boys' Lacrosse Preliminary Round (31) Lenox 8, (34) Auburn 7 — The Rockets got into the tournament thanks to

an even record at 9-9, but Auburn was unable to top Lenox in the prelims.

Thursday, June 1

Division 2 Boys' Tennis Round of 32 (2) Westborough 5, (31) Shepherd Hill 0 — Competing against one of the top teams in the state in the Rangers was too much for the Rams, who finished their impressive season at 14-5. Two days prior, Shepherd Hill won their preliminary round game against No. 34 Somerville, 4-1, to reach the match with Westborough.

Division 3 Boys' Tennis Round of 32

(21) Auburn 3, (12) Fairhaven 2 — The Rockets, with only two losses on the year, kept their season alive

in Fairhaven. Auburn (17-2) was set to play at No. 5 Wilmington in the Round of 16, after press time.

Wednesday, May 31

Division 4 Boys' Tennis Round of 32 (16) Bartlett 5, (17) Norwell 0 — The Indians improved to 16-3 after easily dispatching Norwell. Bartlett next played at No. 1 Weston in the Round of 16, after press time.

Tuesday, May 30

Division 3 Girls' Tennis Preliminary Round (31) Malden Catholic 4, (34) Auburn 1 — The season came to a close for the Rockets, and they finished with a .500 record of 9-9 after their postseason setback.

Charlton Dudley Youth Football and Cher to hold registration June 10

Charlton Dudley Youth Football and Cheer is holding one of our final registrations for the 2023 Season. Registration is Saturday, June 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Power Nutrition, 109 Masonic Hall Road in Charlton.

Charlton Dudley Youth Football and Cheer offers Grade based football and cheering for Pre-K (at least 5 years old) through 8th Grade boys and girls in Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge and Thompson, Conn. We compete in the Central Mass Youth Football and Cheer Conference, covering primarily Central Massachusetts.

We are especially searching for current 4th graders who are interested in learning the sport and would like to play on our 5th Grade team this fall.

Team sizes are limited and we'll be closing teams next month. Registration is \$200 per athlete (\$140 for each additional family member). VISA and Mastercard are accepted. All participants will also be required to sell 10 raffle calendars.

For more information, you may visit www.cdrams.com. Please e-mail cdyfcrams@gmail.com with any questions.

Evangelidis swears in Christopher Burns of Webster as Academy trained correctional officer

WORCESTER — On Friday, May 26, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis proudly administered the Correctional Officers Oath to the 12 graduating recruits of the Sheriff's Office's 59th Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Training Facility. Among the twelve graduates was Officer Christopher Burns, a resident of Webster.



Courtesy

Recent Graduate of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Basic Recruit Training Academy #59, Officer Christopher Burns.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office has remained committed to hiring a diverse workforce to better meet the needs of the population it serves. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #59 are a well-rounded group of recruits. The newly sworn-in corrections officers represent ten towns across Massachusetts and one-fourth of the recruits are veterans or reservists.

The Sheriff's Office Academy is a 12-week paid program that consists of both classroom and hands-on

instruction in which recruits are taught how to handle and maintain the care, custody, and control of inmates incarcerated at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction. Important topics such as de-escalation, duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, first responder training, suicide prevention, mental health, and substance abuse are covered in the classroom. Hands-on training consists of physical fitness, CPR/first responder, firearms, skid school, and many other scenario-based exer-

cises.

"These men and women have just completed 12 weeks of rigorous training and are now among the best and brightest in corrections today," stated Evangelidis. "This class has demonstrated great strength and resolve as they have navigated the academy. They are the next generation of corrections officers that will continue our mission to serve, protect, and create a better, safer community for all."

Since taking office, Evangelidis has made significant

changes to the hiring standards to professionalize the department. All correctional officer applicants must have, at minimum, an associate degree, two years of military service, or two years of relevant work experience. They must also pass a written exam, physical fitness test, background check, and psychological screening test. Evangelidis has also implemented a policy that prohibits the submission of letters of recommendation from politicians and gives preference to hiring those who have served our country.

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Local residents earn degrees at Clark University's 119th Commencement ceremonies

WORCESTER — Clark University awarded 1,300 degrees (590 bachelor's, 681 master's, and 29 doctoral degrees) to the Class of 2023 and conferred three honorary degrees during their 119th Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 21. Speakers heralded the graduates for their accomplishments, and the resilience and ambition they exhibited when their college experience was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meghan T. Hines, of Auburn, Mass., graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Hines is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Daniel Mojica, of Auburn graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts with high honors in Interactive Media.

Neil T. Wykes, of Auburn graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Screen Studies.

Ashley D. Hayes, of Auburn graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology.

Tiffany Vo, of North Oxford graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Marketing.

Luke Bradford Knowles, of Oxford graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Zack Andre, of Dudley graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Media.

In his opening remarks, President David B. Fithian noted that the undergraduates were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout all four years of their college careers, a collective experience that he said resulted in a more creative and tenacious learning community.

"You became experts in the evolving art of remote learning and navigating uncertainty," Fithian said. "You experienced a uniquely challenging time in our history, and you proved to be stronger than maybe you even imagined you could be."

Robert D. Putnam, Malkin Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of a number of books examining the decline of community in American Society, including "Bowling Alone" and "The Upswing," delivered the commencement address. Putnam urged the graduates to seek new ways to bring Americans together across divides of politics, region, race, religion, ethnicity, class, and gender.

"Our country today faces unprecedented political polarization, economic inequality, social fragmentation, and moral self-centeredness, but you - collaborating with others - can reverse those trends," he said. "Your generation didn't cause these problems, but only you can lead the way toward a more diverse, more tolerant, more cohesive, more equal society. A society in which rather than shout or shoot at one another, we listen to one another - actually listen."

Honorary degrees were conferred to Putnam; Ruth Wilson Gilmore, a professor, scholar, and author considered a pioneer in the field of carceral geography and a forceful activist in the prison abolition movement; and Ronald Carter, a legendary jazz bassist, band-leader, Grammy Award winner, and distinguished professor emeritus.

The "transformative power of education" was the theme of remarks by the graduate ceremony student speaker Idriss Laouali Abdou.

"Imagine growing up in a community where you and your friends had dreams you knew were impossible to achieve. That was the reality for me growing up in Niger," said Abdou, who served as the vice president of the School of Management Student Council and the graduate advisor for Clark's Caribbean and African Student Association.

"I was fortunate enough to pursue my studies in Morocco and France, and now here in the United States as a Fulbright scholar," he said. "My personal journey is just one example of how education can change lives. As members of the Clark community, I know that each of you has a story to tell, challenges to overcome, and successes to celebrate."

In her address to fellow undergraduates, student speaker Glory Phipps, a philosophy major, compared her class's journey to that of a rose growing from concrete, an analogy inspired by a poem written by the late rapper Tupac Shakur. Phipps spoke about the optimism she and her classmates shared at the start of their Clark experience, and how they persevered during the pandemic.

"We made it through by focusing on our passions. We fought for issues we believed in. We began to use our voices for the greater good," said Phipps, who served on the Student Council, the Black Student Union, the Latin American Student Organization, and the Mock Trial team. "No matter how many times we were struck down we still got up."

That perseverance, President Fithian said, is why the world needs Clarkies.

"Today's world needs minds that can understand a variety of perspectives. Today's world needs those who value research-based and evidence-informed solutions to complex problems. Today's world needs individuals who aren't afraid to be themselves, and who aren't afraid to challenge convention," he said.

"Today's world needs you."

Ryan Truscott of Webster named a Presidential Scholar at Clarkson University

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Ryan James Truscott of Webster, a junior majoring in electrical engineering, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Spring 2023 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

As a private, national research university, Clarkson is a leader in technological education and sustainable economic development through teaching, scholarship, research and innovation. We ignite personal connections across academic fields and industries to create the entrepreneurial mindset, knowledge and intellectual curiosity needed to innovate world-relevant solutions and cultivate the leaders of tomorrow. With its main campus located in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the New York Capital Region, Beacon, N.Y., and New York City, Clarkson educates 4,300 students across 95 rigorous programs of study in engineering, business, the arts, education, sciences and health professions. Our alumni earn salaries that are among the top 2.5% in the nation and realize accelerated career growth. One in five already leads as a CEO, senior executive or owner of a company.



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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday 6/13 Chicken Tenders, potatoes, mixed veggies. Wednesday 6/14 Hot Dog, baked beans, coleslaw. Thursday 6/15 Roast Pork w/gravy, cranberry stuffing, mixed veggies. Friday 6/16 Egg Frittata, stewed tomatoes, green beans.

The Webster Senior Center will be closed Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

New Covid-19 Treatment Hotline: Have you tested positive for Covid-19? Telehealth is a quick and free way to see if you're eligible for Covid-19 treatment. Just call 1-833-273-6330. Clinicians are avail-

able every day from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm EST.

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

Life Care of Auburn will conduct free blood pressure screenings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 9:30 am.

Life Care of Auburn is sponsoring a Dessert Social at the Senior Center on Monday, June 12th at 12:00 pm. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

Come celebrate our June birthdays on Wednesday, June 14th! Cake will be served at 12:00 pm. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

REC Farmer's Market returns every Thursday starting Thursday, June 15th from 1:00 – 2:30 pm on the Town Hall front lawn.

Webster Manor is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 15th at 12:00 pm. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

Join us for a movie matinee on Thursday, June 22nd at 1:00 pm. We will be showing "A Man Called Otto". Refreshments will be served. Please sign up in advance at the Senior Center front desk.

DID YOU KNOW??? The Webster Senior Center has a table shuffleboard with pucks available to play. If you know how to play and how to score,

come check it out!!!

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

Progressive Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo on Fridays, 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Cost: \$3.00 per class. (Please note: there will not be a line dance class on Friday, June 16th).

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

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

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

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

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

Trip 1: The Texas Tenors in Concert at Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers, MA on Wednesday, June 21st. Trip price of \$119.00 includes transportation, luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity, and show ticket. Trip 2: The Corvettes Doo Wop Revue and tra-

ditional Lobsterbake at Fosters in York Maine on Wednesday, August 9th. Trip Price of \$119.00 includes transportation, lobster (or chicken BBQ) luncheon, meal tax, meal gratuity, & show ticket. Our trips sell out quickly so don't wait to reserve your seat! Trip prices do not include bus driver gratuity. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 949-3845 for more information.

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

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

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

Regis students named to Dean's List

WESTON —The following local students were named to Regis College's spring 2023 Dean's List.

Samantha Stokes of Auburn
Samantha Gevry of Dudley
Alexa Katsoulis of North Oxford
Caitlin Young of Webster

"This noteworthy achievement is one that requires perseverance, determination, and critical focus - skills that will encourage your continued progress in your undergraduate studies, career, and in life," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. "Samantha's unwavering commitment to academic excellence is reflected in being named to the Dean's List."

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors, and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional criteria can be found in Regis' Academic Catalog.


Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis educates the whole person, preparing our students to pursue excellence, to become change agents in their own communities, and to serve and lead as advocates for a more just and compassionate global society. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.



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CAUSEWAY

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in many years that a Dudley resident would be honored with a permanent landmark in their memory.

During a special ceremony on June 3, the causeway was officially dedicated in Vajcovec's honor with town and state officials as well as family and friends on hand to celebrate the moment. The memorial was proposed earlier in 2023 by Paul Wieloch, President of the Dudley Conservation Land Trust, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the dedication. He welcomed guests by explaining just how involved Vajcovec was in her community, listing off many of the organizations and boards she participated in during her lifetime.

"Nancy contributed to land conservation, water quality issues, and the preservation of Hayden Pond. She was a clerk for many years for the Dudley Conservation Land Trust Board of Directors. We worked on community outreach projects, and she was the queen of raffles for the Dudley Conservation Land Trust plant sale. She spent many years on the Dudley Conservation Commission giving her broad knowledge of rules and regulations for conservation in Massachusetts. Nancy was also involved with the Hayden Pond Association," Wieloch explained.

In addition, Vajcovec was a co-founder and 15-year active member of the Dudley Women's Club, a member of the Black Tavern Historical Society, and an active volunteer and member of St. Andrew Babola Church. She was



Jason Bleau

State Rep. Peter Durant speaks during a special ceremony and dedication in honor of Nancy Vajcovec.

a Bartlett High School Graduate who earned a degree from the University of Massachusetts in Mathematics helping modernize the networks of Travelers Insurance Company before embracing her family roots in Dudley in retirement where she dedicated herself to a lifelong promise of maintaining her family cottage on Hayden Pond.

The seemingly endless list of exam-



Jason Bleau

erry Canty serenades visitors with a rendition of Pete Seeger's "To My Old Brown Earth" in honor of Nancy Vajcovec dedication to conversation and the Hayden Pond.

ples of Vajcovec's volunteerism overwhelmed other speakers in the ceremony who were in awe at her commitment to Dudley and Hayden Pond. State Rep. Peter Durant said he was happy he didn't have to list all her accomplishments himself, joking he had to keep the list on his phone just in case. He called Vajcovec a shining example of the best Dudley has to offer.

"It strikes me that Nancy is one of those people that is the glue of this town and it's fascinating to me as a Representative that every town has these people that are so engrained and just such a part of the town that their loss is felt immensely. Today, we get to dedicate a causeway to Nancy and it's fitting so people who drive by here will see that for decades, and somewhere along the line someone will ask who Nancy is and it will cause them to learn about Dudley and Dudley's history and the efforts of people like Nancy who have gone above and beyond to improve their town," said Durant.

Two of Dudley's selectmen, John Marsi and Kerry Cyganiewicz, also attended the ceremony praising Vajcovec for her endless dedication to

the community.

"Volunteerism is something near and dear to me and knowing how Nancy had done this for so long and so many years, it's astounding to me how she did that so selflessly and for the right cause and the right reasons," Marsi said. "I felt it was important that we all be here for her and know there will be a nice memorial here for her so that when anybody drives over this road, they're going to know that she lived here and remember her. They don't make people like that often, who want to be selfless and give of themselves with nothing expected in return."

"We don't do many of these. Not everyone gets some sort of a memorial," added Cyganiewicz, who noted it was the first time in his six years as selectman, he had ever been part of a memorial dedication to a citizen. "That speaks to how much she gave to the town."

A plaque and sign acknowledging the causeway in Vajcovec's memory will be erected in the coming weeks forever connecting Vajcovec to a lake, a neighborhood, and a town she loved so dear and gave so much of her own time to maintain and improve.

POLICE CHIEF

continued from page 1

there was some discussion over whether the interim should be an internal vs external choice, with the board generally agreeing someone within th department would better understand its workings. The idea of having an outsider act as a "preceptor" or "mentor" was seen as necessary because anyone internal currently has different job responsibilities from what a chief does.

Overall, Callahan said, "The whole point is to get the best candidate" and "not politicize it."

Those who go through assessment are "actually vetted by people who are chiefs."

She noted Saad, Marcelonis and the union were all consulted on taking this step, with the union voting unanimously to support an interim chief. Curiously, if Grneit applies for the job, being interim would give him "a nominal bump in the rankings for Civil Service," but doing it for just two months won't amount to much."

They discussed the possibility of excluding the interim from applying for the job, but did not end up doing so.

The civil service process raised some concerns among selectmen. New vice chair John Eul said he's not sure how that entity scores candidates, and wondered what would happen within the department if "somebody from outside scores 97 and the next person, an internal, scores 90."

Robert King noted Saad was the fourth candidate during the last search, and would not have been chosen had Oxford then used Civil Service.

New Chair Dennis Lemarche said he supports the department but would "have a difficult time going against it personally" if the process gave an outsider top billing. He noted hiring a mentor was not aimed at "giving [Grneit] a leg up," but just to provide the experience the town needs.

"I was hoping Chief Saad would be helping the next chief come in, but that's not going to happen," he added.

Coincidentally, Callahan also announced the coming departure of another key town official – DPW Director Jared Duval. She said she's also advertised for his replacement.

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

MUSIC

continued from page 1

are "seeing double-digit increases." It doesn't include special ed busing; that's negotaited separately because it's not subject to state procurement law.

Lastly, the board held its formal reorganization votes, but nobody changed. Kelly Seddiki is still chair, Kathy Napierata, vice chair, and Sheila Blythe, secretary.

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

LEADERSHIP

continued from page 5

largely served in a direct supporting role to the Superintendent. The position will not be filled until a district budget is finalized after Dudley's general election in June.

The other new vacancy will be an immediate focus for the district as Principal Dean Packard of Charlton Middle School will be leaving at the end of June, but he won't be going

ST. JOSEPH

continued from page 2

Arts: Gold – Gabriela Pianka, Silver – Leah Boudreau; Literature: Gold – Gabriela Pianka, Silver – Leah Boudreau; Science – Gold – Leah Boudreau, Silver – Gabriela Pianka; Mathematics: Gold – Leah Boudreau, Silver – Gabriela Pianka; Social Studies – Gold – Leah Boudreau, Silver – Marcus Muchiru; Religion: Gold – Leah Boudreau, Silver – Gabriela Pianka; Spanish – Gold – Leah Boudreau, Silver – Gabriela Pianka. The student with the highest overall grade-point average received a medal with the words inscribed "First Overall Academic Achievement" and his/her name on it. Leah Boudreau was the recipient of this medal.

Finally, Headmaster Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski and Principal, Beth Boudreau distributed the following awards: Bishop Daniel P. Reilly Book Award - presented to the student who best exemplifies the bishop's motto, "In Kindness and in Truth" and who demonstrates qualities of duty, honor, sacrifice, and accomplishment within the school community. The criteria for selection include displaying kindness and truth in everyday life, an enthusiasm for learning, and active involvement in service to the school, community, and

church: Brett McCarthy; Josephine P. Nalewajk Christian Witness Award – a distinguished award presented to the student who exemplifies outstanding Christian qualities as well as notable service to the St. Joseph Community. The student's name is also engraved on a plaque displayed in the school: Gabriela Pianka; Sister Mary Valenta Akalski Scholarship Award - given to students who will be continuing their education at a Catholic High School: Haleigh Creighton, Bobbi Enman, Jackson Meehan, and Vanessa Zeglen – Marianapolis Preparatory School, and Aiden Muchiru and Marcus Muchiru – St. Paul Diocesan Junior/Senior High School

Congratulations and Best Wishes, St. Joseph School Class of 2023!



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More than one Samuel Slater

BY RICHARD CLARK
SAMUEL SLATER EXPERIENCE
WEBSTER

WEBSTER — As a newly minted docent at the Samuel Slater Experience, it occurred to me that I might visit Samuel Slater’s grave site in Webster’s Mt. Zion Cemetery, which was once Slater land. For those who have not visited the grave site, there is a large obelisk at the top of a hill in an older section of the cemetery. Interestingly, the granite for Samuel’s grave comes from the same Quincy quarry that supplied the granite for the Bunker Hill Monument.

The Slater family plot is surrounded by a low metal fence that is sadly in need of some TLC. Slater family members contained within the fenced area are remarkably close to one another, and there appears to be no room left for new arrivals. The last Slater to be laid to rest here is Horatio Nelson Slater III who was buried in 1968.

The Slaters did like to use the same name more than once. There are four Horatio Nelson Slaters to date. Samuel and his wife Hannah,



The Samuel Slater grave Mt. Zion Cemetery.

nee Wilkinson, had two sons named William (1796-1801 and 1809-1826), who were probably named after Samuel’s father William and there was also a Samuel Junior (1802-1821) buried in Pawtucket, R.I.

Leaving the Slater family plot, I was surprised to find several Slater graves outside of the fenced area, though not more than a few feet away. My first question

was how was it that these Slaters, including a second Samuel Slater, were off to the side and not with the rest of the family. Had I stumbled upon some long-forgotten family schism? Nothing quite so dramatic. I had an opportunity to speak with a sixth-great-grand daughter of “the” Samuel Slater and she believes that the second Samuel, the one outside of the fenced family plot, may have been a cousin

and not a direct descendant of “Samuel Slater the Father of American Manufacturing,” a title bestowed by President Andrew Jackson.

They might not have made it into the family plot, but the question remained, who were these folks? Not knowing who they weren’t was only a small part of the puzzle.

From his gravestone we learn that the sec-

ond Samuel, middle name George, was born March 5, 1821, and died March 23, 1887. Samuel of the Samuel Slater Experience died in 1835. Did they know each other? Did a young Samuel G. Slater know his famous name’s sake? Better yet, could he have worked for “the” Samuel?

Another grave potentially connecting the two Samuels is that of a George A. Slater (born Oct. 22, 1791, and died March 21, 1864). George A. is the father of our second Samuel, and George A. was a native of Belper, England. “The Father of American Manufacturing,” you guessed it, was also born in Belper, England in 1768. Samuel of textile fame left Belper in September of 1791 and would not have met George A. on that side of the Atlantic, but they might easily have become acquainted on this side of the pond.

Though there is no definitive CSI proof of DNA linking the two Samuels, there are several coincidences that might lead us in that direction. Both were in the Dudley/Oxford and

later Webster area from 1821 to 1835. Both had family ties to Belper, England, and both are buried in the same cemetery within a few feet of each other.

Whether they are cousins or more closely related may never be known with certainty, but there is the certainty that the two Samuels will be together for eternity in Webster’s Mt. Zion Cemetery.

For more on Samuel Slater, the man who built the Green Mill (1812) in Webster, visit the Samuel Slater Experience on Ray Street, Webster, at samuelslaterexperience.org.

And We are Having a Party - Samuel Slater's Birthday Weekend - June 9-11

Friday June 9: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Discounted admission – \$5 off adult and senior ticket prices. Last admission is 3 p.m.

Saturday June 10: 11 a.m. Free Presentation – Women and Children in the Mills by Linda Hixon (Registration required.)

Sunday, June 11, 1-3 p.m. Udder Delights Ice Cream Truck. Visit the museum and get a \$1.50 voucher towards ice cream!

Zoe Picard named to Wofford College Dean's List

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Zoe Picard has been named to the spring 2023 Dean's List. Picard is from Auburn.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled for at least 12 semester hours of graded courses and attain a semester grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Wofford College, established in 1854, is a four-year, residential liberal arts college located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It offers 27 major fields of study to a student body of 1,800 undergraduates. Nationally known for the strength of its academic program, outstanding faculty, experiential learning opportunities and successful graduates, Wofford is recognized consistently as a "best value" and for its commitment to student success and accessibility for low- and middle-income students. The college community has 12 sororities and fraternities as well as 20 NCAA Division I athletics teams.

Lasell University student presents at annual symposium

NEWTON — Students at Lasell University presented original research, creative works, and academic presentations at the annual Connected Learning Symposium in April 2023, including:

Sophia Mazzone of Auburn presented their School of Fashion capstone, which was a consulting project with PUMA. Students were given a series of challenges by the PUMA Hoops team and worked throughout the semester on solutions to present to PUMA corporate executives.

Eftihia Fotos of Auburn presented an original research study as part of their sociology course on race and ethnicity.

Zachary Turcotte of Auburn awarded degree during Salve Regina University's commencement

NEWPORT, R.I. — Zachary Turcotte of Auburn was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology cum laude during Salve Regina University's 73rd commencement.

Salve Regina President Kelli Armstrong conferred 804 degrees in total during the ceremony, including 589 bachelor's degrees, 207 master's degrees and eight doctoral degrees.

Celebrated Iranian author, Dr. Azar Nafisi, once forced from her job as a teacher for refus-

ing to cover her hair, encouraged graduates to embrace the power of their imagination during her commencement address. She stressed the importance of a liberal arts education, even for those studying science. "Einstein was a musician, he played the violin," Nafisi said. "He felt imagination was even more important because imagination encircles the world."

In offering his congratulations, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) said he hopes graduates will carry the

lessons and values of Salve Regina forward and work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful. "I am confident that you will make your own mark, and serve a purpose higher than for yourself," Reed said. "Today more than ever, our world needs your combination of knowledge, talent and, most of all, mercy."

About Salve Regina University

Located in historic Newport, R.I. and celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022-2023, Salve

Regina's cornerstone mercy mission and liberal arts foundation fosters the development of each student's individual talents. More than 2,800 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled from across the U.S. and around the world in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master's degree programs, 12 combined bachelor's/master's programs, and doctoral programs in humanities, international relations, nursing and behavior analysis.

Lasell University students named to Spring Dean's List

NEWTON — The Spring 2023 Dean's List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. The list includes:

Victoria Mann of Webster
Hayden Wildes of Dudley
For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications, at (617) 243-2386, or smocle@lasell.edu

Dhruvansu Thakkar inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon National Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD — Dhruvansu Thakkar of Webster was welcomed into Pi Mu Epsilon National Honor Society on April 28th at the University's annual induction ceremony in the Blake Law Center.

Pi Mu Epsilon is the national honor society for Mathematics. The society is dedicated to the promotion and recognition of scholarly activity in the Mathematical science among students at the University.

Bryan Dickinson ('12) gave the keynote address entitled "Mathematics for a More Humane Society" at this year's event. Dickinson is currently a teacher at North Country Union High School in Vermont and is on sabbatical as a Rowland Fellow.

Thakkar is working toward a BS in Computer Science.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional pro-

grams at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

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