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May 27 - June 24, 2022

Turn out, Webster residents, for crucial June vote!

By Janet Stoica

Where have all the Webster voters

gone? That is, the voters who want to see the state pay over half of the town's high school building repairs.

For six years, the town has submitted paperwork to the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA)

and has been resoundingly rejected. This year, however, the MSBA has finally approved over a 50% reimbursement rate for Webster to repair and replace failing infrastructure at Bartlett High School. However, at the May ballot box and town meeting, Webster voters have rejected this prized Webster share by narrow margins.

After the rejections and facing the reality of Webster shouldering 100% of repair costs, Webster's selectmen and School Committee have voted to bring the MSBA reimbursement issue to the voters once again in June at a Special Town Meeting and Ballot Box vote.

Webster voters are strongly encouraged to review the following information provided by Webster's School Superintendent, Ruthann Goguen, before attending the June 21 Special Town Meeting and Ballot Vote on June 28:

- It is not every day that the Massachusetts School Building Author-

ity (MSBA) **accepts** school communities/districts into their program and then **offers them millions of dollars** to support a community's responsibility to address the costs associated with schools facing issues because things have **reached the end of their functioning life expectancy.**

- The MSBA, which has a dedicated revenue stream of one penny of the state's 6.25-percent sales tax, is collaborating with municipalities **to equitably invest in finding the right-sized, most fiscally responsible and educationally appropriate solutions to create safe, sound, and sustainable learning environments.** (Directly from their website). So these funds came from Webster residents and it would be great to see them being put to good use for our community.

Continued on page 2



Ray Gero, cribbage crew, at home at Oxford Senior Center

By Rod Lee

A little over two weeks before Memorial Day, Raymond F. "Ray" Gero, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, was playing cribbage with some fellow elders at the Oxford Senior Center, and talking about a life that has been good to him.

Mr. Gero is eighty-six years old. He lives on Homestead Ave. with his wife Joan. The Oxford Senior Center, which is operated by the Oxford Council on Aging and run by Laura Beth Wilson, provides him with companionship he enjoys, although this is not always apparent in the innocuous insults that are hurled back and forth between men and women friends over a deck of cards.

"I enlisted at seventeen in December of 1953," he said, after breaking

away from the cribbage table for a more private conversation. "I was one of those crazy kids who was always asking 'what are we going to do today?' I underwent basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky (located on the Tennessee border, Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment). I wanted to see action. I served in Korea for fifteen months. I was very lucky. God was watching over me. Two days out of Pusan, I got word the war was ended. I landed in Fort Hood, Texas."

He was discharged in 1955, his three-year tour of duty complete.

He still wears his "Army veteran" cap with pride.

Mr. Gero admits to a little difficulty remembering certain facts from yesterday, but he had no trouble recalling,

with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, that "I got two GEDs, one at the expense of the government."

He also has vivid recollections of his days in the meat-processing industry in the Worcester area, where he worked for a number of companies including, he says, "Gardner Beef, on Summer St."

"I was out of work and had twenty-six dollars in my pocket. I went into this place and a guy said to me 'do you want a job? Go in and grab a piece of meat and bring it out to a freight car.' I did loading, delivery and then breaking down the beef before it went to the meat cutter. I worked for every meat house in Worcester. I became a boner, which paid more money," he said, as he described the various parts of a side of beef he dealt with: the hind quarter, the rump, the loin.

An affable and approachable man— notwithstanding a crusty disposition— Mr. Gero still possesses the massive hands that one can envision having served him well in the vocation of his choice.

Cribbage and pitch are two of the pastimes he indulges in at the Oxford Senior Center. There are many to choose from, Ms. Wilson says, pointing to two lovely flower arrangements in her office that had been made in-house.

The "menu" for this particular Friday, she said, was "cribbage, lunch and a movie. We have two big bus trips coming up too. Both are sold out. We have a couple of different knitting groups, they make hats, scarves, lap throws, baby blankets, and they donate a lot of stuff."

Like Mr. Gero, Ms. Wilson feels at home at the Oxford Senior Center, two



Ray Gero likes playing cribbage and pitch at the Oxford Senior Center.

Continued on page 2

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WEBSTER VOTE

Continued from page 1

• The MSBA has committed to give the community of Webster \$51-\$53 million dollars toward the renovation of Bartlett **ONLY** if the community supports the \$101,417,044 proposed renovation of Bartlett High School **at the BOTH** the Special Town Meeting on June 21st at 6:30 p.m. (at Bartlett) and Ballot Vote 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Town Hall.) If this project is supported the community's portion of this project would be an estimated \$49 million dollars over 30 years.

• Bartlett High School was built in 1979 and no longer meets code or state standards for educational spaces. Building components that have significant deficiencies, simply because of their age. It is important to note, MSBA gave the district extra points for maintenance, but things such as the roof, windows, HVAC and boiler system

are so old they **can no longer be repaired they need to be replaced.** There are also issues with classrooms not meeting state standard sizes and building wide ADA issues.

• For all of these reasons, Webster was accepted into the MSBA program in 2018. It is important to note it took 6 attempts to get into this highly competitive program. We have worked with the MSBA since 2018 through the Eligibility Phase, Preliminary Design Phase, Schematic Design Phase and now we are at the Funding Phase. **This funding is only guaranteed until June 30th.** Should the community not support both upcoming votes, the Webster School District loses the MSBA grant.

• It is important to note that **if this project is not supported at both** the upcoming votes, June 21st Special Town Meeting and Ballot Vote June 28th, the MSBA **grant goes away.**

• The capital improvements and bringing the school up to

the code only option is estimated to be \$66 million dollars that the town would be 100% responsible for.

• If the community supports this proposed project at both upcoming votes, they receive the MSBA grant, and a renovated, code compliant school that was designed with 21st century teaching and learning in mind. We believe this renovation will reduce school choice money as we pay for students who choose to attend a different high school.

• In short, the community has the opportunity to access the MSBA grant of \$51-\$53 million to assist with the major system replacements and update the learning environments through a renovation of Bartlett High School. This would cost the community approximately \$49 million over 30 years.

• If the community does not vote to support the proposed project, the issues with the building are not going away. It is estimated to be \$66 million to bring the building up to code and these costs would be borne entirely by taxpayers. The \$66

million cost is based upon a one-time current borrowing; in the event that the code only option is spread out over several different borrowings, the estimated cost to the town drastically increases beyond the \$66 million.

• Support of the project is a community wide commitment to the future generation of students in the Town of Webster, and the ability for these students to utilize current technology and learning systems throughout their high school years.

• Other communities, including several other local communities, have started the process that Webster began eight years ago. Non-support of the project at the upcoming votes will place Webster behind these communities in any future grant request to the MSBA.

More information on this proposed project can be found <https://www.webster-schools.org/domain/1891>

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

CRIBBAGE

Continued from page 1

years after taking on the post of director for the COA.

"I worked in the town clerk's office for three years and was furloughed when Covid-19 hit and (Town Manager) Jen Callahan asked me to take this on. Little did I know that, two years later, I'd be here," she says.

Like many other Senior Center buildings in South County

and Central Massachusetts, Oxford's looks from the outside as if it could use updating.

But her seniors are not complaining, Ms. Wilson says.

"Our seniors are happy. They don't like change."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.



"A good-sized cribbage crew," as Laura Wilson describes the group, gathers for a game at the Oxford Senior Center on the morning of May 13th.

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Xpressly Yours ...

Where some ancients gather at ten minutes to eight o'clock

What a curious sight the six or so of us must make, standing at the doorstep of the Dollar Tree in Whitinsville every morning just before the store opens.

People unfamiliar with the scene who are driving past on their way to Shaw's or Koopman's (or maybe McDonald's, for their morning coffee and a breakfast sandwich) must do a double take, or say to themselves "what are all those old guys up to? What are they waiting for?"

The newspaper, for one American greenback—a third of its regular price—that's what.

The composition of the group has not changed much over the years. Near as I can determine, all of us are in our seventies, or older.

Buzzy is usually the first to arrive, always pulling into the same parking spot, like a parishioner claiming the pew he is accustomed to occupying Sundays in church. All of us do the same.

Buzzy wears sunglasses to protect his eyes when there is a glare because he recently had

cataract surgery. Possessed of an agreeable disposition, he is prone to saying, when the weatherman's forecast is off the mark, "how would you like to make six figures and be wrong half the time?"

John is the "elder statesman" in his light vinyl jacket and Harvey Industries cap. He is ninety-one going on ninety-two. He touches a stanchion in the parking lot as he walks toward the store from his truck, presumably for good luck.

Frank's thick white hair is combed straight back. He became the talker of the group after Butch suffered a mishap, underwent rehabilitation, and decided not to come around anymore. Frank drops names of people he knows, wondering if we know them too. Or he will complain about such things as Uxbridge raising property taxes on two-family houses "and we were supposed to get something out of it, but haven't."

Frank can be counted on to keep the dialogue going. On a recent Monday morning, noticing a man flying a kite-like contraption powered by a gaso-

line engine across the sky west to east, toward Mendon and Milford, he said "look at that! Remember, Romasco used to do that!" There were nods of affirmation from those who recalled just such a sight.

"Yeah, and once he ran into some high-tension wires and zap!" John said.

"Dead?"

"No, not dead," John replied.

Pablo is still masking up although the rest of stopped wearing them as soon as the sign that they were required for entrance to the store was removed. Pablo is typically in a cheerful mood and liable to break into a rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" or "Good Morning, Vietnam."

Dick wears brown cotton garden gloves even on a forty-degree spring day with the sun flooding the stoop and warming our creaking bones. His car brakes mysteriously started giving out on him a month or so ago. He would have to pull off the road for fear of hitting something. He subsequently traded up to a new vehicle.

Jack is an off-and-on pres-

ence. He worked for National Grid, I think, and so pays close attention to construction projects and road work and detours. He will say in amazement "have you noticed how many trees they're taking down around here?"

As for myself, I am unofficial co-captain of this strange band of brothers, with Buzzy, as two founding members of the group. When I am not engaged in the innocuous but often entertaining chit chat that develops between us I am probably thinking about the books from Richard Whittaker's private collection that I purchase on a regular basis from Deb Horan at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster. I am always trying to grow my own ever-expanding personal library, like Thomas Jefferson did.

I do not know much about Mr. Whittaker but at Ms. Horan's store I typically gravitate to the back room, where the biographies and classics and historical fiction are shelved. I know I will probably find a book previously owned by Richard Whittaker, whose taste matched mine. I latched



onto two more of Mr. Whittaker's books recently. The first was Gerald Clarke's account of the life of Truman Capote. A week or so later I discovered a hardcover copy of In Cold Blood—Mr. Capote's most famous work. Both books, as usual, contained Richard Whittaker's signature just inside the cover, in a flowing, graceful script.

I consider any book owned by Richard Whittaker to be worth the price. In Cold Blood cost me more than I am used to paying but on the copyright page I saw what I look for as a pre-condition of purchase whenever possible: FIRST PRINTING. That the book

and its dust jacket are in near-perfect condition clinched the deal.

I don't mention my visits to Booklovers' Gourmet to the others as we wait for the newspaper. There is more pressing subject matter to discuss: the weather; the Red Sox; presidential politics; the war in Ukraine; and of course our aches and pains and medical appointments.

We don't contribute much of significance to the public discourse.

But, as Buzzy likes to say, "at least we have fun."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

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New entrepreneur joins Charlton business scene with a bang

By Rod Lee

As one of the town of Charlton's newest businesspersons, Randy Lebeau is setting his sights high.

Mr. Lebeau just turned twenty-nine years of age and he also recently closed "on my plaza and the Charlton Laundromat" on City Depot Road.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served with the Corps' Engineers in Okinawa, Korea and the Philippines, he is only just beginning his entrepreneurial journey.

"I got a five-year lease signed for George's Pizza and

next month I'm getting a five-year lease signed for a tattoo shop," he posted on Facebook on April 20th.

"Stop talking about your next move and do it."

Mr. Lebeau, who lives in Webster, readily acknowledges a restlessness for the next big thing.

"I'm putting in a lot of updates at the laundromat," he said on May 4th. "The previous owner kind of neglected it. My goal is to just keep building and moving forward, maybe storage units. It's all I do all day, is think of what business I want to start next. You have to



Dogs are an important part of Randy Lebeau's life, but so too are his growing interests in making his mark in the business world with Charlton Laundromat and companion ventures.

stay busy."

Mr. Lebeau's latest inspiration is to launch a nonprofit and he is looking for tips and advice on how to get such an organization going.

"I'm reaching out to people about that, a 401c3," he said. The objective in this venture would be "cans for vets," in which recyclable donations would be used to help veterans afford the costs of visiting his laundromat.



The interior of Charlton Laundromat & Cleaners on City Depot Road, recently upgraded by Mr. Lebeau.

"I already get vets and first responders, police and firefighters, in here, to do laundry. I'd like to be able to provide them with washes and dries. I'm hoping to engage other businesses in making this happen."

Although he has left the

Marine Corps, the Corps "never leaves you," he says, and he is putting what he learned in the military into improving Charlton Laundromat with such initiatives as drop off and pick up the same day, wash-your-clothes-Wednesdays and reminders that wash, dry

and fold can be "a tax write-off for businesses."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

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Author event is June 11 at Booklovers' Gourmet

Author Ed Londergan will talk about his latest work of historical fiction, *Unlike Any Other*, during an appearance at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, on Saturday, June 11 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Londergan's book is based on a true story and tells of the plight of Bathsheba Spooner, a smart, strong-willed woman and mother



Author Ed Londergan

of three small children who goes from a life of privilege to the gallows. The daughter of Timothy Ruggles, a general in the French and Indian War, president of the Stamp Act Congress, chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas and a leading loyalist in Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War, Bathsheba plots to murder the man she is forced to marry and does not

love—only to have the scheme backfire.

Mr. Londergan's book continues his efforts to mine rich material from the days of Colonial Massachusetts.

He lives in Warren.

Signed copies of *Unlike Any Other* will be available for purchase.






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Chief's corner

Be vigilant; false IDs are a threat to public safety

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

With a college in town, we often deal with instances where individuals possess false identifications. Most common use is to purchase alcohol and/or enter establishments limited to those over age 21. With the advances in computer technology, there are some high-quality fake IDs being produced. Their use is a concern for public safety as well as for businesses that sell alcoholic beverages. I was asked to provide some information on false identification.

Modern technology, primarily via the Internet, allows many people to obtain these cards. Their illegal use can impact the user, the public, and the establishments. Businesses can face serious sanctions, including the suspension of their liquor licenses, if they serve alcohol to minors.

Several sections in the law cover falsified documents. The most serious falls under MGL Chapter 90 Section 24B. This prohibits altering or falsifying several Registry documents, including licenses and state-issued identification cards. A violation of this law is a felony,

carrying a maximum of a state prison term and a one-year license suspension.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138 Section 34B is the law which outlines identification for alcohol purchases. This applies to anyone who alters, defaces, uses, transfers, etc., a false identification. Anyone found with one of these items can face a mail term for at least three months and a suspension of their driver's license for at least six months.

Chapter 138 Section 34B lists acceptable forms of identification for employees and people having control of liquor establishments to rely on. They are a Massachusetts driver's license, Massachusetts Registry-issued liquor identification card, a passport issued by the U.S. or country recognized by the U.S., and/or a valid U.S. military identification. Any other forms of identification (example out-of-state driver's license) are to be taken by licensees, agents, or employees at their own risk. Should there be a violation for service to a minor, only these four types will provide a valid defense for the proprietor of the establishment.

The goal of the law is to insure underage people are not served alcoholic beverages. It can be challenging in our area, with a college and proximity to Connecticut and Rhode Island. People from out of the area may be here purchasing these items. Businesses are trying to do the right thing and verify the age of customers. They can face legal trouble for violations. For the establishments the best rule to live by is when in doubt, do not serve. It is better to be cautious and lose a sale, than losing a liquor license for a period of time. The false ID users also face some significant penalties. If you are of age and get "carded," take it as a compliment. The people asking are only doing their jobs to keep al-

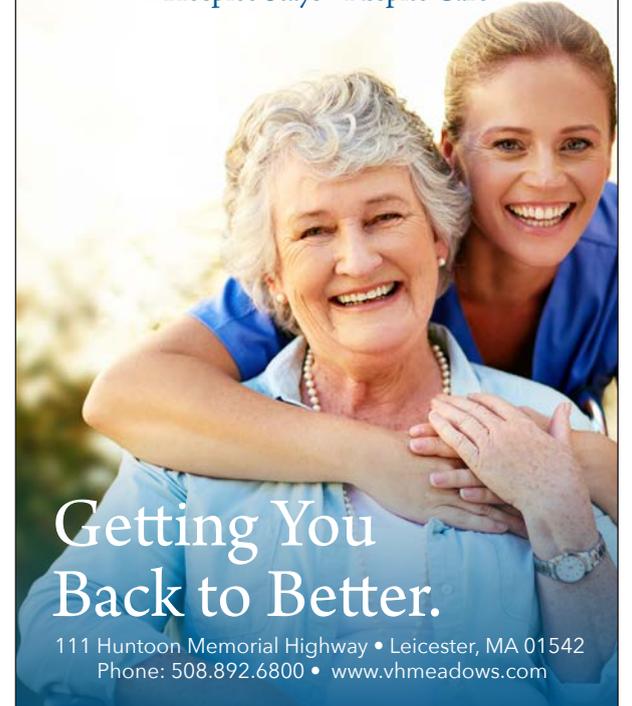
cohol from minors and protect their livelihood.

For those still seeking COVID-19 vaccination or other information, this can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. We encourage everyone to continue to be safe. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. These times continue to be challenging and we at the Dudley Police Department greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St., Dudley MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this column are

those of Chief Wojnar only and unless cleared noted, do not reflect the ideas of opinions of any other organization or citizen.

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By Rod Lee

Two martinis and a case of mistaken identity

During the course of his long career as an owner and manager of Chuck's Steak House & Margarita Grill in Auburn, Steve Londregan has witnessed more than his share of humorous moments.

Chuck's, by the way, celebrated a 44th anniversary on Mother's Day.



A varied menu has been a staple at Chuck's Steak House in Auburn for more than forty years.

Mr. Londregan, a recent president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, was happy to share "my funniest story ever" with The Feisty Fork.

"This happened around 1982 or 1984," he said. "I was behind the bar on a Sunday afternoon. A lovely older couple from Prospect

St. who came in regularly always had martinis before they sat down to dinner. They did this that day, too, before walking into the dining room.

"About fifteen minutes later, one of our waitresses came running up to me and said 'Steve, you have to come, now.'

"I hurried into the dining room.

"Mrs. — had just come from our all-you-can-eat soup and salad bar. She said to me, 'Steve, this minestrone soup is ice cold.' She was very adamant about it."

Mr. Londregan recognized the problem right away.

"I said to her 'Mrs. — you have a bowl of Italian salad dressing in front of you!

"That's all I got," Mr. Londregan added, on the telephone, in referring to the invitation The Feisty Fork has issued to restaurateurs for interesting items to be included in this column.

Patio dining in the works at Grille 122

William "Billy" Therecka may have run into some bad luck, opening Grille 122 on Providence Road in Whitinsville in July of 2019, just before Covid-19 hit, but he held his ground and the restaurant is attracting a steady stream of customers.

"It was a bad time for everyone," he said on April 28th. "My sister has a restaurant in Coventry, Connecticut with water frontage and she faced the same issue. Now it's getting better. My only struggle is finding help (especially in the kitchen). I'm reaching out to everyone I know. I'm trying my best."

An ambitious and energetic man, Mr. Therecka was not about to be deterred by the pandemic, in his plans for Grille 122. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner. It also hosts functions, including business meetings, bridal showers and mercy dinners.

"I'm stubborn. I'm a workaholic, seven days a week," he said.

Mr. Therecka now owns the building in which Grille 122 is situated. He has also purchased two apartment buildings next door.

Although he didn't get much of a chance to incorporate outdoor dining into the mix last year, despite having set up an area with picnic tables for it to one side of the restaurant, he is looking to add an outdoor patio "with masonry and flowers"—possibly in time for patrons to enjoy by the summer of 2023.



Billy Therecka, owner of Grille 122 in Whitinsville, with Bruno. Grille 122 is open for lunch and dinner.

"If I do it, I want to do it right," he says. "When I'm done I don't want to have to worry about anything at all."

Mr. Therecka came into the town of Northbridge as an unknown but he has won over the local populace.

"My customers are my friends now," he said.

Then and now, at UXLocale

Elaine Cowan, owner/chef of UXLocale on Hartford Ave. West in Uxbridge, shared with The Feisty Fork these reflections about her restaurant's years, past to present.

The UXLocale, now, then, and everything in between. When asked to look back over the last few years and how they have changed the way we are doing business, a quick response could never suffice, and I still feel my shoulders move up to my ears as I type. In the beginning, after the initial shock wore off, there was a scramble to figure out how to make this whole thing work.

Then

Sleepless nights began on Monday, March 11. They lasted two weeks until I figured out converting my menu to 98% web-based business. Then, I converted the old ice cream windows to curbside pickup while losing over one-third of business, the ability to sell beer and wine with food helped a little, but overall, it was bleak.

Now

We still service the takeout window. Although it is steadily decreasing, while indoor dining is increasing, we still have a population of people who get curbside takeout every week. These people have been with us through the darkest hours, and I will do this as long as they need me. One silver lining is that I got to know so many regulars by their orders: some would even write little notes of encouragement on their slips. These little notes got us through the worst of it.

Then

Like the UXLocale, many other businesses were doing the same thing: going online, which caused servers to crash, slips not printing to the kitchen, or pizza oven. A little background. On an average day, we begin prep at 10:00 a.m. Service begins at 5:00. After cleanup and sanitation, it's usually a decent twelve-hour day. I had no time for a learning curve. I worked with the POS people to move all my content to another server.

Now

Every Wednesday-Saturday, I manually check inventory, take photos of everything I make, write descriptions, and get them up online before 10:00 a.m. That has not changed. Then a quick post to Instagram and Facebook, and I'm on my way to doing the thing I love. COOK!

Then

Because I converted my pantry into a takeout expedition center, I moved my pantry to the dining room. With that, I obtained a retail license and sold Italian imports and local cheeses.

Then Part II

When we were able to seat folks inside again, I kept small pyramids of pantry items for two reasons: transparency—people got to see the ingredients they were eating; and social distancing. Fortunately, the pyramids created a barrier between tables, and plexiglass went up...everywhere.

Continued on page 9

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Pizza is just one of the favorites with diners at UXLocale in Uxbridge.

Now

The dining room has been relieved of all the (Covid) extras. I built some new narrow tables that allow space and symmetry. We host Wise Guys Trivia on Wednesday nights. Live music is back most Fridays. We added a proper DJ booth, and on Saturdays, DJ Proud Larry spins records. He may be the only DJ who spins records—no antics, just outstanding music.

Now Part II

Inventory is a struggle, the same products that I rely on aren't always available. If the pricing increases are too night, I'm fearful not to pass that on to the diner, but I still want a family to be able to come and dine without breaking the bank. We have gone up on some things because I will not substitute quality ingredients.

Now

The menu! Because everyone's schedule is still so topsy-turvy, I run "weekend" specials ev-

ery night. Some things I can't in good conscience put in a box to go, but if it travels without ruining texture and presentation, I'll let it ride. So lots of my specials are going back to my roots. Keeping it fresh, flavorful, and unfussy.

Throughout-Today

My staff. There is no scenario where we successfully came out of this without the fantastic people behind the scenes, the ones you barely see. Still, they are grinding day in and day out, 99% of whom have been with me since the beginning and all the people in the front that you see. I've made some great hires. They want to be there, and they are about what happens next. I feel so incredibly fortunate to have the staff I have. Something remarkable that I notice daily is how kind they are to one another. That's a gift.

Submit your restaurant news to *The Feisty Fork* by email to rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

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NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the *Happenings!* section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

THROUGH MAY 31ST

- **May Art Exhibit, "Is There Beauty Within Tragedy,"** at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, featuring the work of Eren Torres, a seventeen-year-old up-and-coming artist and a proud member of the LGBT community. A meet-and-greet with the artist will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 14th. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@booklovers-gourmet.com for further info.



SUNDAY, MAY 29

- **Town of Blackstone Memorial Day Parade, 1:00 p.m.**

MONDAY, MAY 30 (MEMORIAL DAY)

- **Memorial Day Parade, Northbridge, 9:30 a.m.;** contact Don Lessard, derbydan476@gmail.com or 508-476-2836 for more information.

- **Memorial Day Parade, Putnam, 10:00 a.m.**

- **Memorial Day Parade, Webster Dudley.**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

- **Mark Mandeville and Raienne Richards** will present an outdoor concert, featuring fresh and refined acoustic folk music for the modern times, at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

- **bankHometown is hosting a Shred Day, 8:30 a.m.-noon, 4 Gore Road, Webster.** Bring old mail, receipts, statements, bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records and other unwanted paper documents.

- **Open Sky Community Services is co-hosting the 7th annual Family Fun Fishing Day at Riverbend Farm, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge,** along with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor's Volunteers-in-Parks program, the Blackstone River Watershed Association, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. This event takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 with a rain date of Sunday, June 4, and will feature activities for the whole fam-

ily including food and ice cream from GottaQ BBQ and the Sweet Wise ice cream truck. All ages and abilities are welcome. Fishing poles, bait and instruction will be available with pre-registration, or participants can bring their own. Registration is now open at thebrwa.org/familyfishing2022. This is a free event but pre-registration is required. Contact Lori Girard at 508-234-6232 or lori.girard@openskycs.org for more information.

- **A Double Author Event featuring Leslie Wheeler and Sharon Healy-Yang** will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Wheeler launched her Berkshire Hilltown Mysteries with Rattlesnake Hill. In her lat-

est work, Shuntoll Hill, Boston library curator "Kathryn Stinson" returns to the Berkshires hoping to rekindle a romance with "Earl Barker" but instead winds up in a battle with a New York developer that puts her in grave danger. Sharon Healy-Yang, professor emerita at Worcester State University, dives again into her character "Jessica Minton" in *Always Play the Dark Horse*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

- **A Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale** will be held at First Congregational Church, 128 Central Ave., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Spaces are available for \$25, tables (on a limited basis) for \$5. Annuals and perennials. Call or text Cindy, 774-238-0260, or contact the church office, 508-832-2845, for further details.

- **Open Sky Community Services announces a spring return for the 37th Annual Valley Friendship Tour** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will start and end at the Alternatives Whitin Mill complex, 50 Douglas Rd.,



Sharon Healy-Yang (left) and Leslie Wheeler will appear in tandem for a Double Author Event on Saturday, June 1 at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster.

at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, at 2:00 p.m. Free admission.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

- **"Into the Garden series: Seed Propagation Lecture,"** is being offered

Whitinsville, with yoga, music, raffles and food on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza at the same address. Participants can choose between a one-mile walk (the "Golden Mile"), a 5K walk/run, or a 30-mile bicycle ride. The Valley Friendship Tour has been the signature fundraising event for Alternatives Unlimited (now Open Sky Community Services) for 33 years. Since it began it has raised over \$3 million in support of individuals and families in Central Massachusetts, including \$160,000 in 2021. To pre-register \$30),

visit openskycs.org/vft2022. Registration the day of the event is \$35.

- **Memphis Sun Mafia, an Elvis tribute trio,** kicks off the Summer Concert Series at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas. \$10 cash per person 16-and-older, kids admitted free, 5:30-8:00 p.m. No rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for further info.

MONDAY, JUNE 13

- **Blackstone Valley Tech's annual golf tournament** will be held at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton. Proceeds benefit the school's Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs.

(no upholstered furniture or electronic equipment) and will pick up if necessary. Contact sutton1704@gmail.com for more details.

- **Tony Soul Project, from the Delta Blues to Soul to Rock & Roll,** will perform as part of the Summer Concert Series at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Check douglasorchardandfarm.com for further info.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

- **EARTH Limited's largest annual fundraiser is back for 2022 at Southwick's Zoo** in Mendon, from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Proceeds support EARTH Limited's many education initiatives, such as internships, docent/volunteer training, rhino encounters, zoo mobiles, wild adventure programs, junior zoo keeping and more. Guests will enjoy an event of adventure and explore the zoo after-hours. Go to earthltd.org to purchase tickets. Email Betsey Brewer Bethel at betsey@southwick-zoo.com for more details about EARTH Limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

- **Dark Desert Eagles, the ultimate tribute band to The Eagles,** comes to Indian Ranch in Webster as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Songs from The Eagles' Greatest Hits 1971-1975 album along with hits from Hotel California and several gems from Joe Walsh's solo career will be featured in this live show. Touched by the passing of Glenn Frey, a co-founder of The Eagles, Pat Badger (an original member of the multi-platinum rock act Extreme) set out to form Dark Desert Eagles in paying homage to The Eagles' musicianship, vocal harmonies and timeless catalog. In doing so, "we really paid attention to the wardrobe, the hairstyles, the guitars...everything that made The Eagles so cool," he says.

Also upcoming at Indian Ranch:

June 5, Trace Adkins; June 11, The Outlaws; June 19, The Mavericks; July 2, Michael Franti & Spearhead; July 8, Get The Led Out; July 9, Scott McCreery; July 17, Little River Band; July 23, Ann Wilson of Heart; July 24, Three Dog Night; July 30, The Pike Hairfest; July 31, TESLA; August 5, "Weird" Al Yankovic; August 6, Collective Soul and Switchfoot; August 7, Lost 80s Live; August 12, ABBA The Concert; August 13, Badfish; August 20, Home Free; September 2, Extreme.

Tickets are available at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-3849 or at the Indian Ranch Box Office.

- **Rolling Stones & CCR Tributes: 19th Nervous Breakdown with Kelly and the Poor Boys: A Creedence Tribute Band,** will perform as part of the Summer Concert Series at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 cash per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

- **A Narragansett Bay Lighthouse & Cruise Tour** is being offered by the Millbury Senior Center. Cost is \$110 per person, all-inclusive, with departure at 9:30 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. A full-course luncheon is included. Call 508-865-9154 to sign up or for more information.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

- **The McCartney Years: Live in Concert** will be presented as a day trip to Danversport, Danvers, by the Northbridge Senior Center. The cost, \$101 per person, includes the show and a plated lunch before the performance. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

- **A BangoGals concert** will take place at the Asa Waters Mansion, 124 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Free admission.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

- **The Memphis Sun Mafia Band** will bring Memphis to Northbridge with an acoustic journey through the music of Elvis at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. Tickets are needed for this event, which includes a BBQ-themed luncheon. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

- **Robert Black, an Elvis impersonator,** will perform at the Millbury Senior Center, One River St., from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Call 508-865-9154 for further info.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

- **The Sutton Historical Society's town-wide yard sale** will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, June 19. The cost is \$10 for participating resident addresses to be included on a map and in advertising for the event. Registration forms are available at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org. Limited table space at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletery Ave., is also available for \$10. The Society is accepting donated items

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Internships are a strength of the operation at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, where Earth Limited's fundraising BASH will take place on Friday, June 24.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

• **Tim VanEgmond** will present an outdoor concert, featuring traditional and contemporary songs as well as tales about what draws a community together, the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

• **Dan Gabel & The Abletones** will present a summer concert at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.

MONDAY, JULY 4

• Celebrate the 4th on the Grafton Common! Dress up in costume! Decorate your bicycle! Build a float! Dress up your dog! From North Street to Oak Street starting at 12:00 p.m. Line up at the North Grafton Elementary School. For more details contact grafton4thofjulyparade@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

• **A Night of Zeppelin: A Led Zeppelin Tribute Band**, comes to Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, as part of the facility's Summer Concert Series, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 cash per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

• **A Blue Shades luncheon concert** will take place at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Free admission.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

• **4Ever Fab**, a Beatles tribute band, will perform at the Millbury Senior Center, One River St., from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call 508-865-9154 for more info.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

• The town of Northbridge's 250th anniversary festivities will kick off with a parade from the elementary school on Crescent St. at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with fireworks at the middle school on Linwood Ave. Gates will open at 6:00 p.m. for the pyrotechnics show, which will be preceded by activities for the whole family: food trucks, music, face painting, potato-sack races and more.

• **Douglas Orchard and Farm**, 36 Locust St., Douglas, welcomes **Araxas**—a Santana Tribute Band, for a show at 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Part of the Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert Series. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Visit douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

• **Icons & Legends Concert**, including a Maine Lobster Bake in York, is being presented by the Northbridge Senior Center. Cost is \$110 per person. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

• Enjoy a **Far from Eden** summer concert at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

• **Exit 17th Band**, a Rock & Roll

Band, will perform at part of Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert Series, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older. Kids get in free, no rain date.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

• **Douglas Orchard and Farm's** Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by **Petty Larceny**, a Tom Petty Tribute Band, 5:30-8:00 p.m., 36 Locust St., Douglas. \$10 cash per person, kids are admitted free, no rain date. Visit douglasorchardandfarm.com for more details.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

• **The Hip Swayers** will perform a summer concert at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

• **4 Ever Fab**, a Beatles Tribute Band, will perform as part of Douglas Orchard and Farm's Summer Concert series, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person for those 16-and-older. Kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for more info.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

• **Judy Saves the Day**, a puppet show, will take place at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm St., Millbury, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free admission.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

• **Counterfeit Cash**, a Johnny Cash Tribute Band, will perform at Douglas Orchard and Farm, 36 Locust St., Douglas, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person 16-and-older, kids get in free, no rain date. Go to douglasorchardandfarm.com for further details.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

• **Taking it to the Streets: The Ultimate Doobie Brothers Tribute Show**, will be performed in Plymouth, New Hampshire at the Flying Monkey Theatre—a trip offered by the Northbridge Senior Center. Show and a buffet lunch are included at a cost of \$110 per person. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

• The Northbridge Senior Center is offering a "Lake Winnepesaukee Cruise & Castle in the Clouds Estate Tour," including lunch at Harts Turkey Farm, for \$151 per person. Sign up with Amy at the front desk. Call 508-234-2002 for more info.



The Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series at Indian Ranch in Webster features a performance by Trace Adkins on Sunday, June 5.

MIKE'S HARD LEMONADE

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<p>DARK DESERT EAGLES THE ULTIMATE EAGLES TRIBUTE BAND JUNE 25 • 1PM</p>	<p>FOLLOW YOUR HEART FOUR MICHAEL FRANTI + SPEARHEAD SPECIAL GUEST: ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT JULY 2 • 1PM</p>	<p>GET THE LED OUT A CELEBRATION OF "THE MIGHTY ZEP" JULY 8 • 7PM</p>
<p>SCOTTIE MCCREERY WITH SPECIAL GUEST GEORGE BIRGE JULY 9 • 1PM</p>	<p>LITTLE RIVER BAND JULY 17 • 1PM</p>	<p>ANN WILSON & HEART AN AFTERNOON WITH JULY 23 • 1PM</p>
<p>THREE DOG NIGHT JULY 24 • 1PM</p>	<p>HAIRFEST 2022 JULY 30 • 12PM</p>	<p>TESLA 2022 TOUR JULY 31 • 1PM</p>
<p>WEIRD AL YANKOVIC THE UNFORTUNATE RETURN OF THE RIDICULOUSLY SELF-INDULGENT ILL-ADVISED VANITY TOUR SPECIAL GUEST: BMO PHILIPS AUGUST 5 • 7:30PM</p>	<p>COLLECTIVE S • U • L SWITCHFOOT AUGUST 6 • 1PM</p>	<p>104-5 XLO'S AWESOME 80'S SUMMER PARTY WITH LOST 80'S LIVE A FLOCK OF SEABIRDS • MISSING PERSONS • NAKED EYES STACEY Q • TOMMY TURTONE • ANNABELLA'S SHOW WITH WIN AUGUST 7 • 1PM</p>
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MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE	JULY 7 • 6:30PM
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SUNSET CRUISE	JULY 22 • 7:15PM
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Living with Luke

Our time, as Luke learns his way around

By Amy LeClaire

Luke Valentino has been a part of our family for only two weeks, yet it feels as though we've known him our whole lives. He's comfortable in his new home, secure with his new dog family, and determined to learn, please and communicate his needs. In the process, he's exposed a puppy personality that has won us over. He's laid-back yet playful, intelligent and intuitive, affectionate and affable. He's everything contained in the unscrambled letters of his full name: L-O-V-E.

"I love you, Luke Valentino." I lift him from his crated bed each morning, pull him to my chest, and breathe in the warm scent of puppy breath. He yawns, licks my chin and studies my mouth with a wet nose. I'm disheveled and tired, dressed in frayed, March layers but the moment is immensely joyful. "Let's go do pee-pee." Our day begins.

Together, he and I engage in training sessions which unfold naturally during playtimes threaded with teachable moments. Luke's intelligent and calm nature makes the process smooth, though the job of training a puppy is bound by work. He is learning how to live under human conditions—no easy task—even for a human. I don't want to take the pup out of my puppy, but we need to be reasonable.

"Luke, please!" I am ten

times heavier, five times taller, and over fifty years older. I teach up to six Zumba classes per week, yet I am unable to catch my ten-pound pup. He zig-zigs like a fly throughout the yard, a piece of mulch resting dangerously in his mouth.

We compete in another game of Keep Away, one in which Luke plays the Star and I assume the less glamorous role of Crazy Dog Person. My bashful lamb of a pup has put on a devil's costume. Worse, it's twenty-five degrees out. My muscles are stiff and tight, my shoelaces untied. Luke has worn me to the bone. I finally reach him and pry open his tiny mouth, visions of surgical risk sailing through my head. Where is the mulch? Did it drop out on its own? I set him down. He dashes off then sits fifteen feet away and stares at me, a casual tobacco chewer. "You didn't." Oh, but he did. Clever Luke hid the piece of mulch beneath his tongue.

My pup has a mind of his own, but it's a smart one. I've learned to capitalize on his intelligence and willingness to learn. He's the first puppy I've had to not only learn the commands sit, stay, and come at only eight weeks but, also, apply them to spontaneous (real life) situations.

"Luke, come!" I'll never forget the first time he spun around to come back to me after dashing towards a dog walker. Hard work had led to the reward of knowing that my puppy will be safe while allowed off-the-leash time. I'm a believer in letting a dog be a dog. A dog ought to run freely, sniff, explore, dig, and roll in the grass. Luke comes back, sits at my feet, and looks up at me. His teddy bear face betrays a chimpanzee



mind. I reward him with a kibble (from his own diet), a blueberry, or piece of apple. "What a good boy you are! That was really hard!" I gush and praise my puppy. I'm a proud parent who's not above driving with a bumper sticker that reads, My Puppy Comes When Called.

The consistency required to train a puppy (on top of hours wedged between my own work, household and social life) has become a full-time job but I do believe that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

Luke seems to feel the same way. He's already shown protectiveness to our family; barking at the big dogs who stop by to visit. His innate ability to do so, coupled with a lion's will to set the dogs straight, are a sight to see. His bark, though

mighty, is still unmistakably that of a puppy's. Luke Valentino, in action, has no idea how cute he is. He crinkles his snout and growls, the toughie of a motorcycle gang wearing a royal blue harness as a vest. He stiffens and lets the big dog see him roar. He's just doing his job, scaring off the baddies to protect his turf. He's been in his home for only a few weeks, yet he's compelled to protect it. He makes me smile over and over again. After losing Lincoln, it was hard to imagine that I could love another puppy this much, and so uniquely. There was only one Lincoln. There will only be one Lincoln. Yet this little guy has stolen my heart.

"We are a good team." I cradle him like a baby and he chews on my sweatshirt tassel. His eyes

are as black as marbles, his nose moist. He reminds me of innocence and goodness, and how simple happiness can be. I want to stop time and freeze the moment but my puppy is on the move.

I rest on the assurance that time (in lieu of rest) is on our hands now. There will be time to watch Luke take one more dramatic, flying leap off of the second-to-last deck stair and time to watch him zoom around the

house at record speed. There will be time to zip through shopping aisles like burglars on the run and time to sit out on the deck and watch the birds, just as Lincoln and I used to do. There will be time because this is our time.

Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke as Luke Valentino adapts to his new home! Write to me at amyklaire@hotmail.com

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Tales from beyond

Creatures of The Bridgewater Triangle - Part 1

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

One of the most famous, if not the most famous areas along US Route 44 lies in what is known as the Bridgewater Triangle. Residents of Southeastern Massachusetts have long been plagued by strange phenomena that has mystified scientists, archaeologists, cryptozoologists, historians and researchers of the paranormal. The triangle is a parcel of land two hundred square miles in size that apparently harbors mythical creatures, ghostly lights, phantoms, and even UFOs.

The triangle first got its name in the 1970s when researcher Loren Coleman carried out paranormal investigations in the area. Following his extensive research and studies, he mapped out a triangle where the strange phenomena seemed to be intensely

active. Christopher Balzano, paranormal investigator and author, compiled an astounding amount of data on the area. This data he used to write several books including, "Ghosts of the Bridgewater Triangle."

The corners of the triangle are defined by the towns of Abington, Freetown, and Rehoboth. Within the triangle are the towns of Taunton, Brockton, Raynham, Bridgewater, Marshfield, Norton, Easton, North Middleboro, Segragonset, Dighton, North Dighton, Berkeley, and Myricks. Within the triangle lies the Hockomock Swamp, where much of the activity is focused. Accounts of strange creatures abound in the triangle. Here are some that have stunned researchers and scientists alike.

In 1988 two boys followed a pair of giant three-toed footprints into the swamp. To their hor-

ror they came upon a massive bird-like creature that neither had ever witnessed the likes of in their life. The winged monster caught a glimpse of the two boys and took off straight into the air. The frightened youths ran for their lives, later ranting their story to police and neighbors. It was concluded that the two youths witnessed a great blue heron, a very large bird native to the New England area. The children swore the creature they saw was much larger than any heron, being more the size of a tall man with half human features. The story was almost laughable until someone remembered another similar sighting. This one was by a well-respected and notable Norton police sergeant named Thomas Downy.

In 1971, as Sergeant Downy was driving home along Winter Street in Marshfield, he came

upon a giant creature standing at the edge of the swamp. According to the officer, it resembled a bird, but stood over six feet tall. The creature moved toward the car, then flew straight up away from the vehicle. It had a wingspan of about eight to twelve feet in length. When other officers arrived at the scene, a few large three-toed footprints were all that was found as evidence of such a creature. Oddly enough, the sighting was at a place called Bird Hill where the indigenous people spoke frequently of a legendary Thunderbird. Their ancestors claimed the great bird lived in the swamp and to this day, apparently still does.

Thunderbirds are not solely responsible for the cryptid sightings within Bridgewater Triangle.

A more famous and often talked about "monster" is reported to roam the area. It is the creature

affectionately known as Bigfoot, Yeti or Sasquatch. In 1970, residents reported seeing a hairy seven-foot monster running through their yards, sometimes on all four legs. Local and state police conducted a lengthy manhunt for a giant bear, yet no such animal was ever spotted or captured.

On April 8, 1970, two officers were parked in a police cruiser near the swamp. Suddenly, the rear end of the car lifted into the air and then dropped with a loud bang. The officers quickly spun the car around and trained their spotlight on something hairy resembling a bear as it ran on two legs behind a house. A thorough search of the area commenced, but no bear, or any other creature, was ever found.

A hunter once shot at a large animal in the woods that ran off and gave a half human, half animal cry. Later he found brown

hair and blood on some leaves along the path the creature fled down. A woman in West Bridgewater heard a noise one night in her yard. She looked out her window and saw a large bipedal creature eating a pumpkin in her garden. The hairy animal looked at her through the window with reddish-orange eyes then with a grunt, took off with the pumpkin into the woods.

A triangle resident, Joseph M. De Andrade, spent decades collecting reports of the creature. The average lifespan of a wild bear is about five to seven years. Fifteen years would be extremely unlikely and thirty years in the wild is impossible. So what is it out there roaming along the outskirts of the human population?

Dudley 'Take Back' prescription drug program a success

By Steve Wojnar
Chief of Police,
Town of Dudley

On Saturday, April 30th, the Dudley Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted another prescription drug

expired medications. A total of four boxes was turned in for disposal.

Thanks also to Harrington Hospital for providing needle bins for disposal of sharpies, and for arranging for volunteers on site to provide medical information to residents.



The Dudley Police Department's latest "Take Back" weekend resulted in four boxes of disposable prescription medications being returned by local residents.

"Take Back" event.

For the 18th time in Dudley, the public had the chance to provide for safe disposal of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

The service was free and anonymous.

This was a well-attended event.

More than thirty-five people dropped off a large quantity of

It was another successful event.

The Dudley Police Department encourages everyone to take advantage of these programs in the future. The next one is tentatively planned for the fall of 2022.



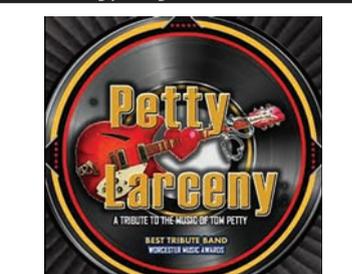
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<p>Saturday, June 11th</p>  <p>Elvis Tribute Group</p>	<p>Saturday, June 18th</p>  <p>From the Delta Blues to Soul to Rock & Roll</p>	<p>Saturday, June 25th</p> <p>Rolling Stones & CCR Tributes: 19th Nervous Breakdown w/Kelly & the Poor Boys: A Creedence Tribute Band</p>  <p>A ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE</p>
<p>Saturday, July 9th</p>  <p>A Led Zeppelin Tribute Band</p>	<p>Saturday, July 16th</p>  <p>A Santana Tribute Band</p>	<p>Saturday, July 23rd</p>  <p>ROCK N' ROLL</p>
<p>Saturday, July 30th</p>  <p>Tom Petty Tribute Band</p>	<p>Saturday, August 6th</p>  <p>BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND</p>	<p>Saturday, August 13th</p> <p>Douglas Orchard & Farm Concert 8/13/2022 5:30 to 8pm</p>  <p>COUNTERFEIT CASH A Tribute to the Man in Black</p>

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Q & A with The Car Doctor

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over 40 years' experience in the automotive business and is an ASE certified master technician. He will answer reader's questions each week. You can find the Car Doctor podcast at www.johnspaul.podbean.com or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnspaul and friend him on facebook mjohnpaul



and one that I suffered with was with a replacement starter. It was also an intermittent no start, but I was thinking how could it be the starter, it was only 11 months old. In fact, it was a faulty starter. Since the issue is consistent, it would be easy enough to check the starter using something as simple as a test light.

Q. I have a leased 2019 Mazda CX-9, which is a great car except back in February my display screen cracked internally in the upper right corner. Then in April, my car sat for the day, then on Saturday morning when I started it the lower left side cracked from the inside. There are no scratches on the outside of the screen or markings, I am the only driver of the car. Do you know what is happening?

A. In previous models, there was a defect in the display, in fact Mazda issued a technical bulletin concerning the spider cracking issue. The factory warranty is 36,000 miles or three years, If the car has more than 36,000 miles on it, I would contact the dealer and have them contact Mazda and reference the technical service bulletin.

Q. I have a 2015 Dodge Journey with 33,000 miles. I ran great for over five years. I did replace the starter and at the same time replaced the battery. Now it starts every morning without fail and when I leave work it also starts without fail. However if I drive the car five minutes and then wait twenty minutes it will not start. When this happens there is no sound, then if I wait about 40 minutes it will start every time. If I leave it in the driveway and start and restart 10 times without moving the gear shift it will start every time. If I start it and put it in gear and back to park it will also not start. I swapped the starter relay, and some say it is the ground cable, but I think it is something with the anti-theft system. No one seems to know what the problem is, any thoughts?

A. There are a couple of possibilities. From your initial description it sounds like a faulty transmission range sensor (neutral switch). Unfortunately, Chrysler did not make this easy to replace, it is about four hours labor and about \$80 for the switch. The second possibility

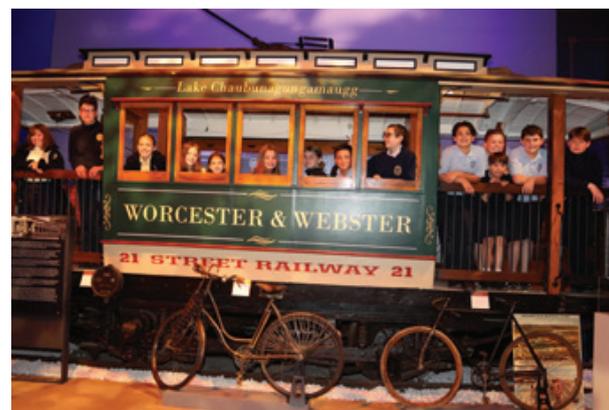
Q. My husband owned a 1959 Chevrolet Corvette for approximately 40 years. I believe he was only the second or third owner. It is white, red leather interior, 4 speed, black soft top roof, with a white hard-shell top. When he bought it, it was stripped down to the fiberglass and showed no damage. The car is in excellent shape and runs perfectly. Unfortunately, I must sell the car. I cannot drive it and my children do not want it. I have been offered \$50,000 but that was the first person to see it and his first offer. I know how difficult it is to determine what is a fair amount for the seller to receive but am I being taken advantage of? What could or should I ask so as not to "give away" my late husband's dream car?

A. The first generation C1 Corvette is an extremely popular vehicle. Some buyers keep them all original, and some people modify them (resto-mod). The resto-mod vehicle can sell for \$200,000 or more. The stock vehicles with documentation can sell for \$80,000-\$120,000 depending on condition. Considering the value of the car, having an appraisal of the vehicle would be money well spent. This way you will have a better idea of the actual value and spending the money on the appraisal could keep you from making a \$40,000 mistake.

Q. I am about to buy two of the Battery Tender Juniors that you recommended. When I emailed this company, they said to buy the larger unit. I am right that is incorrect since the larger units charge and the Junior maintains. Would this be accurate?

A. Actually, both will charge a battery, the Battery Tender Junior would just do it much slower. I have used the Battery Tender Junior for the past two years on cars that sat idle for six months and the engine always start because the battery is fully charged.

All Saints Academy students visit Samuel Slater Experience



Students in Grades 6-8 at All Saints Academy in Webster visited Samuel Slater Experience on April 28.

Students and their teachers toured the museum, receiving expert and detailed information about Samuel Slater, the father of the American Industrial Revolution. They learned about his life and how and why he came to Webster.

Guides who shared their knowledge included Trish Stuart, Christine Watkins, Neelu Sharma and Program Coordinator Reanna Kuzdzal.

Samuel Slater Experience, Ray St., Webster, is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and by appointment for groups every other day.

Visit samuel Slater Experience.org for more information.



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Boat responsibly: get your 2022 vessel safety check

Tri-State Flotilla 10-2 US Coast Guard Auxiliary VSC Station announces boat safety inspections to be held at the Memorial Boat Ramp, Nipmuc Cove on Wallum Lake on Saturday, June 11 and at the Wallum Lake Boat Ramp, Douglas State Forest, on Saturday, June 18.

Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stem to stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat.

Trailered vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launching, can be examined at the entrance gate to Memorial Ramp. Personal watercraft, not allowed to launch at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accom-



modate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 AM to 4 PM at both these locations.

Vessel examiners are quali-

fied and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your

vessel with a 2022 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary standards on items such as: registration and hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working navigation lights, overall vessel condition, etc.

A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal might result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations. The examiner will give the vessel owner options and information on correcting any issues. Often a quick trip to the nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day.

Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily available inland. Can't make it to the station... schedule a VSC online at the link below.

Best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your boating season with a visit to our station and a free 2022 VSC Decal on your craft.

For more information, visit vesselsafetycheck.org or email CGAux1002@aol.com

Lakeside Kids Event at Memorial Beach. Thursday June 9, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Lakeview Marine, this event has been planned to introduce the kids of our community to the fun that can be had on and around the water! Learn the many ways to enjoy our beautiful lakes - sign up for



swim lessons, try out a kayak, learn fishing casting techniques, "Touch a Boat" get up close to recreational and public safety boats from the police and fire departments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla will have a boating safety tent with information, handouts, and CG coloring books for kids. VSC examiners will also be available there for boat owners wanting a 2022 decal. The posted activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and vendor availability.

Who qualifies as a U.S. military veteran?

One of the questions that is asked most frequently by those who were in the National Guard or in the active military is: are they eligible for benefits such as the GI Bill, veteran license plates, membership in military organizations, etc. Here is an explanation of what entitles a person to be identified as a veteran.

Who qualifies as a U.S. military veteran?

Over the years I've heard many opinions of what people think a U.S. military veteran is. I will explain from a VA Accredited veterans service officer (VSO) perspective.

Under U.S. federal law, a veteran is any person who served honorably on active duty in the

armed forces of the United States. Discharges marked "general and under honorable conditions" also qualify. Other qualifying events are any person who served in the active military, naval or air service of the United States and was discharged from the service due to a service-connected disability or who filed a claim and was service-connected for a disability sustained while in the service.

For example, a person could go into the service and injury themselves while in basic training and receive a service-connected disability rating from the VA. They would be considered a veteran no matter how long they served.

Certain veterans of the Philippine Commonwealth Army identified as scouts who served between December 7, 1941 and January 1, 1947, are considered veterans of the United States. Members of the National Guard and Reserves may be considered veterans if they were deployed under Title 10 (federal orders) and complete that deployment and are issued a DD-214 (discharge) under honorable conditions.

People who just serve in the National Guard and Reserve without a federal deployment are not eligible for veterans benefits, unless they were injured during their basic or advanced training or while on weekend drill or

the two-week summer training. They must have reported the injury, filed a claim with the VA, and been rated as disabled for that injury.

Other types of people considered to be veterans are those who served as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Science Services Administration or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor the Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey. These individuals would have a document similar to a DD-214 as proof of this service.

Eligibility for veterans benefits also depends on the character of the discharge. There is

honorable, general under honorable conditions, other than honorable, bad conduct and dishonorable. Normally only honorable and general under honorable conditions will qualify the veteran for benefits.

Officers cannot receive a dishonorable discharge. If they are demoted in rank at a court martial, they are given an officer's discharge. There is also an entry-level separation given usually within the first 180 days for medical or other reasons. Most times the person is not considered a veteran.

There is also a process to apply to have the discharge upgraded. This process should take place within three years of dis-

charge, and the veteran should have a rationale for claiming the discharge should have been honorable. The services have in the past rated people with personality disorders that were found later to be posttraumatic stress disorder. This usually occurred after the service member returned from a combat tour and had trouble dealing with the authority back in the home unit. Service members who have had this experience should contact our office and let our VSO look into the matter.

Stephen P. Rogerson, author of this article, is director of veterans' service in the town of Dudley. He can be reached at 508-949-8010.

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Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

Market decline offers buying opportunities

The financial markets have gotten off to a rocky start this year. What's caused this volatility? And does it present opportunities for patient investors?

First of all, several factors are behind the market volatility, including the war in Ukraine, higher inflation, rising interest rates and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, while these factors may be specific to the recent market decline, volatility itself is a common feature of the investment environment. In fact, history shows that corrections of 10% or more happen about every year, and declines of 15% or more have happened every other year, on average. Furthermore, while 2022 has thus far been challenging

for investors, it was preceded by a long period of strong markets, with the S&P 500 averaging more than a 20% return over the past three years.

Knowing the typical frequency of market volatility and reviewing the results of the past few years may make the current situation seem less shocking. But you don't have to simply "ride out" the downturn – because a down market may give you the opportunity to buy more investment shares at good prices. Specifically, you can expand your holdings in companies that have good growth prospects due to strong management and products or services that provide sustainable competitive advantages. And this type of opportunity is important, because one of the keys to building wealth is to increase the number of shares you own in your various investments and hold them for the long term. While the market will always fluctuate, the long-term trend has been positive, particularly for well-diversified portfolios built with quality investments.

Of course, while it is a good idea to boost your share ownership at favorable prices, you still want to be strategic about it,

rather than just buying whatever seems to be the biggest bargain. In reviewing your existing portfolio, can you identify any gaps that could be filled with new investments? Are there opportunities to further diversify your holdings? By owning different types of stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments, you can help reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses in declining markets.) Or, if your portfolio has become "unbalanced" in some way, you could also use this time to rebalance it back to its original long-term targets. You might also consider setting up a systematic investing program in which you invest the same amounts in the same investments on a regular basis, such as monthly. When prices go down, you'll automatically buy more shares, and when prices rise, you'll buy fewer shares. (However, systematic investing does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss and you'll need to be willing to keep investing when share prices are declining.)

Before this year, average annual returns have been solid for

about a decade, which makes it somewhat easy to forget about normal market volatility and may have led to overly optimistic performance expectations. So, it would not be surprising if your initial reaction to the current downturn is one of concern. But by viewing the current investment environment as a chance to add quality investments at attractive prices, you can help yourself develop a behavior that can serve you well throughout your life as an investor.

Past performance of the markets is not a guarantee of how they will perform in the future. Investors should understand the risks involved in owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates, and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

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

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RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

By Mark Marzeotti

If you're in the market to buy a home this season, stick with it. Homebuyers face challenges in any market, and today's is no exception. But if you persevere, your decision to purchase a home will be worth the effort in the end. In fact, a recent survey among new homeowners revealed that nearly three in four say they would still buy their current home if they had it to do all over again.

That means the results of owning a home and the benefits that come with it outweigh the effort needed to achieve their goal. If you're a homebuyer, let that give you the confidence to know the work you're putting in today will pay off for years to come.

Here are a few reasons to stick with your search and focus on the outcome.

• Homeownership contributes significantly to your financial well-being. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) lists several motivations to consider if you're thinking about buying a home. One of the top financial reasons is the equity you build. Money paid for rent is money that you'll never see again, but mortgage payments let you build equity. Building

The dream of homeownership is worth the wait

equity in your home is a ready-made savings plan. Your equity is a powerful tool you can leverage in a number of ways. And with recent home price appreciation, homeowners are seeing record levels of equity today. That may be one reason why so many people view owning a home as a great investment and a top indicator of financial well-being. In fact, the same recent survey mentioned above reveals that

degree." That shows just how impactful the financial benefits of homeownership truly are.

• The emotional benefits of owning a home are powerful too. Of course, homeownership is more than an investment. In a buyers' list of top reasons to buy a home, some non-financial aspects of homeownership emerge. Among these is the opportunity to customize your home to reflect your personality and needs. The

stay put longer than renters. When you remain in one place longer than a few years, you can grow closer to your community. And that can enhance your sense of pride and lead to better relationships.

What does that mean for you? The benefits of homeownership are powerful, from building personal wealth to fostering communities.

Even if you face challenges in today's market, the payoff when you succeed and purchase a home will be worth it.

If you're planning to buy a home this year, there are incredible benefits waiting for you at the end of your journey. Speak with a team member at Marzeotti Group or a trusted real estate advisor today about everything homeownership has to offer.



Americans place a higher value on homeownership than on any other indicator of economic stability.

"Owning a home ranks above other major accomplishments, like retirement, having a successful career, and getting a college

home is yours. You can decorate any way you want and choose the types of upgrades and new amenities that appeal to your lifestyle.

• Another benefit homeowners enjoy is the stability it provides. Homeowners typically

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