



Auburn, finding its stride, wins important game over Pirates



Lily Derenas of Auburn looks down and sends the ball on its way with a booming kick.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — Due to a COVID-19 scare, the Auburn High girls' varsity soccer team had to shut its season down for about 10 days. And, fighting to finish at or above the .500 mark and automatically qualify for the Division 3 State Tournament, that pause could have derailed the Rockets.

Instead, Auburn defeated Quaboag Regional by a 2-1 count on Monday evening, Oct. 25, and then played at Oxford High in cold, rainy conditions the following afternoon. They also won that game, 3-1.

"The girls are healthy and it feels good," Auburn head coach Emily Para said of getting back onto the pitch and winning important contests.

"I was definitely itching to get back on the field," added senior Emma Johnson, who scored two goals against

the Pirates and once versus the Cougars. "I know everyone else on the team was. It was a long 10 days and I was glad to get back."

After a scoreless first half with limited offensive chances — "For both teams it took a while to really get it going," said Oxford head coach Colby Harvey — the action opened up in the final 40 minutes.

Johnson gave the Rockets a 1-0 lead in the 52nd minute when her initial shot was blocked but she stayed with it and gathered the rebound before finding the back of the net.

Not backing down, the Pirates tied the score in the 56th minute when freshman Jackie Thomas found an opening and took a shot that found the lower right corner of the net.

"She has a great shot, she really does," Harvey said of Thomas and her

first career varsity goal. "She's actually a goalie normally, but she's got some opportunities and her speed is huge."

Johnson had the last laugh for Auburn, though, when she potted her second goal of the game a few minutes later. Her high, arching shot got over the fingertips of junior keeper Jenna Katsoulis (13 saves).

"They were both sloppy goals, lucky shots," said Johnson. "Every shot counts, especially in this weather."

Para gave more credit to Johnson than Johnson did herself, exclaiming, "I thought they were good. Scrappy — I like scrappy."

The Rockets' Mackenzie Keeney, a senior, put the finishing touches on the 3-1 victory with a goal in the 78th minute.

Auburn improved to 8-7 and needed just one point

Turn To **SOCCER** page **A5**

Charlton announces reprecincting changes

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — A small group of residents in Charlton will notice a change when they go to the polls in 2022 as Charlton's Board of Selectmen announced the reprecincting of a little over 50 individuals in town during a meeting on Oct. 26.

Reprecincting is not a new practice and occurs when too many citizens reside in a single voting precinct. This occurs thanks to population growth in a town. Charlton currently has four precincts with the move seeing a handful of citizens shifted from Precinct 3 to Precinct 4.

"We are bound by state law to adjust some of our precincts to have them remain within the target population. The numbers used are from the Federal 2020 Census. We were able to move the fewest people possible to remain within our variance percentage. We will be moving approximately 54 residents, not just voters, from precinct 3 to precinct 4," Town Administrator Andrew Golas said. "All residents and voters will be notified by mail between December and January of the changes."

As of the end of October Precinct 2 was Charlton's largest precinct with Precinct 3 with 3,116 residents. Precinct 2 is second with 3,115 and Precinct 4 is the third-largest in terms of population count at 2,941. Precinct 1 is the smallest with 2,902 citizens. The Registrar of Voters reports 12,074 citizens in Charlton including 9,893 registered voters. When

breaking down the voter numbers Precinct 4 is the smallest in terms of registered voters while Precinct 2 has the most.

Selectmen stressed to citizens that this is a decision they legally had to act on an approve although there was no indication that any selectman objected to the change. The board also clarified that this will not change the location of elections, it will simply mean the 54 affected residents will be in a different line come election day. The 54 residents will also see a change in their state representation with those voters now being under State Representative Paul Frosts jurisdiction rather than State Representative Peter Durant. The change will be effective as of the start of the 2022 calendar year. All residents being moved to Precinct 4 will be notified through mail between the months of December and January.

School mask requirement extended through Jan. 15

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Local students should prepare to wear their masks in school for at least a few more months.

Late last month, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announced that the state's mask requirement in all K-12 public schools will be extended through at least Jan. 15, 2022.

After consulting with medical experts and state health officials, DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley notified school districts of the decision. Reactions across the state and along the Route 9 corridor have been mixed, with some parents and students praising the decision. Others are

demanding that students be able to shed the masks at school.

State officials said their decisions are aimed at keeping kids in class and schools open.

"The DESE, in collaboration with medical experts and state health officials, will continue to evaluate and consider other criteria that could be used in the future to lift the mask requirement based on public health data," read a statement released by Commissioner Riley.

State leaders also cited the imminent vaccine availability for younger students as a reason to extend the mask mandate at schools.

"Massachusetts is a national leader in vaccination rates for adults

and eligible children, and in anticipation of the vaccine becoming available in the coming weeks for children ages 5 to 11 years old, this extension of the mask requirement will allow time for the elementary school population to receive the COVID-19 vaccine," said Massachusetts Education Secretary James Peyser. "This will be another big step forward in our efforts to keep school safe for our kids."

State leaders said they understand frustrations among students, parents, and teachers with masks in the classroom. They thank school communities for their cooperation in creating safe learning spaces for all.

"Masks remain a simple

Turn To **MASK** page **A5**

Country Bank supports Ride to Remember



Paul Scully presents members of the Familia Family with a \$10,000 donation to the Manny 267 Foundation during the Ride to Remember memorial ceremony held at the Worcester Fallen Firefighters Memorial at Institute Park on Oct. 9. From left to right: Officer Mike Goggin, Springfield Police Department, Paul Scully, President and CEO at Country Bank, Jayla Familia (Manny's daughter), Jennifer Familia (Manny's wife), Eric Familia (Manny's brother).

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, recently supported the Ride to Remember, the 100-mile bicycle ride in tribute to fallen police officers and firefighters. This year, they rerouted the event

to include a roundtrip ride from Springfield to Worcester to pay tribute to the lives lost by the Worcester police and fire departments.

Country Bank President and CEO Paul Scully, who previously participated in the ride, presented a \$10,000

donation to the Ride to Remember with funds directed to the Manny 267 Foundation in Worcester. The Manny 267 Foundation was established after the city of Worcester suffered the significant loss of officer

Turn To **RIDE** page **A5**



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How to show your appreciation for the military in a unique time

United States military personnel serve both domestically and abroad. Active-duty personnel are following in the footsteps of retired veterans and protecting the freedoms of their fellow Americans while also playing a vital role in protecting millions of non-Americans across the globe.

United States military personnel make myriad sacrifices every day. Recognition of those sacrifices is just one of the many ways Americans can show their appreciation for the military, even during the era of social distancing.

- Help a veteran.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2019 there were 17.4 million military veterans living in the United States. More than half of those veterans are 65 or older. As difficult as social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven for everyone, perhaps no group has sacrificed more than men and women over 65, millions of whom have been separated from their families. Aging men and women spent a year or more isolated at home to protect themselves from a virus that public health officials acknowledged was especially lethal to people over 65. Adults who want to show their appreciation for military veterans can reach out to local veterans' organizations and offer to lend a hand. Such organizations may be delivering meals to vulnerable veterans, driving veterans to appointments to see their doctors or get vaccinated or organizing events for veterans who have already been vaccinated. Pitching in to help with such efforts is a great way to show veterans their efforts are still appreciated, even if it's been decades since they last served.

- Help a military family. Data from the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense indicates that there were roughly 1.3 million active-duty military personnel in 2018. Many of those service members serve overseas for months at a time. Their families back home can use a helping hand even in the best of times, but they might be especially needy while confronting the pandemic. Though vaccination projections suggest hundreds of millions of Americans will be fully vaccinated by mid-summer, in the meantime neighbors can help local military families handle

life at home. Invite a local military family over for a weekly meal, offer to take kids to a sports practice if it's safe to do so or help out with chores like mowing the lawn or washing the car.

- Donate to charities that serve the military. Adults who have not been vaccinated and are hesitant to be around others can still show their appreciation for military service members. Various organizations help both active-duty military and veterans, and donating to such charities can be a great way to help an excellent cause. If you're unsure about which organization to support, visit Charity Navigator at charitynavigator.org. Charity Navigator evaluates hundreds of thou-



sands of charitable organizations and can be an invaluable resource for prospective donors.

Veterans and active military personnel deserve support. There are various ways for people to express that support, even as the world continues to confront the pandemic.

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QCC's Biomanufacturing pilot program bridges employment gap through community partnerships

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has partnered with Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI) and AbbVie, to deliver an innovative entry-level Biomanufacturing On-Ramp Workshop designed to encourage more people to enter the biomanufacturing industry pipeline. Enabling more people to join the biomanufacturing workforce is the premise behind QCC's biomanufacturing pilot program that kicked off in early October.

"At AbbVie Bioresearch Center in Worcester, we annually onboard up to 80 new entry-level employees and are keenly focused on partnering with educational institutions like QCC to build the skills and leadership behaviors we need to foster high-performing teams," said AbbVie's Strategic Operations Director, Nicholas Willnow. "Our success in biologics development and manufacture relies on the knowledge and diversity of thought that a program like the Biomanufacturing On-Ramp Workshop enables for individuals in Central Massachusetts."

Central Massachusetts has one of the highest percentages of growth in biomanufacturing jobs (7.9 percent growth in 2020), and is home to over 60 biotech companies.

"Quinsigamond Community College has a long track record of preparing and training students for well paying, good careers that set people up with great opportunities in the workforce," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "As Central Massachusetts becomes a hub of innovation, this Biomanufacturing Pilot Program will build upon that success and I look forward to seeing what comes out of this partnership between QCC, AbbVie and MBI."

"There is a coming wave of opportunity in biomanufacturing in Central Massachusetts. This partnership

between QCC, AbbVie, Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD,) and MBI will connect a broader workforce to life-changing opportunities in biotech and directly connect students to jobs," said MBI President and CEO, Jon Weaver.

Close to a dozen adult, non-native English speakers are currently taking part in QCC's 10-week biomanufacturing pilot program.

"We want to help build and support adult learners and those individuals who have had the fewest opportunities afforded them," said Kathy Rentsch, associate vice president for Strategic Academic & Workforce Initiatives, at QCC. "This workshop is a quick on-ramp for these individuals to gain strong entry-level biomanufacturing skills that will make them prime job candidates in this growing industry."

The entry-level Biomanufacturing On-Ramp Workshop offers a tiered modality of learning beginning with the BOUNCE program, a wrap-around soft skills workforce readiness training program that helps students understand themselves better, to ensure they will be successful and effective employees. Following the BOUNCE training, a bilingual instructor will teach the students biomanufacturing content and industry terminology. During the final weeks of the program, students will receive support around resume creation and will participate in mock interviews to hone their communication skills.

"AbbVie and several other companies have offered to interview these individuals after they complete the workshop and consider them for employment opportunities. We hope that this pilot program will be a steppingstone to a better life for these students and a clear pathway to integrate educated and workforce-ready workers into

area biomanufacturing companies," Dr. Rentsch said. "This type of educational model is a win-win for everyone."

The current program is funded through MOBD in partnership with MBI. QCC intends to expand the program model through additional funding opportunities.

Shawn Fitzpatrick, head of manufacturing (in Marlborough) for national biopharmaceutical company Resilience, Inc., addressed the need for skilled entry-level workers in today's biomanufacturing companies.

"The On-Ramp program QCC developed has the potential to fill a crucial need for our industry and the exponential growth of Biomanufacturing in Massachusetts. This growth has created a need for this type of program to feed the workforce pipeline and this training can provide skills needed for entry level roles such as Manufacturing Technicians, Quality Control, and Supply Chain to name a few," Mr. Fitzpatrick said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the potential that this program has to offer our industry."

For more information about QCC, contact Karen Hutner, Publications/Press Manager at 508-854-2842 or khutner@qcc.mass.edu.

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Local holiday craft fairs make a comeback

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION — After holiday craft fairs and festivals were canceled throughout the area last year, residents are looking forward to shopping local again in 2021.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place last year, there were hardly any local fairs held during the holiday season. Not only did shoppers miss out on their annual tradition of supporting local businesses, but creators and vendors also suffered devastating losses. Some crafters missed out on thousands of dollars each weekend, and event organizers went a year without critical fundraising supplied by the fairs.

But in 2021, crafters are back and hoping for a strong holiday push in November and December. There are no shortage of events happening in our area; whether you live in the Route 9 corridor or closer to Route 20, the region has a strong lineup of holiday fairs.

From jewelry, handmade soaps, and photography, to wood creations, holiday decorations, and edible treats, you can find a gift for everyone at local fairs. And with uncertainty continuing to surround shipping estimates for online purchases, area creators and festival coordinators are urging residents to focus local.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge will host its annual holiday craft fair. The event will take place at the school from 10 a.m. to 3

p.m.

The North Brookfield Elementary School craft fair is back on Friday, Dec. 3. Hours for this unique evening event are 6-9 p.m.

The following day, Dec. 4, it's East Brookfield Elementary School's turn to put on its annual holiday festival. The school will host the event from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Kids and families should be on the lookout for Santa Claus, as this event typically features an appearance from St. Nick.

Also taking place on Saturday, Dec. 4, a little farther east on Route 9, Leicester High School will return its always popular holiday craft fair. The event will take place at the school from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All proceeds from registration fees will go directly to the LHS Music Department, which is in the process of rebuilding programming. Funds will benefit a variety of projects and purchases, including new instruments, opportunities for competitions, and student field trips.

"Rebuilding a small school program comes at a challenge,

but we are growing every day and would love all the help we can get," read a statement released by event organizers.

To round out the local holiday crafting season, Auburn High School will host its annual craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 11. The fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please be advised that the majority of indoor festivals have a mask mandate in place for guests and crafters alike. In the event of snow, check individual event pages to learn of possible postponements.

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OBITUARIES

Norma C. Wiggin, 89



BROOKFIELD – Norma C. (Keith) Wiggin, 89, passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Hull on Thursday, October 28, 2021. Norma was born in Worcester, the daughter of Willard and Edith (Howe) Keith of West Boylston. Norma graduated from Major Edwards High School in West Boylston and Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT. She married her beloved husband of 25 years, the late Nathan Wiggin of Rockland, ME, in 1955. The couple lived in West Boylston, Southbridge, and lastly on Stiles Reservoir in Spencer and had owned and operated the Donut Chateau in West Boylston and Southbridge. Nathan passed away in 1980 and Norma continued working at the business for several years. Norma also worked as a Home Care Attendant for Nurse's House Call in the Worcester area and was named Employee of the Year. She later reconnected with her high school classmate, Bob Parkin, and they lived together in Brookfield until his passing in 2011.

Norma is survived by

her daughters, Deborah Wiggin and her husband, Paul Beresis, of Hull and Diane Wiggin of Naples, FL; four grandchildren, Sarah Wiggin of Tampa, FL, Adam Eldean and his partner, Yaritza Velez, of Baltimore, MD, Aaron DeFeo and his girlfriend, Ashley Durham, of Pompano Beach, FL, and Nora Eldean of Sandy, UT; her honorary granddaughter, Layla Eldean; her great grandchildren, Gavin and Garrett DeFeo; her nephew and nieces, Randy Keith and his wife, Patty, Linda Blake and her husband, Ned, and Lisa Hartman and her husband, Rick; her sister-in-law, Evelyn Keith; and the daughter of her longtime companion, Bob Parkin, Karan Parkin and her wife, Marianne Winters. Norma was predeceased by her brother, Robert Keith, of West Boylston's Pinecroft Dairy. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a calling hour from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. followed by a funeral service at 12 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021 at Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main St., Holden. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden, MA 01520. To find a live streaming link for the service and to share a memory or offer a condolence visit www.milesfuneralhome.com

MASSCAP, community action agencies, MEDA launch statewide heating help awareness campaign

WORCESTER — MASSCAP, along with Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC), the network of Community Action Agencies in Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Energy Directors Association (MEDA), will launch its annual statewide awareness campaign to ensure that vulnerable Massachusetts families are able to keep safe, warm and healthy this winter. Heating help programs include both fuel assistance and energy efficiency and weatherization programs.

The awareness campaign started today with a live kickoff event at Worcester City Hall that was also streamed on Facebook Live. Speakers included Congressman Jim McGovern, Sen. Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester), Worcester City Manager Edward Augustus as well as representatives from MEDA and a WCAC client. The awareness campaign will include television and digital advertising across the state as well as billboards and local outreach. A new video explaining the program details, eligibility and benefits will be launched at the kickoff. This year applying has never been easier with the ability to apply online directly to the agency serving your town. The Web site heatinghelpMA.org (connected to the MASSCAP website) provides information for those in need of assistance as well as a link to the online application.

"Even before the challenges of the last year and a half, staying warm in the winter was a struggle for many people in Massachusetts," reminded Congressman Jim McGovern. "Nobody, and I repeat, nobody should have to choose between staying warm in the winter and putting food on the table or getting the care they need to stay healthy. Nobody should have to decide between heating and eating."

"Every household in the state should be able to stay warm during the long and cold New England winter. I commend MASSCAP, WCAC, and MEDA in launching this far-reaching campaign to provide fuel assistance and energy efficiency programs to disadvantaged populations in Massachusetts," said Sen. Chandler.

"We wanted to make sure that we got the word out that there is help available and you can access it in a convenient and secure way right from your own home," Joe Diamond, Executive Director, MASSCAP, explained. "The goals that we pursue have everything to do with helping our vulnerable friends and neighbors living with low incomes to become economically stable and mobile. The Home Energy Assistance Program is a comprehensive approach to helping so many households across the Commonwealth heat their homes safely and efficiently. We work closely with allied organizations to help us reach the people we know need it the most."

The Home Energy Assistance Program is part of a federal program (LIHEAP) that helps low-income households address energy costs. In Massachusetts, the program is administered by DCHD, the state Department of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with a network of local agencies made up of 22 community-based organizations, including 20

Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the City of Cambridge, and the New England Farm Workers Council.

"This program is a lifeline for vulnerable families and individuals as we head into the cold weather season," City Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr. said. "The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated the difficult situation many low-income households already found themselves in, and a program like this can mean families won't have to choose between putting food on the table and keeping the heat running. That is a decision no one should ever have to make."

Heating Assistance and its associated Energy Efficiency opportunities provide not only payment relief and utility discounts but also life-saving emergency heating repair and replacement and stabilizing, full scale energy efficiency measures. These holistic programs allow both renters and homeowners to spend a smaller percentage of their income to meet their energy costs.

"Just when you think you have survived a pandemic...Your house gets struck by lightning. The insurance company won't cover your furnace because it's old, and you can't get a loan to pay for your furnace because you're self-employed, and Covid prevented you from a steady income! Where do you go - who do you call - what do you do?" asked Cathy DiPilato, now a WCAC heating help client. "Thank god I was referred to Worcester Community Action Council. Otherwise, I would never been able to afford to replace my furnace."

"WCAC stands ready to support households from throughout Central Massachusetts who are struggling with high home heating expenses," said WCAC Executive Director Marybeth Campbell. "We encourage anyone overwhelmed by expensive utility bills to reach out to our team for assistance and let us find a way to help you. We have many resources available to ensure local families are warm and safe this winter."

Eligibility guidelines (snapshot of guidelines below) can be found at www.heatinghelpma.org. It is important to note that eligibility is based on the last four weeks of gross income and that any additional stimulus funds or pandemic unemployment assistance funds do not count toward income.

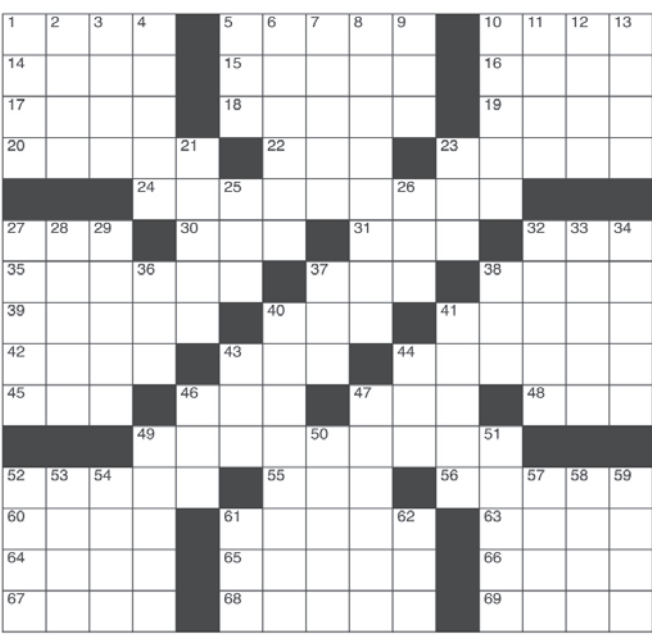
About MASSCAP
The Massachusetts Association of Community Action's 23 private, non-profit human service and advocacy organizations work to administer key anti-poverty programs in every city and town in the Commonwealth. These organizations serve approximately 600,000 low-income people annually, more than half of them with incomes below 125% of the federal poverty level.

For more than 50 years, Community Action Agencies have been on the front lines of addressing poverty - administering federal programs, federal community services and community development grants, and state funds. CAAs are economic engines in cities and towns across Massachusetts, providing communities with an annual infusion of over \$500 million in total resources. CAAs generate at least twice that amount helping clients become economically stable and mobile.

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- Talk
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- Astronomy unit
- Halfway
- Chinese dynasty
- Australian river
- Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
- Fabric
- Crucifix
- Defunct European economic group
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Michael Knight's car
- Actress Ryan
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Insecticide
- Scientific instrument
- Golden—corn
- Israeli city —Aviv
- Sword
- Ottoman military title
- Aromatic plants
- Cold wind
- Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
- Political unit
- Indiscreetly reveal secrets
- Comfort food dish
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- One point east of southeast
- Italian monetary unit
- Warship prison
- Tropical American tree
- Alias
- Normal or sound powers of mind
- English county
- Not compatible with
- Female deer
- Not late
- La — Tar Pits, Hollywood
- "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
- Impudence
- Advises
- Founder of Babism
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Male parent
- A type of plug
- Capital of Vietnam
- Fungal disease
- Shelter
- Finished
- Excrete
- Unhappy
- Partner to cheese
- Coffee receptacle
- Spend time dully
- Makes full
- Snakelike fish
- Take in solid food
- student, learns healing
- A way to take away
- Impart a lesson to
- "Transformers" actress Fox
- Spiritual leader
- Every one of two or more things
- Indian city
- 17th stars
- Weapon
- Amounts of time
- Isodor —, American Nobel physicist
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Remembering our roots

We remember the ‘good ol’ days’ when the thought of a video phone conversation would be epic. We thought the best we might get is something along the lines of Max Hedroom, who was introduced in 1984. What we ended up with is substantially better. What a great way to keep in touch with family members and friends across a far distance.

That being said, the rate at which technology is advancing is moving a bit too fast. It seems as though once an item has been unveiled, it becomes obsolete in a nano-second, paving the way for something better, faster and with more bells and whistles.

As time moves forward, how can we maintain a solid grip on our past? A recent trip to a local Historical Society had us speaking with those in charge, in regard to how ‘most people just don’t care about history anymore’.

The destruction of old buildings is becoming more and more common, and we wonder how that will affect future generations. It is one thing to look at old photographs of old schools, buildings, churches and other landmarks, however the history becomes more alive when you have something you can stand next too, observe with your own eyes in person, touch it, walk around and get a feel for how things once were. There really is a magic to it.

History is fascinating. The way things once were, the way human beings have evolved over the years and how things have changed are some of the best stories one can hear. History keeps us grounded and in tune with who we are, especially family history dating back as far as you can go. You could find out that your great grandfather was an Editor of a newspaper in Philadelphia and have an ‘a-ha’ moment, that perhaps that is why you’re sitting in front of a newfangled typewriter, writing, which is the case for this Editor. DNA is a pretty neat thing.

History is what has shaped us into who we are as a society. Preserving history is crucial in that it, if it can be done, represents different aspects of our culture, politics and economy. Being able to walk through Paul Revere’s house in Boston, gives us a direct connection to that specific time and place, often representing major milestones. The ability for those sites to connect the dots to where you’re standing over the years is something that should never be taken for granted.

If old buildings and structures continually are demolished, what will be left of our past? While we do understand that sometimes this is a necessity due to safety or financial reasons, we also have the motto, “If they can put a man on the moon, they can save a building.”

Preserving history is a way to appreciate our local and national heritage. Some buildings may be the only iconic ones left in a small New England town. Those are the places that give these small towns and big cities character. Often, even just one old building is enough to define a town. While new structures can draw in investments into a town, it is the history of a place that lures people to it.

Every major city, and every town worth its salt has a historic village. We feel it is our duty, as we move throughout our lives, to do what we can to protect the past.

In the words of Marcus Garvey, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

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Delight friends and family with winter-blooming bulbs


Give a holiday gift that is guaranteed to bring joy and feelings of well-being. Research by Rutgers University found the gift of flowers generates a smile, elevates the recipient’s mood, and provides feelings of happiness that last for days. Amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs make it easy for anyone to enjoy these benefits by growing their own living bouquet of flowers.

Non-gardeners will appreciate receiving an amaryllis or paperwhite gift kit that includes the bulb, soil, and pot. All they need to do is open the box, water the soil, and wait for the beauty to unfurl. Or make your own ready-to-grow gifts by purchasing bulbs and planting them in decorative pots.

Each amaryllis bulb sends up multiple stems topped with flowers that can measure up to eight inches across. Nurturing amaryllis or paperwhites from bulb to bloom requires no experience or special care, but answers to any questions can be found at LongfieldGardens.com.

Are there gardeners on your list? Keep it simple by selecting some winter-blooming amaryllis or paperwhite bulbs and tucking them into an attractive gift bag. While most people are familiar with the classic red amaryllis, there are many other colors and flower styles to choose from. Make your gift extra special by ordering some of these less-common varieties.

Elvas is a double white amaryllis with petals outlined in red. As the flowers mature, they gradually open wider and the red



GARDEN MOMENTS

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MELINDA MYERS

highlights become more apparent.

Giant Amadeus features layers of petals that start out white and blush to pink, coral and salmon. The color and intensity increase as the petals open.

For a twist on traditional red, consider Magical Touch. Its cherry red blossoms have broad, ruffled petals edged in white. When the flowers are fully open, they are flat rather than trumpet shaped.

Ruby Star is another uncommon amaryllis. Classified as a papillon or butterfly amaryllis, it has large, irregular-shaped petals in a striking color combination of wine red and apple green.

Brighten dark winter days with the cheery, lemon yellow flowers of amaryllis Yellow Star. Each bulb will send up multiple stems topped with four to six long-lasting flowers.

The flowers of amaryllis Cape Horn feature big, rounded petals in a lovely shade of rose-pink. Each blossom has a white star at the center and a lime green throat.

Most amaryllis bulbs begin flowering eight to ten weeks after planting. Paperwhite narcissus bulbs bloom in half the time and can be grown in soil or a shallow bowl of stones and water. For

Tips for selling your antiques and collectibles

If you’re interested in selling your antiques and collectibles, today’s column is for you. I’ll share some tips to help you get the most of your sale.

My first tip relates to timing: sell holiday collectibles in season. If you have Halloween collectibles, selling them in early October is best because Halloween is on peoples’ minds. November and early December would be the right time to sell your vintage Christmas bulbs.

Second, sell items where they were made. I often get calls or emails from people around the country who have Massachusetts-related items because they realize their local items will sell better here. I collect old Worcester-related photos, advertising pieces and other items because I live in the area.

Beyond photos and ephemera, additional items do well when sold locally. Joseph Greenwood was a Worcester impressionist painter. Whenever we auction one of his paintings, it sells very well because so many of our local bidders are interested in his works.

Third, decide how you want to sell your items. You can sell them to a dealer, hire an estate sale company or auction house, or sell on your own. If you decide to sell things on your own, research your items. Be sure to check what similar items sold for, not the price the seller asked for. If you sell on your own, you can have a tag sale, sell on Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, eBay, ad in this paper or on other platforms. It’s important to consider that you will need to pay a fee if you list on eBay. You will also have to describe your item taking note of any defects, take detailed photographs, answer bidder questions, and handle shipping. With Craigslist, you may have people you don’t know coming to see your items so you may want to have someone else with you or take other safety precautions. With Facebook Marketplace, you can do some vetting of the buyer by viewing their profile before you meet them.

If you decide to hire an auction house or estate sale company, see if any family members or friends have recommendations. Check reviews. Then talk with the companies you are considering. No matter what you decide, if you have something that is very valuable, auction is



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

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WAYNE TUISKULA

the preferred method. Estate sale companies around the country often contract with auction houses to sell highly valuable items.

As we emerge from the pandemic, many auction houses continue to run live auctions. We have switched to all online auctions since the pandemic began and they have been producing good results. We plan to continue with online auctions for the foreseeable future. We have been auctioning entire estates when they have valuable items such as antiques, collectibles, and automobiles. We also run multi-estate auctions with gold jewelry, coins, Sterling silver, paintings, vintage sports cards and comic books, and a wide range of other antiques and collectibles that sell to local buyers or are shipped around the globe.

Selling your antiques and collectibles is a great way to earn some extra cash before the holidays. Speaking from experience, you may even like selling so much you start your own business.

Our next multi-estate online auction will begin on Nov. 10. I’ll also be teaching my “Evaluating your Antiques” class on Nov. 10 at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. Beginning in late November, we will be running an online auction of the contents of a West Boylston estate with a newer model car and three wheeled motorcycle. The virtual antique appraisal event for the Townsend Historical Society has been postponed until next year. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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Accomplish your goals

All of us have dreams that we would love to accomplish during our life. For some people, their dreams are merely fantasies, and they do nothing to bring them to fruition; some take small steps but never fully commit, and then some transform their dreams into reality.

Many techniques in the positive thinking world can help you accomplish your goals but let’s not pretend that hard work and sacrifice won’t be required. If you’re going to achieve a big goal, hard work and sacrifice will become a daily activity.

I believe in the power of positive thinking, and if you’re optimistic, you’ll always get closer to your goals than if you’re pessimistic. I’ve also learned positivity alone will not bring you to the life you want; you’ll also need to work. You’ll need to put in the time, and you’ll need to burn the midnight oil; you’ll have to work harder than expected.

When you’re moving towards your goals, inevitably, obstacles will arise. You’ll find yourself working many hours doing things that seemingly have nothing to do with your goals. Still, if you approach every activity that crosses your path by doing the best you can, you’ll become a person of excellence, and a person of excellence will eventually get what they want.

One of my favorite speakers, Jim Rohn, said something profound, “How hard should you work? As hard as you can. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. How high does a tree grow? As high as it can!”

Working as hard as you can requires motivation. Finding motivation requires a goal; you’ll have to know where you want to go with a clear, detailed plan on how to accomplish it.

I haven’t always accomplished my goals. I’ve failed a lot, but in doing so, I’ve found a pattern in my successes and failures.

When I have a clear goal written on a piece of paper and hanging on the wall in my bedroom, I almost always accomplish it.

I wake up in the morning, and before I walk out of my room, I read the goals, and I’m reminded of where I’m headed and how I will get there. Before I go to sleep, I read them. It’s easy to get sidetracked, and reminding yourself of your goals several times a day is necessary.

Norman Vincent Peale wrote his goals on a card and put them in his shirt pocket over his heart. He read them several times a day.

If you have a big goal, you’ll need to think about it several times a day. Empty your mind of negativity, believe with all your heart that you will turn your goal into reality. If you do this, you’ll find the desire inside of you to do whatever it takes. You’ll wake up early, you’ll stay up late, you’ll show up early, and you’ll be the last to leave. You’ll excel in every area of your life.

What if you don’t have the time?

So many of us think that if we have a full Time job and a family to take care of, and other obligations that we don’t have enough time to accomplish our goals.

What if you only spend one hour a day working toward your goals? It may not seem like much, but if you commit yourself to one hour a day for an entire year, you’ll have spent three hundred and sixty-five hours working on your dream! For some of us, that may be all that’s required.

Try it out, write your goal down with a plan to accomplish it, read it several times a day, work hard even if it’s just for an hour a day, stay committed and see what happens. I’m betting you’ll like the results.

All We Know Is Local



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Changing of the seasons

It is hard to believe that October has come & gone already. One thing about New England — if you do not like the weather, just wait a while. The four seasons are the one thing this writer enjoys. This past week, I decided to winterize my boat and put it in storage in my back yard. Removing the batteries from the boat every year, and storing them in my cellar, prolong their life for many years. Storing them away after a full battery charge will ensure me that they are ready for the first fishing trip in the Spring. Winterizing my outboard motor takes little time. The lower unit needs to be drained and new oil is added.

Fogging the motors pistons and carburetors is done every year, and gasoline is protected by a gas stabilizer. Time to cover the boat with a good tarp, and securing it with some bungee cords, is the final step. Protecting the wheels by placing the tires on a piece of wood, will help extend the life of the tires, especially if the trailer is parked on a grassy area.

Fishing rods need to be cleaned and reels oiled to ensure that they are ready for the start of the fishing season in the spring. As I was putting my fishing gear away, I spotted my ice auger in the shed, and realized it was time to give the

motor a quick start. A couple of pulls on the starter cord and away it went. It sure pays to add gas stabilizer to the gas prior to storing it for the summer. I use it in all of my power lawn equipment, to keep them running. The gas today has numerous parts of ethanol that can eat up the seals in your carburetors, not only in your outboard motors, but in all of your power yard equipment. This writer loves ice fishing, but I still like to jig fish over fishing with ice tip ups (tilts). It is not far off. More in the coming weeks.

Deer hunting continues to improve for archers, as the bucks come into the rutting season. Numerous impressive bucks have been harvested to date, along with some huge does. Archers now harvest more deer, than during the shotgun season annually! It may turn out that the 2021 Massachusetts hunting season will again have a record harvest, if mother nature cooperates.

Deer do the strangest things to survive or move from one piece of property to meet new friends. A number of years ago, I was fishing with the late Doc Fenzel of Douglas. He was a highly respected Veterinarian in the valley, and had a practice for many years on Quarry Hill. We had decided to fish around the



Courtesy

This week's picture of an English pointer holding a beautiful point on a pheasant in a local field.

Block Island area. As we headed out, we were half way to the island, when I noticed something in the water. I pointed it out to the Doc, and he slowed the engine to get a better



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look at the strange object in the water. We were both shocked and amazed that the object was a good size buck, swimming from the Island to the Mainland. I guess he just got tired of the scenery at the island,

and was looking for love somewhere else.

Deer are good swimmers as their hairs are filled with air to keep them buoyant, but their navigation is very slow. Our main concern was that it may get run over by a vessel, but we never heard of any deer collision in the coming days and weeks after the incident. Just recently, I read in the Hawkeye magazine in New Hampshire about a buck that had gotten himself into a precarious situation. A homeowner heard the grunting of a deer, he thought. As he waked down to the end of his driveway, he noticed a six-point buck with his antler stuck in the rear leg. He must have had a

serious itch and decided to scratching the area with his antler which they often do, & ended up piercing through the flesh and lodging in the back leg between the bone and tendon. The resident walked around the deer and made a quick decision to help the animal by very quickly grabbing the rear leg and gave it a quick tug. It was a dangerous move, but it worked and the buck was free and scampered off into the nearby woods.

Numerous bucks have lost their life during the rutting season by getting their antlers locked together while fighting for their does. Many times, they end up dying locked together with their antlers, unable to free

themselves from each other. One local hunter found a pair of deceased big bucks in the Maine woods a few years ago and reported the find to the state environmental police. He had cut the antlers free from the animals, with the antlers still locked together. The environmental police confiscated the antlers, and it took some time before they were returned to the hunter. It was the proper thing to do.

Local freshwater fishing continues to provide anglers with numerous trout and bass with an occasional pickerel mixed in. Hornpout fishing is also improving on the Wet River, for anglers that enjoy catching them, and they also provide great eating. Most hornpout (a member of the catfish family) are caught bottom fishing with worms and nightcrawlers. At this time of year, the hornpout is migrating up or down river to their winter home. During the summer, hornpout fishing is best at night, but this time of year can be caught during the daytime hours. Give it a try and bring the kids. Be careful when handling the fish as they have sharp horns on both sides of the head, and at the top, which can be somewhat painful if your skin is accidentally punctured by the fish.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Recipes for Leftover Pumpkin

Halloween might be over, but the pumpkins live on. Whether leftover pumpkins were used as harvest decorations, or were passed over for carving, the big question is: What to do with perfectly good sugar pumpkins? Each year, this column tackles the annual dilemma by promoting pumpkin repurposing! Read on for some recipes that use up pumpkin leftovers.

Pumpkin Martini

Talk about pushing pumpkin power up a notch! Several years ago Food Network star Sandra Lee came come up with this pumpkin cocktail that continues to please!

Ingredients: one half cup brown sugar; two teaspoons pumpkin pie spice, divided; two tablespoons granulated sugar; two cups half-and-half; two tablespoons pumpkin puree; one half teaspoon vanilla extract; ice cubes; four ounces vanilla vodka; one liter sparkling water

Instructions: In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the brown sugar, one teaspoon pumpkin pie spice, and a half cup water. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and bring it to a boil. Remove from heat and cool for 30 minutes. Syrup can be stored in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. Mix together the granulated sugar and remaining one teaspoon pumpkin pie spice and put it onto a shallow plate. Pour two tablespoons of the simple syrup onto a plate. Dip the rims of four martini glasses into the syrup, and then in the spiced sugar. Set aside.

In a large measuring cup, combine the half-and-half, pumpkin puree, vanilla, and half the simple syrup and whisk until well blended. Pour in to a pitcher filled with ice. If using the vodka, add it to the pitcher before serving and stir. Pour into the prepared glasses. Top with

sparkling water. Makes four servings.

Homemade Pumpkin Soup

What can be better than homemade pumpkin soup? How about a recipe from the kitchen of Food Network's "Pioneer Woman" Ree Drummond?

Ingredients: Two whole pie pumpkins; one quart vegetable or chicken stock; one half cup heavy cream; one third cup maple syrup; dash of nutmeg; salt to taste; extra cream for serving.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Place pumpkins on a cookie sheet and roast them until slightly shriveled and soft. Allow to cool slightly, then slice in half and carefully scoop out seeds and pulp. Scoop yummy flesh into a bowl. Set aside.

In a pot, heat up the pumpkin flesh with the stock and maple syrup until simmering. Mash out the big chunks, the transfer the mixture to a blender or food processor (or use an immersion blender) and puree until velvety smooth. Add cream and nutmeg, and then blend again.

Reheat if you need to, or just go ahead and serve in a hollowed-out pumpkin of whatever size you'd like.

Pumpkin Cake Squares
A boxed cake mix makes this homemade pumpkin dessert quick and easy!

Ingredients: one pound pumpkin, pureed (see method below); one can evaporated milk (12 oz); one cup granulated sugar; one half cup brown sugar; four beaten eggs; one tsp. cinnamon; one quarter tsp each salt, ginger, and cloves; one box yellow cake mix; one cup butter, melted

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Mix the pumpkin, evap-

orated milk, sugars and spices together. Pour mixture into a 9 x 13 glass baking dish. Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over top of mixture; then pour melted butter over all. Bake for about an hour or so until cake is fully cooked. Cover top loosely with foil if top becomes too brown. Cut into squares to serve.

Pureeing Pumpkin: Freezing cooked, pureed pumpkin is a favored way to preserve the taste and texture of pumpkin for use in holiday recipes. Sugar or pie pumpkins are ideal candidates for freezing as the pulp is thicker and firmer. To easily prepare a pumpkin for pureeing, simply place the whole fruit in the microwave for about a minute or so to soften the skin. This will make the pumpkin much easier to peel. Cut the pumpkin in large slices, peel the skin and remove the strings and seeds. Then cut the slices into smaller pieces. Boil the pumpkin pieces until tender; then mash or process the pumpkin pulp until it forms a smooth, thick puree.

To store, freeze in Ziploc bags or frost safe containers.

Pumpkin Raisin Bread Pudding

Warm, bread pudding merged with spicy pumpkin creates a double dose of comfort food!

Ingredients: 12 slices cinnamon-raisin bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 8 cups); four eggs; one cup milk; 15 oz fresh pumpkin; one cup plus one Tbsp. packed brown sugar, divided; one tsp. pumpkin pie spice, divided; tsp. vanilla; one half cup pecans; one half cup sour cream; one cup Cool Whip, thawed; one quarter cup maple syrup.

Instructions: Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place bread cubes in 13x9-inch baking dish sprayed with

cooking spray. Beat eggs, milk, pumpkin, one cup brown sugar, one half tsp. pumpkin pie spice and vanilla with whisk until well blended. Pour evenly over bread; sprinkle with nuts. Bake 45 min. or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Meanwhile, mix sour cream, remaining sugar and remaining pumpkin pie spice in medium bowl until blended. Stir in Cool Whip.

Drizzle syrup over pudding. Serve warm topped with sour cream mixture.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed! Your tips can win you a

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

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has



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

Friday's Child



Maxxon
Age 13

Hi! My name is Maxxon and I love music!

Maxxon is a sweet, inquisitive, and kind boy of Caucasian and Hispanic descent. He is generally easy-going and calm. His favorite activities include riding his bike and watching television. Maxxon is fascinated with broadcasting and radio. He also enjoys interacting with adults and loves music, especially classic rock. Maxxon has a good sense of humor and will often surprise everyone with a funny joke out of nowhere.

Maxxon is currently attending a therapeutic school with extra supports. He is doing well overall

in school and gets along with his peers. He can do his own daily care and hygiene, and with a little adult support is comfortable accessing his community.

Legally freed for adoption, Maxxon is eagerly awaiting his forever home. His social worker believes that he will thrive in a nurturing family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home. Maxxon has an Open Adoption Agreement and an adoptive family must be willing to help him visit with his birth father three times a year. Maxxon also has two half-sisters in Massachusetts who he would like to remain connected to. Maxxon can be placed outside of Massachusetts but must be within driving distance of the central part of the state.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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 Stonebridge Press

Rockets recover from heartbreaking loss, narrowly defeat Millbury



Auburn's Brian Dillon lunges forward for additional yardage while carrying the ball.



Mike Nadeau of Auburn tries to break free from a Millbury defender.



Courtesy Mark Seliger

Quarterback Brendan Crowley of Auburn launches a pass down the field.



Auburn defender Cody Baker hunts down Millbury's ball carrier.

Socially Speaking...

This feature is for schools, churches, senior centers, libraries, or other civic organizations who have events coming up.

Call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news for advertising sizes and prices

HOLIDAY FAIR

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Keating Oliver of Auburn expresses his satisfaction after scoring versus Millbury.

See this weeks paper for our Thanksgiving Menu

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Auburn's Mateo Peschiera kicks the ball to Millbury's side of the field.

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MILLBURY — A week after losing a stunning 18-13 decision to Northbridge High on a last-second play, the Auburn High varsity football team got right back to work and played at Millbury High on Friday evening, Oct. 29.

And the Rockets were able to put that loss behind them, defeating the Woolies by a 28-21 final. Auburn finished its regular season at 3-3 — having lost two games from its schedule due to COVID-19 — and finished 18th out of 37 teams in the Division 5 power rankings. Only the top 16 teams moved onto the Division 5 State Tournament, so Auburn will play at North Middlesex Regional (1-7) on Friday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in a non-playoff tilt.

Set Your Clocks Back!