

Auburn News

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Friday, October 15, 2021

Newsstand: 75 cents

Rockets net two quick goals, hold on late to upend David Prouty



Auburn's Katherine DeFosse settles the ball that was guided her way on a throw-in.



Sydney Mercadante of Auburn hustles after a loose ball as it continues to roll toward the out of bounds line.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — A wet Memorial Field played host to the Auburn

High and David Prouty Regional girls' varsity soccer teams amid a steady rain on Monday evening, Oct. 4. And despite the tough weather, both teams performed well and displayed their skills for the crowd that braved the elements.

The Rockets scored two first-half goals in a



Nick Ethier

Auburn's Emma Johnson, left, and David Prouty's Madison Ethier do battle as the ball slides between them.

matter of about five minutes and, despite a strike later in the half from the Panthers, held on the rest of the way for a 2-1 victory.

"We needed it. It was an important game," Auburn head coach Emily Para said, as her team improved to an even 5-5. "Prouty was good. They were fast the

entire game and they put pressure on. Toward the end I think they dominated lucky, so we were kind of lucky to hold the win."

Despite the loss, Prouty head coach Derek Blodgett was proud of his team's performance as their program is moving in the right direction and molding itself into a win-
*Turn To **SOCCER** page A13*

Bluewater holds Lunch and Learn briefing on Amazon project

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — As the Charlton Amazon project, code named Project Patriot, prepares to go before the voters this November the initiative's Development Manager Partner Bluewater Property Group held a pair of informative Lunch and Learn Briefings on Oct. 7 and 8 providing all up-to-date information for citizens to consider.

Less than a month after revealing details about the Tax Incremental Financing, or TIF, agreement that will be considered by voters at the Annual Fall Town Meeting next month Bluewater representative Alex Escamilla appeared on a Zoom presentation providing

viewers further insight into Amazon's plans. It's become common knowledge by now that Project Patriot is comprised of a "first touch" e-commerce facility with only large transportation trucks and employee vehicles as the primary source of traffic. The project is expected to create over a thousand jobs. So far, Project Patriot has been warmly welcomed by residents and officials in the community with little pushback in public forums.

"We've been working in this town and on this project since 2020 and we did submit our site plan in June. We've been through a very rigorous Planning Board process

at this point and we're kind of chipping away at the questions. We think we've addressed most of the question set by the Planning Board and we hope to achieve site plan approval by the end of this month. November we'll be going to a town meeting for the Tax Increment Finance Program along with a community benefits agreement. By February we hope we have MEPA approval so that we can break ground by March," Escamilla said.

That would put the facility in line for an August 2023 opening.

The presentation depicted several different aspects of the project as well as the partnership the town is forming with

*Turn To **AMAZON** page A13*

Local Scout raising money to help DCF kids

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Grange played host to a special fundraising yard sale event for two weekends in October assisting a local Boy Scout raise funds to pay for his Eagle Scout initiative helping youth in the Department of Children and Families system.

Timothy Maenpaa of Troop 165 in Charlton is only the latest in a growing family line of scouts and has dedicated his Eagle Scout project

to helping provide care packages to youth and teens going through DCF. The yard sales held on Oct. 2 and Oct. 9 were held specifically to fund his goal to create 25 bags for boys and 25 bags for girls.

"We want to help kids in DCF by buying duffle bags we can fill with items such as toiletries that we can give to those kids and teens. I had the idea a few years ago. In one of the church groups I was doing, one of the

*Turn To **MAENPAA** page A13*

Jason Bleau

Local Boy Scout Timothy Maenpaa held two yard sales to help kickstart his Eagle Scout project providing care packages to teens and children in the DCF system.



Bay Path's Howe awarded \$5,000 training grant

CHARLTON — MassHire Worcester Career Center announced the awarding of \$5000 in training grant for Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy student Darcey Howe of Palmer.

Howe is a customer-oriented waitress with experience in the service industry who completed her pre-requisites toward a degree in healthcare while maintaining a GPA of 3.17. She graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School where the Assistant Principal, Peter

S. Dobrowolski described Howe as "outgoing and dynamic" adding "there is a unique kindness and respect for others that she displays without reservation."

"We're thankful for the continued support of

the MassHire Worcester Career Center," said Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN,

*Turn To **HOWE** page A13*



Darcey Howe



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Bay Path Practical Nursing team raises \$1,160 in Walk to End Alzheimer’s

CHARLTON — Lindsay Guertin, BSN, RN and Jason Guertin, BHS, ASN, RN and their children, JJ and Elyse, all of Spencer, led the Bay Path Practical Nursing Team in the Oct. 3 Walk to End Alzheimer’s at the Hanover Insurance Office Park, 100 North Parkway in Worcester. The ten-plus strong Bay Path Practical Nursing Team raised \$1,160 for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. Professor Lindsay Guertin is passionate about Dementia and Alzheimer’s care.

She reiterates, “it’s important to learn as much as we can, especially our practical nursing students. The more awareness we can bring leads to someday have a cure.”

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Team members attended the Promise Garden Ceremony at 10 a.m. Professor Lindsay Guertin as the Team Captain enthusiastically lead the walk in her Team Captain gear. Practical Nursing students in attendance were Sarah Garcia of Charlton, Marites Sklarz of Southbridge, Gearlyn Wetherbee of Charlton and Martha Yeboah of Worcester.

“Participating is fun and a memorable service-learning activity for everyone,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director.

She participated with her husband Joseph, adding “it’s a chance to make an impact in the mission to end Alzheimer’s.”

In addition, Bolandrina stated, “I am so grateful for Professor Lindsay Guertin’s leadership and her entire family’s participation. We look forward to the day when the goal is reached of finding a cure for Alzheimer’s.”

Lindsay Guertin, BSN, RN and Jason Guertin, BHS, ASN, RN and their children, JJ and Elyse, all of Spencer, led the Bay Path Practical Nursing Team in the Oct. 3 Walk to End Alzheimer’s at the Hanover Insurance Office Park, 100 North Parkway in Worcester.



Courtesy



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Please see some important info below.

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Breast Cancer awareness



How physical activity can help in the fight against breast cancer

Breast cancer is a complex disease that affects millions of women across the globe each year. Though the American Cancer Society reports that only about 4 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States are under age 40, women of all ages can take steps to protect themselves against this deadly disease.

Exercise benefits women in myriad ways, and that includes lowering their risk for breast cancer. The ACS notes that researchers are increasingly linking exercise to a reduced risk for breast cancer. Though the reasons behind that link remain unclear, some theorize that the positive effects of exercise on body weight, inflammation, hormones, and energy balance could be why regular physical activity helps women reduce their risk for breast cancer.

Body weight and breast cancer

The National Cancer Institute reports that being obese after menopause can significantly increase a woman’s risk for breast cancer. In addition, the ACS attributes the rise in hormone receptor-positive breast cancers to an increased prevalence of excessive body weight. Routine exercise is a highly effective way to lose weight and keep weight off, which in turn

could lower women’s risk for breast cancer.

Being sedentary and breast cancer

Exercise is a not a sedentary activity, and that could be another reason why women who are physically active have a lower risk for breast cancer. The ACS notes that more than one study has linked sitting time to a higher risk of various diseases, including breast cancer. Researchers with the ACS analyzed data from 77,462 women, who they followed for an average of 15.8 years. None of the participants had cancer when the study started, but researchers found that women who sat for six or more hours per day during their free time had a 10 percent greater risk for invasive breast cancer than women who sat for less than three hours per day during free time.



Does physical activity really reduce breast cancer risk?

The human body is complex, and a host of factors, including those like age that women have no control over, can affect cancer risk. However, engaging in routine physical activity seems to be an effective way for women to reduce their risk for breast cancer. In fact, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation estimates that one-third of all breast cancer cases could be prevented with positive lifestyle choices that help women maintain a healthy weight, including exercise.

Routine physical activity can be a significant weapon in women’s arsenal as they continue their efforts to prevent and overcome breast cancer.

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new faculty members



Tara Johnson



Angela McGrath



Rianna Romano

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is pleased to welcome three newly appointed faculty members as adjunct faculty: Tara Johnson, MSN, RN; Angela McGrath, BSN, RN; Rianna Romano, BSN, RN, CEN.

Tara Johnson, MSN, RN of Springfield, has been named adjunct faculty, a role she assumed in July 2021. Johnson is an experienced Director of Nursing Services. This year she completed her Master of Science in Nursing Education at Framingham State University. Her academic progression in nursing started at Greenfield Community College for Practical Nursing in 2005, Associates Degree in Nursing (2015), and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Our Lady of Elms College in 2018. Aside from her certificates in Dementia training, Intravenous Therapy, and BLS healthcare provider CPR and AED

(American Heart Association) she is also an Infection Control Preventionist.

Angela McGrath, BSN, RN of Palmer, has been named adjunct faculty, a role she assumed on Sept. 15. McGrath is an experienced home care nurse. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) in 2018 and was awarded an outstanding achievement award for Summa Cum Laude in 2019. She earned her Associate in Nursing degree at Holyoke Community College in 2016 where she was also inducted to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She completed her certificate in practical nursing at Greater Lowell Technical School in 1999 and was a certified nursing assistant in 1998 at the Middlesex Community College. Her experience includes sub-acute care, long-term care, case management, hospice care, and care plan

development.

Rianna Romano, BSN, RN, CEN of Charlton, has been named adjunct faculty, a role she assumed on Sept. 15. Romano completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at MCPHS University in 2017 and her Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science at Fitchburg State University in 2014. Prior to becoming a nurse, Romano was an emergency medical technician and a critical care technician (Emergency Department) at HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster. She is a Certified Emergency Room Nurse, HCP/BLS certified, advanced cardiac life support, and pediatric advanced life support certified. She is connected with the emergency departments at UMass Memorial, Harrington Memorial Hospital, and HealthAlliance Hospital.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

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QCC's Dental Hygiene program celebrates National Dental Hygiene Month

WORCESTER — October is National Dental Hygiene Month, an annual reminder to everyone to practice good dental habits.

At Quinsigamond Community College, the dental hygiene students and faculty have been working together during these extraordinary times to promote good oral health to the local community. These students are part of the College's Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program that prepares them to enter the profession of dental hygiene by learning and practicing clinical skills in QCC's Dental Hygiene Clinic.

The Dental Hygiene Clinic offers hands-on learning for both dental hygiene and dental assistant students. The state-of-the-art training facility provides the opportunity for students to work directly with patients, who come from Worcester and the surrounding communities for affordable dental hygiene care. Students also work with the KidSeal Program to provide needed oral health services to children in the Worcester Public School system. The children are bussed to the clinic to receive free cleanings, fluoride and sealants, as well as oral health education from QCC's Dental Hygiene students.

"My experience here at Quinsigamond Community College has been nothing short of astounding. Over the past five years, I have obtained my Associate Degree in General

Studies, as well as a license in dental assisting. While in the dental assisting program, I noticed the dental hygiene students practicing in the clinic," said Dental Hygiene student Jade Chaves. "I assisted the hygiene students for just one day, and instantly developed a passion for the field. Here I am two years later, a senior in the dental hygiene program. The program is such an incredible one. The faculty are experienced and knowledgeable. From day one, the faculty has encouraged us to expand our horizons and use critical thinking to gain the most from each and every experience."

There is a low student to faculty ratio in the clinic, as well as faculty-monitored open lab sessions for students to practice clinical skills, as well as radiology skills.

"This allows the students more time on task to learn difficult fine motor skills associated with the profession," said Professor Jane Gauthier, program coordinator for Dental Hygiene Education.

Safety is first and foremost a priority and there are currently 30 students in the program, as opposed to the typical 48, in order to maintain social distancing. Students wear high-level protection masks, face-shields, gowns over the scrubs, head coverings and shoe covering while treating patients in the clinic.

"COVID-19 has changed how we practice dental hygiene. We use sophisticated air purification systems in the clinic, as well as large extra-oral suction that limit the amount of aerosols in the air. We treat only eight

patients each clinic session, vs. 16 typically, due to safe social distancing practices," Professor Gauthier said. "We screen all of our patients in order to keep everyone safe. Students and faculty are also vaccinated and tested weekly for COVID-19."

Professor Gauthier said students who graduate from the program have no trouble with job placement. According to the Labor Board of Statistics, dental hygiene is growing 11% faster than the national average for 2020 – 2030, with a median pay in 2020 of \$77,090.

"Many of our students have secured jobs before graduation. We get calls or emails weekly from dentists in the community asking us to post job postings or to send out their ad to recent graduates," she continued. "The role of the dental hygienist has gotten more complex as patients present with more complex medical histories, all of which needs to be considered in treatment planning. The standard of care has changed and thus the role of the dental hygienist."

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits QCC's Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs.

"We graduate in just about eight months, and I am certain I will be proud to say I graduated from the Dental Hygiene program at QCC," Ms. Chaves said.

To learn more visit www.QCC.edu/dental-hygiene.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

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\$675,000, 827 Oxford St S, Regional Oxford St LLC, to Sweeney, Christopher.

\$542,500, 461 Leicester St, Hanson, Richard A, and Hanson, Katherine J, to Carter, Perry A, and Carter, Ginallee.

\$451,000, 7 Kimball Rd, Dangelo, Joseph, and Dangelo, Paola A, to Meyer, Keith, and Meyer, Mary A.

\$450,000, 7 Goulding Dr, Gosselin, Louis D, and Gosselin, Donna J, to Nicolopoulos, Jacqui, and Dion-Nicolopoulos, N.

\$401,000, 23 Oakland Dr, Carter, Lucas J, and Carter, Erin, to Nkechi-Ogbo, Chizoba.

\$360,000, 8 Burnap St, Ellis, Lee E, and Ellis, Amalia, to Dillon, Kevin R, and Mackenzie, Melanie A.

\$275,000, 44 Warren Rd, Ringgard, Nicholas J, and Ringgard, Logan B, to Winter, Karleen M, and Winter, Andrew.



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Residents object to NEC proposal’s tentative approval

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – In what might be their last chance to do so, several area residents and intervenors urged the Energy Facilities Siting Board to reject the proposed NEC gas storage facility next to Millennium Power on Route 169.

Last Wednesday, the EFSB started its online public hearing regarding its tentative decision on the project, which last-

ed only an hour before closing for the day. Most of that time was devoted to public comment, although Presiding Officer Andre Gibeau began reading the tentative decision in the last few minutes. A continuation date had yet to be finalized as of last Friday.

To resident Julie Dowling, the board “failed to take into account the importance of the Mass Pike” in its traffic considerations,

noting accidents there routinely create problems along Route 20. She also argued the “untested facility” has not considered quakes or tornadoes in its planning, and compared the risk to a natural gas leak in California that forced the relocation of many people in 2015.

Joe Lewandowski later agreed on the Pike issue, adding they need to also include impacts of other proposed major projects (namely, the Amazon

warehouse).

“I am not totally opposed to the LNG [liquefied natural gas] project, but I am totally opposed to the selected location,” he said. To him, NEC has shown “a lack of respect” for residents, neighbors and the town governments of Charlton and Southbridge, and he urged EFSB to create stronger guidelines for local participation in such a process.

Lewandowski said he’s specifically concerned about the size of the facility’s storage tank (2 million gallons), its “unproven” cooling system, the fact the company isn’t being required to set aside enough money for emergencies or to return the site to its original condition. He said NEC should be required to provide police and fire training for Charlton and nearby towns and to have independent construction supervision during the project.

The most vocal participant was Mary Beth Czaja, owner of neighboring North American Tool & Die Co. She said the project will “grossly affect our business in more ways than one,” but feels NEC has not been willing to “take our concerns seriously.”

Specifically, she’s concerned any blasting or other vibrations up there would be detrimental to her business, which makes precision tools. Czaja proposed 10 amendments to the EFSB’s preliminary decision, but the board only accepted one, plus a couple partially. Even there, she said, she’s concerned about the “ambiguity” of wording, noting as an example “who defines ‘comprehensive’” in the EFSB’s demand that NEC do a “comprehensive” vibration mitigation plan. She

was also concerned about vague enforcement language, noting the state has few enforcement officers.

“NEC and North American Tool should have come to an agreement on this month ago,” she told the board. “... What they’ve said they’re going to do and what they do are two different things. ...I don’t think they’re going to work with me, or they’d already have done so.”

Regarding that, EFSB staff person Andrew Greene agreed the wording is somewhat vague, but he noted Czaja and others will be able to see and weigh in on the mitigation plan.

“It’s subjective,” he said. “That’s the nature of the regulatory process at times.”

Planning Board member John Smith objected to Charlton’s “lack of our power and ability to have a thorough site plan review of this project” and the fact the state can “supercede any local authority.” To him, Charlton is essentially being “left out,” even though various town boards’ concerns have been part of the record.

Representative from two outside organizations spoke up in support of the community as well.

To Rosemary Wessell of No Fracked Gas in Mass, the NEC project is contradictory to the state’s own stated goals and laws reducing reliance on fossil fuels. She said it puts natural gas profits above local interests and is “like building an eight-lane highway to the beach for traffic on Memorial and Labor days.”

Cathy Kristofferson of the Pipeline Awareness Network agreed, saying the facility’s size is “beyond the amounts

needed to meet its firm commitments.” NEC has committed 850,000 gallons of storage and 168,500 gallons of its liquification capacity to National Grid, but will seek other customers for the rest of its capacity, Andre Gibeau later stated.

To Kristofferson, the idea NEC considers this an “energy bridge” toward weaning off fossil fuels is wrong and contrary to the state’s goals for 2030.

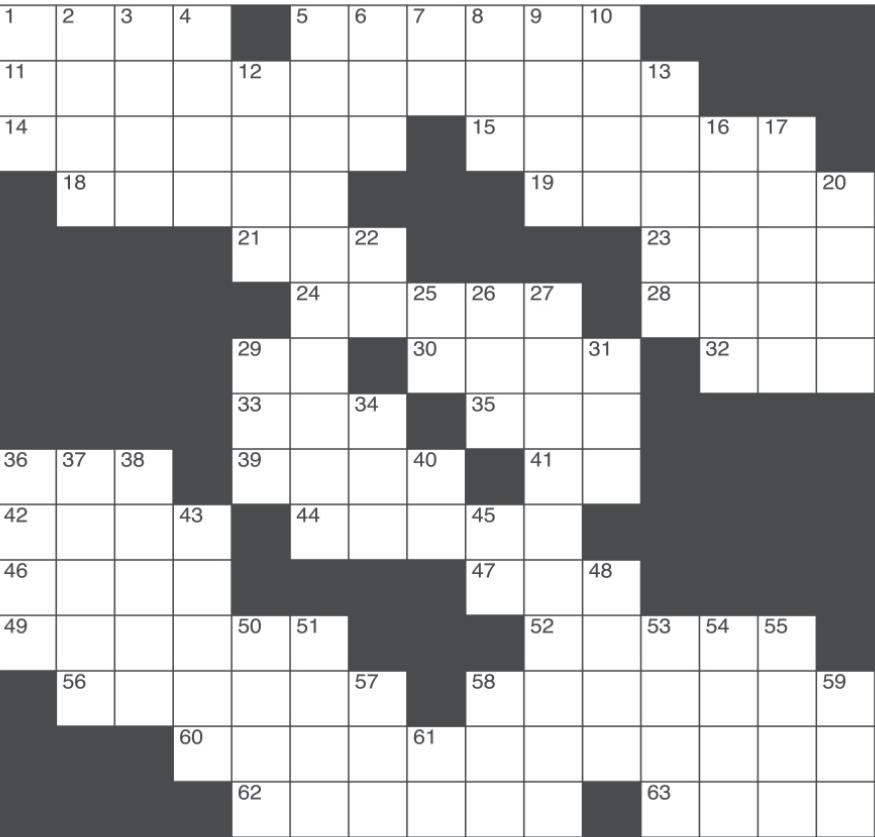
“This is the fossil fuel economy,” she said. “... It’s time to just say no to new gas infrastructure.”

After the citizens spoke, Gibeau began reading the tentative decision. In general, it claims the project “is needed,” in large part because National Grid’s winter gas has largely been supplied by the Everett terminal, which has an “uncertain” future. He said this facility would be a “cost effective and reliable source” when compared to oil, propane or other fossil fuels (but did not mention alternative energy or conservation) because of its location.

Gibeau said EFSB believes the 169 site is “superior” to the original Route 20 site. Although it does lengthen distance to the Pike, the original site had no signal and would have used a dangerous connection to Route 20.

He ran out of time after noting NEC plans to build a 20-foot noise barrier along the eastern edge of its property, which may be more extensive depending on the results of a noise study conducted after the project begins.

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

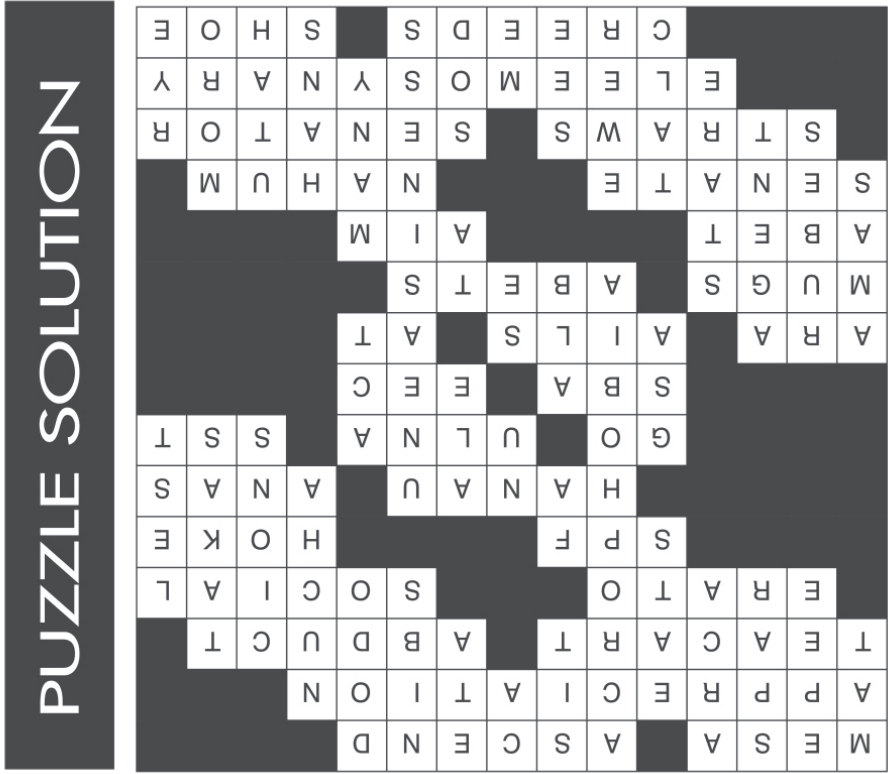


CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat-topped hill
5. Move upward
11. Admiration
14. It’s useful for serving food
15. Kidnap
18. One of the Greek Muses
19. A type of media
21. Sunscreen rating
23. Former Michigan coach Brady
24. German town devastated in WW2
28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
29. Leave
30. Forearm bone
32. Very fast airplane
33. Helps little firms
35. Defunct economic organization
36. Science-based students organization (abbr.)
39. Feels ill
41. Indicates position
42. Beverage containers
44. Assists
46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)
47. Purpose
49. Group of elected officials
52. Hebrew prophet
56. They help you drink
58. Lawmaker
60. Charitable
62. Doctrines
63. Footwear

CLUES DOWN

1. Where wrestlers work
2. Dueling sword
3. Practice fight
4. Genus of clams
5. Fear of heights
6. What some tell their dog
7. The Golden State
8. When you expect to get there
9. Pointed ends
10. Extinct flightless bird
12. Feeds
13. Nape of neck
16. Descendant
17. Small boats found in Turkey
20. To avoid the risk of
22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet
26. Brew
27. Feeling of anxiety
29. Young girls group
31. Perform on stage
34. White clerical vestment
36. Popular musical awards show
37. Bumpkins
38. One who acts on another’s behalf
40. Direction
43. Look at with fixed eyes
45. One who helps professors (abbr.)
48. A large number of
50. Type of powder
51. Large jug
53. __ Christian Anderson, children’s author
54. American state
55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines
57. Witness
58. Landscapers lay it
59. Type of bread
61. Of I



Fallon/OrNda Community Health Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation now accepting applications

WORCESTER — The Fallon/OrNda Community Health Fund is now accepting applications. Established at Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) in 1996, this fund aims to increase access to healthcare in Worcester County by advancing projects that address the social determinants of health.

“The focus of the Fallon/OrNda Community Health Fund is to support organizations adopting and implementing strategies that reduce barriers to care,” said Jonathan Cohen, GWCF’s Vice President for Programs and Strategy. “These barriers can include language, culture, transportation, and technology, among others.”

Nonprofit applicants from across Worcester County may apply for operational expenditures such as personnel costs, program expenses, small equipment purchases, or physical space improvements. Grant requests between \$5,000 and \$25,000 will be considered. Collaborative efforts will be given a higher priority.

“Expanding access to healthcare resources remains a top priority as the pandemic continues,” said GWCF’s Interim President and CEO, Carolyn J. Stempler. “Our goal is to enable our community partners to continue the impressive work in providing under-resourced communities with equitable, culturally appropriate access to health services.”

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Socially Speaking...

This feature is for 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

CEA proving to be worthy investment

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Board of Selectmen received an update on the town's Community Electricity Aggregation Program in late September that promoted the benefits of the program as National Grid's rates continue to increase.

John O'Rourke, to town's representative for the program, said that in 2021 the town topped off at 3,429 participants in the program, a new record since Charlton's program launched in 2017. The electricity supply program is a town initiative that provides residents and businesses with town-vetted options for electricity supply with delivery and billing for use still completed through National Grid but charged at a

lower rate than the company's standard fees.

O'Rourke told selectmen that every five to six months new residents of Charlton are informed of the program with hopes of adding to the enrollment number. As of the Sept. 28 Board of Selectmen meeting, the recorded savings to town residents has topped \$1.6 million during the program's lifespan. O'Rourke explained that with electricity rates continuing to increase, those savings will only continue to add up for any Charlton resident willing to participate in the program. National Grid's latest approved rate is \$0.14821 per kilowatt hour, quite a bit over the rate for participants in the Charlton CEA.

"We were expecting it to be high, but we weren't expecting it to be that high. That compares extremely well to the aggregation rate at \$0.10316 per kilowatt hours," O'Rourke told selectmen. "We

can't make predictions on the National Grid rate adjusting in that next period, but we think it's going to be above the \$0.10 per kilowatt hour."

The Board of Selectmen had little to say during the update other than praising the success of the program. Board Chair Bill Borowski specifically noted the savings it has brought to citizens as proof that the program was a worthy investment.

"When we think often towns talk around how we all can work together and save money, this is a perfect example based upon a lot. That's \$1.6 million saved for town residents," Borowski said.

Charlton residents interested in learning more about the Charlton CEA program can view current rates and enrollment details by visiting www.charlton-cea.com.



Courtney Fitzmaurice

bankHometown adds Fitzmaurice as officer

OXFORD — bankHometown recently hired Courtney Fitzmaurice of Charlton as commercial credit analyst officer.

She rejoins the bank, having previously served as a credit analyst for several years until 2017. Fitzmaurice has nearly 20 years of banking experience, most recently as assistant vice president, credit analyst at TD Bank. She also previously held the roles of credit analyst and assistant vice president, commercial portfolio manager with North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Fitzmaurice earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a certificate in accounting, both from Worcester State University. She also attended the Massachusetts Bankers Association's School of Commercial Lending and Fundamentals of Credit Analysis program.

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, and has \$1.3 billion in assets and 16 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2020, the bank and foundation donated more than \$346,000 and over the last five years donated more than \$1.4 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.



Cornhole for a cause: Open Sky's Seventh Annual Valley Bag Toss

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services is excited to announce the return of the Seventh Annual Valley Bag Toss, after being canceled in 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic. The Valley Bag Toss presents the perfect opportunity to show off your cornhole skills developed over a summer of barbecues and picnics with friends and family. It's also much more, as the funds raised at the tournament support Open Sky's health and wellness programs for the 4,900 individuals served by the agency.

People of all abilities, age 14 and older, are invited to participate in this friendly competition scheduled to be held at the Alternatives' Whittin Mill at 50

Douglas Rd. Whitinsville, Mass. on Saturday, Oct. 16 (Oct. 17 rain date).

The Bag Toss features live music by Dynamite Rhythm, food available for purchase from the Kith & Kin food truck, drinks, a fabulous raffle and of course, flying bags and cornhole boards. However, the cornhole boards used at this competition are not your mainstream boards. Handmade by artist, designer and woodworker Nick Hollibaugh, each set of boards is unique and beautifully crafted. In fact, the prize awarded to the tournament's first place team is a set of Hollibaugh's boards.

Former Open Sky Board Member and event founder, Molly Hollibaugh, particularly enjoys the inclusive nature of the event and is excited for the opportunity to be together again.

"So grateful to be back again putting on such an amazing feel-good event. Every year it is such a thrill to see such wonderful people come together to throw bean bags and share smiles," Hollibaugh said. "People show up with enthusiasm for the event and such great support for one another."

Zentangle Inc. is the event's presenting sponsor. Other sponsors that have already signed on are Curry Printing, Gaudette Insurance, Harbro Auto Sales & Service, Hollibaugh House, Koopman Lumber, Osterman Management, Savers Bank and Social Perspectives 4 Everyone.

Pre-registration is required, so before going out to take those extra practice tosses, sign up online at <http://www.openskycs.org/valleybagtoss>.

Greater Worcester Community Foundation funds more than \$54,000 for arts collaborations that address community needs

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation's (GWCF) new grant program, Creative Intersections, announced the recipients of its first cycle of funding with grants totaling \$54,762. The funding, which is part of the organization's Creative Worcester Initiative, supports collaborations that pair non-arts sector programming with arts organizations and/or individual creatives to address community needs in areas such as social justice, public health, mental health, housing, education, history, culture, identity, environment, or civic engagement.

"Arts have the power to heal and unify," said Carolyn Stempler, GWCF's Interim President & CEO. "Our Creative Worcester Initiative recognizes how embedded arts can and should be in a healthy, thriving community. With continued support from the Barr Foundation, we are proud to help advance the innovative, responsive, and community-informed work of our grantee partners."

In the first round of Creative Intersections funding, the following organizations and projects were awarded:

Music Worcester, Inc., Concert Truck for Community, \$5,000

Creative Hub Worcester, Strengthening Families & Raising Resilience, \$10,000

Indian Lake Community Association, Inc., Cultivating the Arts in an Urban Community Garden, \$10,000.00

Día de los Muertos Event, "Recuerda la Memoria": Latino storytelling on loss and hope during COVID. A mixed media art project., \$10,000.00

Worcester Center for Crafts (WCC), Fiber Arts, from Sheep to Craft, \$10,000

College of the Holy Cross, Telling Journeys: Visual Storytelling in Recovery, \$9,762

"Art encompasses every aspect of our lives," said Lindiana Semidei, Program Associate. "From the music we play to the poetry we write, art is a form of

communication and has always been a central part of our human needs. Together with our Creative Worcester Initiative, we're not only stimulating projects, but we're also inspiring collective creativity in our community."

The second application cycle is currently open and will close on Nov. 1.

Creative Intersections is designed to advance the City of Worcester's Cultural Plan. It is also part of the Foundation's Creative Worcester Initiative, a multi-year partnership with the Barr Foundation that unites GWCF with four other Massachusetts community foundations and continues to infuse Worcester's creative sector with capital and knowledge resources.

More information or questions about GWCF's Creative Intersections grant program, contact Lindiana Semidei at lsemidei@greaterworcester.org.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

We appreciate our local police

Support for police should not be political. Yet here we are. Over the past few days, we have thought a lot about our local police departments, and they truly deserve a shout out of appreciation. Reporters, editors and all of us in the media work very closely with our local officers. We could not do our jobs without their help.

What we have come to know is that police officers are democrats, republicans, independents or simply don't affiliate with any political party whatsoever. The current climate would lead you to believe that if you support police, you're affiliated with one party. This could not be further from the truth.

We see the police logs every week, we know how much stress our officers face on a daily basis, and to make things a bit more challenging, many of our local departments are short staffed.

Our police officers do so much more than we think. The day-to-day tasks do not come without some sort of stress, whether they are dealing with someone with a mental health issue, confiscating drugs, chasing someone who doesn't want to be caught and putting their lives at risk every single day. They are shouted at, assaulted, and disrespected daily. Sure, this comes with the job, however it doesn't mean that it should, or that it doesn't get taxing. Oftentimes it's the same culprits day in and day out they deal with, and we're not sure how they remain calm and professional while doing so, but for that we say thank you.

After an arrest, or any sort of incident, it doesn't end there. There are calls from family members, or those who were arrested, court dates, collecting written testimony and being a part of some tough family situations as well. Responding to motor vehicle accidents that end in tragedy, or all of the other situations that we only see in movies, is actual real life to our officers. Just because we don't see what's happening every day in the lives of our police, doesn't mean that it's not happening.

Of course, there are officers in other states and cities that abuse their power, however that is not the case in our smaller communities. Police reform is needed in those places and has been for decades, however we consider ourselves lucky to live in a place where our officers are all top notch. Many officers would agree that police reform is needed.

Being a police officer is a career that has long been praised as a high honor, only to be filled with selfless brave women and men who simply want to keep our communities a better, safer place to live in. Follow our lead and show your local police they are appreciated. We see you, and we thank you.



news@stonebridgepress.news



“You can’t win an argument”

A famous quote of unknown origin says, “A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.”

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

you lose it.”

How is that possible? How can you win an argument and still lose?

Of course, you can win an argument. You can shoot holes in your friend's viewpoint and burn all their logic to the ground. You can show them facts and figures and walk away feeling like you just won a significant debate, thinking proudly to yourself, “I showed them a thing or two!” What you don't realize is that you lost.

Benjamin Franklin said, “if you argue, rankle, and contradict, you may achieve a victory sometimes, but it will be an empty victory because you will never get your opponent's goodwill.”


What's more important? Keeping your friendship intact or boosting your ego?

As the old saying goes, “you don't know what you've got till it's gone.” Some of us have to learn the hard way; I know I have.

I've lost friends due to arguing, but I never intended it to be that way. I guess that's called “unintended consequences.” I think about them a lot and wish I would have just asked them how their family was doing or what was new in their life.

Carnegie goes on to say, in the next chapter, “the surest way to make somebody an enemy is to tell them they're wrong...if

Keep working toward lifetime goals



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

As the years go by, many of your short-term plans may change. But you'll always need to focus on three lifetime goals: planning for retirement, preparing for the unexpected and creating an estate plan. What steps should you take to meet these goals?

Let's start with retirement. Throughout your career, you'll need to put away money for a retirement that could last two or three decades. So, you'll want to contribute enough to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan to provide for your income needs in retirement. And you'll want to fund these accounts with a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments, based on your comfort with risk and how long you have to invest.

But planning for retirement involves more than just a general commitment to save and invest. You'll also need to envision your retirement lifestyle. Will you travel extensively or stay close to home, pursuing your hobbies? Or are you thinking about relocating or spending part of the year in a vacation home? Your retirement aspirations will help determine how much money you'll ultimately need to live the lifestyle you desire.

And finally, once you are retired, you'll have to ensure you don't outlive your resources. Consequently, as you begin taking money from your retirement accounts and investment portfolio, you'll want to establish a sustainable withdrawal rate – one that lets you enjoy your retirement while accommodating the inevitable ups and downs of the financial markets.

Now, let's move to the second lifetime goal: planning for the unexpected. Even if you budget carefully, you may not always be prepared for unplanned costs, such as a needed home improvement. If your cash flow can't meet these expenses, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments, possibly leading to taxes, penalties and fewer funds left for retirement. That's why it's a good idea to maintain an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a liquid, low-risk account.

Of course, more serious unexpected events can also occur. If something were to happen to you, could your family members maintain their lifestyle? Could the mortgage still be paid? Could your children continue with their higher education plans? It's essential that you maintain sufficient life insurance to meet these needs.

The last lifetime goal – creating an estate plan – is meant to achieve multiple aims. For example, you may want to name someone to make financial and medical decisions on your behalf should you become incapacitated. If you have children, it is important to name a guardian should something happen to you. It's also necessary to keep your beneficiary designations up to date. And you may want to leave something to charitable groups.

To meet all these objectives, and possibly even more, you'll need to work with a legal professional to create the necessary documents and arrangements, such as a durable power of attorney, a will, a living trust and so on. You may also need the help of your financial advisor to review your beneficiaries and to balance your estate and legacy goals with your other financial objectives.

Life is full of twists and turns, and you may change your own course along the way. But no matter which roads you follow, you'll still need to achieve the three lifetime goals we've discussed – so keep working toward them.

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

Enjoy the beauty and science behind fall color

The brilliant fall color in our landscapes is a magical transformation that happens each year. And the science behind it is just as intriguing.

Each fall as the days shorten our deciduous trees and shrubs begin this transformation. The plants produce less of the chlorophyll that gives leaves their normal green color. The existing chlorophyll starts breaking down, revealing the underlying pigments of yellow, red or orange.

The carotenoid and xanthophyll pigments assist the chlorophyll in capturing light and producing sugar during the growing season. The beta-carotene contributes to the orange and orange-yellow fall color. Lutein is the most prominent xanthophyll pigment producing bright yellow fall color. There are over 80 different pigments in these two categories contributing to the variations in fall color.

The tanins in leaves contribute to the golden and brown fall colors. These are thought to discourage animals and insect pests from feeding on the leaves and help defend the plants against disease organisms.

At the same time, these plants begin to create an abscission layer between the leaf and stem. This barrier prevents the sugars produced in the leaves from moving down into the roots for storage.

Purple and red fall color, from the anthocyanin foliar pigments, is produced when sugars build up and are trapped in the leaves. This results in brilliant red and purplish-red fall color. Some of these pigments are present during the growing season and can be seen in new growth and mature leaves of some plants. These add color to the garden, help protect the plant cells from high light damage, and may discourage animals and insects from dining on the plants.

Warm, sunny days followed by cool nights without a hard frost mean more sugar and better red, orange, and purple fall color. Sufficient soil moisture helps keep the leaf color bright for a longer period of time. Leaf color fades, turns brown and leaves drop from the tree more quickly during dry fall weather.

Fall foliage is not restricted to deciduous trees and shrubs. The leaves of many



Melinda Myers

Each fall as the days shorten, deciduous shrubs and trees like this Arctic Jade Korean Maple begin their transformation as the plants produce less chlorophyll.

of our favorite perennials also turn brilliant colors in the fall.

Solomon's seal and hosta leaves turn a beautiful yellow, echoing the fall flowers of witchhazel and yellow leaves of ginkgo and quaking aspen. The delicate heart-shaped leaves of barrenwort, botanically known as Epimedium, turn red in fall. Some of the leaves drop in fall like most trees and shrubs. Others will persist through winter and drop as new leaves and flowers appear in spring.

Perennial geranium and Bergenia leaves turn reddish-purple in fall. Both will persist, adding color to the winter and early spring garden.

Brighten up the fall landscape with the fine texture and amber-gold fall foliage of Angelina sedum and willow amsonia.

The fluffy white seed heads of our native little bluestem complement the coppery-red fall color that persists throughout the winter.

Genetics determine the color each plant tends to produce in fall, while weather and the plant's health influence if and how intensely the color will be expressed. Consider fall color when adding plants to the landscape. Then provide proper care to keep them healthy and looking their best throughout the year.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

The season of hunting and fishing

The month of October brings all forms of hunting and fishing activities for sportsmen. Waterfowl opened this past Monday, Oct. 11, and Pheasant hunting opens this Saturday. If that is not enough for you, deer hunting opens on the 18th of this month, and Massachusetts has started to stock trout in the usual places. Saltwater fishing is also exploding with action both in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. There are a lot of hard decisions to make, but whatever you chose, the time spent in the outdoors with family and friends is priceless. The fall colors on trees also adds to the experiences in the outdoors.

This past Thursday, this writer decided to take advantage of the great weather, fishing for tautog in Rhode Island. After catching a limit of tautog, we decided to head out to deeper water in search of some seabass. A lot of seabass were caught but many were just under size. After a couple hours of fishing in deeper water, we spotted a couple of stripers floating on



THE GREAT
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the surface of the water. Soon, many more stripers in the 20-to-26-inch class were floating by the boat. I knew immediately that a dragger was responsible for the dead stripers. I have seen it before. They catch to many fish and they sort out the fish that they can keep and discard the rest. What a waste. Recreational anglers face stricter fishing regulations annually, and this type of waste continues. It just makes you sick!

More sightings of bear are being reported by archers that have cameras out to catch a few photos of deer in the areas that they hunt. If you are hunting deer during the shotgun deer season, it would be wise to purchase a bear permit for only \$5. It is a small price to pay to harvest a black bear.

It did not take long for the surplus deer

permits for zone 9 to be sold out recently. Like maybe six minutes! The sales opened at 9 a.m. and more than 1,300 were gone by 9:06 a.m.! Archery deer season opens on Oct. 18 in zones 1-9. The heavy foliage continues to hamper bird hunting, at a couple of hunting preserves, but will not be gone for this Saturdays opening day in Massachusetts!

This is the time of year that bee stings increase, because they seem to become more aggressive as the cooler weather arrives. Yellowjacket bees often make nests in the ground, making many people unaware that they are there. Wasps are also capable of nasty bites, and can leave the person or persons unaware of the danger they pose to humans. For some humans an EpiPen is a lifesaving tool injecting medication for a bee sting, and is carried by many people to counter act the serious effects of bee stings or spider bites.

Salmon fishing in upstate New York's famous Salmon River is starting to improve, with numerous anglers



Courtesy

This week's picture shows a young German shorthair pointer ready for the opening of the upland bird hunting season.

returning with some great stories on their fishing experience. It is only going to get better.

Mass. Fish & Wildlife has released their new license fee increases for the next five years. For a complete rundown on all the new increases, go to their Web site. They did not change much from their earlier proposals. The fees will

gradually increase over five years. No action on the sportsman's proposal to allow any one that wants to hunt with a crossbow to do so. Many bowhunters have gone to the neighboring state of Rhode Island to hunt deer, where crossbows are legal!

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club is planning a ham & bean supper on Nov. 13, starting

at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each. You can buy the tickets at the club or purchase them online. Only 85 tickets will be sold. Don't miss out on this great evening with friends and a ham & bean supper. More clubs are also planning suppers in the valley. Stay tuned!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

It's Pumpkin Time!

Although we think of pumpkins as a vegetable, it is officially classifies as a fruit. Pumpkins are not only delicious, they are a rich source of both fiber and vitamin A and naturally low in calories. Best of all pumpkins are very versatile, which have made them the spotlight of many autumn feasts via pumpkin soups, casseroles and hearty pies.

Read on for some pumpkin tips, tricks and ideas:

Choosing a proper pumpkin for your table is important. Pumpkins should be mature and firm, with taut skin and a nice orange hue. Select pumpkins that feel solid and are heavy for their size. If still growing on the vine, look for stems that are solidly attached to the pumpkin. A general rule to test for maturity is to scratch the skin slightly with a fingernail. A mature pumpkin will resist scratching.

Keep in mind when choosing pumpkins that the variety you select should fit your need. For example, if you desire a pumpkin for pie, a medium sugar pumpkin, which is typically small and sweet with a dark orange color, is the best choice. For carving, look for well rounded pumpkins that have good color with stem intact. Pumpkins earmarked as Jack-O-Lanterns are usually larger and contain too many strings and seeds to be practical for pie making.

Preserving and Preparing Pumpkins: Pumpkins can be successfully stored for up to six months, as long as conditions are favorable. Storage temperature should not exceed 50 degrees and should be stored in a dry, frost free environment.

Whole pumpkins keep better if picked leaving two inches of the stem on the fruit. Dry them in the sun for a few days before storing. For safety's sake, wipe pumpkins down with a common disinfectant such as Lysol before storing. Whole pumpkins should not be allowed to touch each other in storage. And be sure to keep an eye out for rot spots that may form. Any pumpkins that are found to be decaying should be promptly removed from the storage area.

If you want to store



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THE
HINT
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pumpkins beyond several months, you will need to preserve them. Several methods of preserving pumpkins are used. Freezing cooked, pureed pumpkin is a favored way to preserve the taste and texture of pumpkin. 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. Those who are considering home canning pumpkin should be advised pumpkin puree cannot be canned due to its thickness, and although some people successfully can chunked slices of the pulp, it is safer to avoid the risk altogether.

Pumpkin can also be dried, which was a favored method of the colonists. Drying pumpkin must be done carefully in order to kill all the germs that would make it spoil. Here's how to do it the old fashioned way: Split the pumpkin in half and remove the seeds. Remove the skin and cut the fruit into thin slices. Steam for about six minutes. Spread on a tray and dry in the sun (it will take at least two days, and it will take about two days. If flies are a problem, cover with netting. Pumpkin needs to be dried in hot sun so that it dries quickly before it spoils.

Or, you can dry pumpkin quicker and easier in the oven or microwave; here's how to do it in the microwave, which is the fastest method:

Arrange thin slices on a microwave safe tray or glass pie plate. You must leave space between the slices so air can circulate around them. Cook on high for 15 to 20 minutes. Check the pump-

kin; if it is not crispy; cook again for five minutes, and continue until the dried slices are crunchy. Allow to cool before storing.

Did you know that dried pumpkin can also be made into a flour, which can be used just as you would all purpose flour in cooking and baking? To do, simply pulverize the dry pumpkin in a food processor.

Pumpkin Seeds: Many Halloween traditions include gathering the seeds from a carved Jack-O-Lantern to toast in a warm oven. The snack is both healthy and delicious, and the addition of spices gives the humble treat a flavorful punch. Plus, roasting up a batch of pumpkin seeds is not only an annual treat, it's a great way to use up every bit of the vegetable. To properly toast pumpkin seeds, remove all pulp and clean strings from the seeds. Place seeds in a bowl and stir in melted butter or olive oil and salt to coat the seeds. Spread seeds on a cookie sheet and bake in a 275 degree oven for about an hour or until the seeds are golden brown and crisp. Avoid overcooking as seeds can become hard and tough. Prefer crisper seeds? Prior to toasting boil the seeds in salted water for about ten minutes, drain and prepare for roasting. Pumpkin seeds:

Pumpkin seeds can even be sprouted to use on sandwiches and in salads. Pumpkin seeds are a healthy snack as they are over 30 percent protein and are high in and oil-soluble vitamins A, D, and E. In addition, pumpkin seeds are rich in iron zinc and magnesium.

To sprout pumpkin seeds, place the seeds in a glass jar (Mason jars are ideal) and cover with water just to cover. Secure a piece of cheesecloth over the top with a rubber band. Soak seeds overnight. The next day, drain the water out and place the jar in dark area that is room temperature. Rinse the seeds in the jar at least four times a day. After a few days, you should see the seeds sprouting. Rinse them again and place the jar in the sun for a day or so until tiny leaves form. They are now ready to use as a tasty garnish or salad addition.

Pumpkin Hummus: Pureed sugar pumpkin adds just the right flavor to this hummus. To do:

Mix together in a food processor until smooth: two cups pureed sugar pumpkin; one 15 oz. can of garbanzo (chi chi) beans; one tablespoon tahini, two teaspoons vegetable oil; one teaspoon cumin; one teaspoon salt; one eighth teaspoon cayenne pepper; one crushed garlic clove, and three tablespoons of water. Adjust thickness by adding a little water if it is too thick. Makes two cups. Serve with pita bread or crackers.

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 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



Photo by Shaanon Cabral

Hi! My name is Dasanee and I am a talented singer and dancer!

Dasanee is an active teen of African American descent. She is reserved, quiet, and shy at first, but once she gets to know you, she becomes very outgoing and talkative. Dasanee is naturally athletic and she enjoys staying very active. Some of her favorite activities include playing soccer and basketball, swimming, and jumping on her trampoline. She is also musically inclined and is starting to recognize this newfound talent. She recently started taking trumpet lessons and knows

how to play the piano and sing.

Legally freed for adoption, Dasanee would do well in a two-parent family that can provide her with the affection, stability, and structure she needs to thrive. She would very much love for there to be other children in the home, and possibly some pets. Interested families must be willing to help Dasanee maintain her relationship and visits with her brother and aunt.

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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WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Lake Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up 3 to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet! Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$1,749,900.00**

STURBRIDGE Big Alum Lake! 243 Big Alum Rd! 6.58 Acres of Privacy! Sub-Dividable! West Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 3,313' 10+ Rm Cape w/3 - 4 Bdrms & 4 Baths! Features Applianced Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar & Tile Flr! Frp'd Din Area! Din Rm w/3 Walls of Glass & French Dr to the Deck! Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm w/Hearth & Wood Stove & Wall of Picture Windows! Spacious Liv Rm w/Pine Flr! Office! Full Bath w/Laundry Closet! 1st Flr Master w/Slider to the Inground Pool, Walk-in Closet, Marble Bathrm w/Separate Tub & Shower & Dble Vanities! 2nd Flr w/2 Spacious Bdrms, Lots of Closet Space & Pine Flrs! Full Hall Bath! Lower Level w/Game Rm, Wine/Root Cellars! Utility & Storage! 2 Car Attached Garage w/Office/In-Law Suite Above! New Driveway Access needs to be Installed! Cosmetic Repairs Needed! **\$679,900.00**

AUBURN - 26 Bryn Mawr Ave! Electric Pond Waterfront! Western Exposure - Beautiful Sunsets! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrms, 1.5 Bath Ranch! Applianced Cabinet Packet Granite Kitchen w/Center Island! Dining/Living Room w/Open Floor Plan & Wood Cathedral Ceiling w/Skylights! Fireplaced Formal Living Room w/Hrds! 3 Season Porch! Huge Composite Deck with Tempered Glass Railings for an Unobstructed View! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/Fireplace & Water View! Listed by Another, SOLD by Lake Realty! **\$540,000.00**



DUDLEY - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/Guest Closet! SS Applianced Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6x27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$570,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 305 Beacon Park! Lake View 1,280' 5 Rm Townhouse - 10 Acres Park Lake Grounds w/Panoramic Lake Views! Yr Round Living or as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Move-in Condition! Applianced Kit! Din Rm w/Slider to the Composite Deck! Frp'd Liv Rm w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & French Dr to the Deck! Updated Half Bath! Spacious Master w/Wall of Closets & Full Bath w/Recent Sky Light! 2nd Bedroom w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & Full Bath just outside its Door! 2 Bdrms & 2.5 Updated Baths! Garage w/Opener! Lakeside Heated Pool & One of the Best Sandy Beaches on the Lake! Canoe Rack! Rented Boat Dock through 2022, Longer Possible! Great Fireworks Viewing! **\$335,000.00**

DUDLEY - 4 Day Rd! Charming 7 Rm, 3 Bedroom Antique Farmhouse w/Lots of Character! Front Parlor w/Hrwd Floors! Open Country Kitchen w/Separate Pantry for Your Baking and Storage Needs! Office Space/Den/or Reading Area! Laundry Area! Large Family Rm w/Chimney for Wood or Pellet Stove & Hrwd Floor! 3 Bdrms w/Hrds! Full Bath! Lots of Closet Space! Small Barn & Shed! New Septic System! **\$290,000.00**

CHARLTON - 3 Glen Echo Shore! Gorgeous Water Views! Year-round 4 Rm Bungalow! Home Features Light Filled Living Room Open to Work-in Kitchen w/ Custom Built Cabinetry & Tile Counters! 2 Comfortable Bedrooms! Full Bath w/Tub/Shower Combo! Four Season Heated Sunroom! One Car Garage! Manageable Yard w/Fire Pit & Shed! Dead End Road! Great Condo Alternative! **\$215,000.00**



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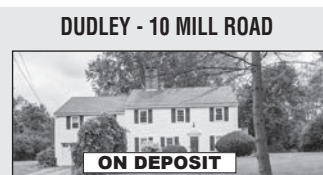
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OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET

2 Family! A RARE FIND, BUILT IN 1967! 2 PARCELS = 16,224 SF!! EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Total 9 rooms, 5 Bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd apartment is a perfect mortgage helper! Electric Heat. Beautiful Hardwood Floors! LARGE Outside Deck and Patio. Beautiful & roomy yard. Off Street Parking! Convenient to I-395. Neighborhood Setting! The Extra Lot offers Added Privacy and also could be the Perfect Space for a Garage! **\$449,000.**



DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD
Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island. Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room. Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. Reduced **\$340,000.**



WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.
Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 SF +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage! **\$439,900**



WEBSTER - 135 LAKE STREET
A RARE FIND! A TRULY ABOVE AVERAGE-TOP NOTCH-HIGH QUALITY-TWO FAMILY! SPACIOUS, CLEAN, UPDATED! Apt# 2 - 1,536 SF+ - 3 BRs, 2nd Flr Apt# 1 - 1,290 SF+ & 2 BRs - 1st floor. Oil & Natural Gas Heat. Hardwood flrs! granite tops. Enjoy the L-Shaped Covered Farmers Porch! Level Lot! **\$399,900.**



PUTNAM CT - 89 PERRY ST UNIT# 250
Heritage Pines Condo Town House - Everything one would expect and then more! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all Hardwood floors, granite, stainless steel appliances. central air, 2 decks, 2800 sq ft +/- of finished living area., and so much more! **\$319,900.**



WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD
WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT FARM! 1876 Antique Colonial. Included separate Building - Studio/Store both situated on 2.5 Acres Professionally Landscaped! 5 Bedroom, Lg Living room, Fireplaced Dining room, Library, Master Bdrms, Renovated Kitchen! 3 Stall Garages! Picturesque Location! **\$455,000.**



Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island

Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! **\$389,900.**



WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE
LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF+ , 4 BRs w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch. 2nd Flr - 3 BRs. Resingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Budenur Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! **\$215,000**



LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Oxford - 2 Meriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton! Great Location for Horses! **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000.**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900.**
WEBSTER - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES ON SUGARLOAF HILL. 1000+/- ft of frontage! **SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.**



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Chamberlain Hills Condo! 6 Rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1 & 1/2 Baths. Finished lower level! Hot water baseboard by Natural Gas! Low Condo fee# \$202/Mo. **\$247,000.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! A WEBSTER LAKE waterfront property on Killdeer Circle, you won't want to miss! Offers a prime waterfront location! 64' of water frontage and a gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear, sandy bottomed shoreline. Everyday is a new day at the Lake! Nicely arranged floor plan. 5 rooms 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walk out lowerlevel to nice size patio! Garage. **\$650,000.**



WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO

WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets. Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach! **\$439,000.**



Webster 3 Units \$369,000
2 family with 2-2 bedrooms apartments, modern kitchens and bathrooms. Two 38 foot garages with 11' garage doors. Third unit is a 400 sq. ft. garage with automatic garage door and burglar alarm. Located on dead end street.

Open House Sat. 1-2:30PM



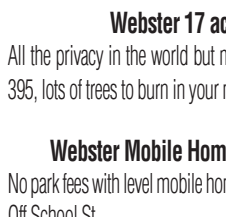
Dudley Tri-Level \$399,900
9 rooms 3 bedrooms 1.5 bath with attached garage. Two fireplaces, formal dining room, entertaining size living room. 26'x22' family room with fireplace. Large rooms throughout. Possibility of 1st floor office with 1/2 bath. Lots of extras.

Open House Sat. 1-2:30PM



Dudley 3 acres \$450,900

Large 5 room 3 bedroom 2 bath Cape. Large rooms throughout. Two car attached garage. Beautiful grounds. You have lots of privacy but not total isolation. Utility building for storing equipment.



Webster 17 acres \$114,900

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PEOPLE FACT:

THIS GENETIC DISORDER OCCURS IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALL OR PART OF A THIRD COPY OF CHROMOSOME #21 IN THEIR DNA.

ANSWER: DOWN SYNDROME

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THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

OCT 14

- **1933:** GERMANY WITHDRAWS FROM THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
- **1947:** U.S. AIR FORCE CAPTAIN CHARLES YEAGER BECOMES THE FIRST PERSON TO TRAVEL FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND.
- **1968:** THE FIRST LIVE TELECAST FROM A STAFFED U.S. SPACE-CRAFT IS TRANSMITTED FROM APOLLO 7.

New word

ANOMALY
something that is different from the standard

Nichols College receives grant to expand student access to Bloomberg technology

DUDLEY — A grant from the Affinity Group Charitable Foundation, supported by Dexter-Russell, Inc. has enabled Nichols College to expand the number of terminals in the college's Bloomberg Finance Lab, increasing student access to market-leading software used by more than 325,000 professionals.

Nichols launched its Bloomberg Lab in fall 2018 with 12 terminals. In its first semester of use, 279 students earned Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) certification, elevating Nichols as a Bloomberg Experiential Learning Partner.

The \$168,000 commitment from the Southbridge-based Dexter-Russell underwrites the additional annual cost of expanding to 16 terminals. In addition to increasing access to this experiential tool in the lab, 300 web logins are available so students can complete their certification remotely. This was particularly helpful in providing uninterrupted student access to Bloomberg during the pandemic. To date, some 850 students have earned BMC certification, a requirement for first-year business students at Nichols.

The integration and expansion of Bloomberg terminals drives the college's degree concentration in corporate finance and investments and has been key in the creation and operation of the student-managed investment fund launched in 2020.

"We are so grateful to Dexter-Russell, and the Affinity Group Charitable Foundation for the opportunity to extend this powerful resource to more students," said Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, Nichols College president. "This grant directly supports the Nichols mission of offering students the real-world experiences that set them apart and boost their career prospects."

Alan Peppel, president and CEO of Dexter-Russell Inc. who earned an MBA at Nichols, added, "As a leading employer in the Southbridge/Dudley community, Dexter-Russell supports endeavors that can benefit our community, employees, and their families. The Affinity Group Charitable Foundation was established to support these efforts, and we are pleased to underwrite students' educational aspirations at Nichols College, the leading business school in the area."

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SPANISH: Gen
ITALIAN: Gene
FRENCH: Gène
GERMAN: Gen

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GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: AN ADULT'S AND CHILD'S HANDS

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to baking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = L)

A. 7 15 14 12 24
Clue: Wheat-based baking ingredient

B. 21 12 4 19 24
Clue: Sweetener

C. 21 19 15 18
Clue: Sodium chloride

D. 14 26 10 8
Clue: Cooking appliance

Answers: A. flour B. sugar C. salt D. oven

SUDOKU

1	9			5				8
8	3						7	
		7	6					
				4				
				6	1			5
9	2							7
		2			9	3	8	
		8	1	7		9		
								1

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	9	2	7	5	8	6	4	3
8	3	6	4	1	9	5	7	2
9	8	7	6	5	2	1	3	4
4	7	9	5	8	3	1	2	6
5	2	8	1	9	6	3	7	4
3	1	6	4	7	2	5	9	8
4	3	1	8	6	9	7	2	5
6	7	5	2	1	4	3	9	8
8	9	5	3	2	6	7	4	1

ANSWER:

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Soccer

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ner. “It’s never easy coming back from 2-0, but it’s the resilience of this team that’s been great,” he said, as the Panthers slipped to 5-4. “There’s been a couple games where we’ve gone down a goal right off the bat, and they just fight tooth and nail.” After 20-plus minutes of back-and-forth soccer, the Rockets got on the board when Katherine DeFosse slipped an in-close pass to Emma Johnson inside the box.

Her shot then slid under the reach of David Prouty keeper Jocelyn LaMonda in the 22nd minute. Then, in the 27th minute, Auburn was awarded a free kick from about 30 yards out. Lydia Kirkorian took the kick, and it sailed into the perfect landing spot just above the outstretched reach of LaMonda and under the crossbar to make it a 2-0 game. “Always a tough one for goalies, but she’s been practicing those and she’s got a [strong] leg,” Para said of Kirkorian’s well-placed shot. Para called the five-minute scoring

sequence “unusual and awesome” since her club has struggled finding goals as of late. “Story of our season is creating chances and then in that final third not connecting or not getting the decent shots off that we want to. We’re missing some break-aways, we’re missing some far post crosses,” she said of what hopes to be a turnaround in the scoring department. LaMonda (five saves) had a clean sheet the rest of the way for the Panthers. “She’s been playing great,” Blodgett said of his keeper. “Before today

her save percentage was 77.9 percent.” Prouty then cut its deficit in half in the 31st minute when Eliana Barnett took a couple of touches to her right to create space on Auburn’s defense. Then, in stride, she booted a shot back toward the left portion of the goal that got past keeper Katie Valentine (two saves). “She is one of the most talented players we’ve had here for a while,” Blodgett said of Barnett’s skillset. “She’s got great footwork and whenever there’s a pressure situation, she’s the one I put the pressure on.”

Fast-forward to the game’s final minute and Barnett was indeed called upon during a pressure-packed situation. Teammate Gabby Soter was taken down just outside the box and the Panthers were awarded a free kick from the left side about 20 yards away from the goal. Barnett shot a booming kick into the upper-90 that went just a bit too high and wide of the net and keeper Parker Veideman, who played the second half for Auburn and made two saves. Nonetheless, Blodgett is impressed with how his team has made strides

over the past few seasons. “We’ve had a great group of kids — some of them town kids, some of them club soccer kids — and the other attribute is my assistant coach, Todd LaPorte. When I brought him in, we said there’s a lot that needs to be changed in the discipline part. We want to be a great team and great teams put in effort every step of the way,” Blodgett said about how the culture has changed before backing it up with evidence in the form of their opponent. “The last couple of times we’ve played Auburn it’s been a four- or five-goal difference.”

Amazon

continued from page A1

Amazon. Escamilla said one of the biggest focuses in on Route 20 where much of the traffic will be directed. As part of the project, safety enhancements and other improvements to Route 20 are all being planned. “The project that we’re proposing will improve the Route 20 corridor. The improvements that we’re talking about will create additional capacity on this roadway in order to accommodate our proposed and forecasted trips and that existing service levels at the key intersections will either be the same or better as a result of this project but that overall safety along the corridor will be enhanced,” said Escamilla.

The presentation also delved into the details of the TIF Agreement, which was previously discussed before the Board of Selectmen in September and would see Amazon’s tax levy increase year after year over the course of the first ten years of the twenty-year contract. Escamilla also discussed Amazon’s other investments in Charlton including millions devoted to Route 20 improvements, streetscape repairs and improvements, local education programs, and thousands to be invested in local recreation and public safety just to name a few. The presentation has been made available in full for citizens to view on the Town of Charlton Facebook page. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to projectpatriot@bluewaterpg.com.

Maenpaa

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people that was leading me was an Eagle Scout and his project was very similar to what I’m doing right now,” said Maenpaa. “I just like helping people out. I think this is a great way to do that.” The yard sales were also a way for Maenpaa to turn a tragic loss the family into something positive as the collection of goods for the sale started with items from his grandmother’s house who passed away in 2020. However, as the idea grew, so did the donations resulting in the two sales. “We needed to find a way to get rid of the furniture

that was in her old house. We figured the best way was to do a yard sale that would help us raise money for the project. The rest of what we have was donated by others,” said Maenpaa. “I think it’s cool that people want to help out and recognize what I’m doing and help out DCF as well.” While Maenpaa couldn’t provide an exact quote for how much money he needs to raise for his fledgling project, he said every penny will certainly help. The Scout is also holding an ongoing can and bottle drive to help with his project. Those wishing to donate to the cause can email aodtimothymaenpaa@gmail.com or text 508-596-5298 to arrange a pickup.

Howe

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CRRN. “MassHire continues to help many of our practical nursing students. The grant will help Darcey through the ten months of rigorous training and ensure that she stay motivated and inspired to give her best.” Training grant funds encourage economic growth in the state and allows in additional training for workforce. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Commonwealth Corporation encourage businesses to address workforce training needs. Interested parties are encouraged to visit www.com-mcorp.org/wtftp to learn more.

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