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Friday, August 13, 2021

America’s oldest continuous church auction faces the end of an era

STURBRIDGE — Saturday, Aug. 14 will mark the end of an era for the oldest continuous church auction in the country when the 71st and final Sturbridge Federated Church Auction is held rain or shine under tent on the Sturbridge Common. Preview begins at 9 a.m. and the first item goes on the block promptly at 10 a.m. This year’s auction coincides with the Massachusetts Tax-Free holiday weekend when retail items of up to \$2,500 purchased in Massachusetts for personal use will be exempt from sales tax.



Rising case numbers prompt new guidance from state

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With students set to return to school in a few weeks, state leaders have released updated mask guidance for fall learning.

When students left school in June for summer vacation, COVID-19 conditions were rapidly improving and restrictions were being lifted across the state. The expectation for many school officials and parents was that masks would be a thing of the past for most students come autumn.

But with the rise of the highly contagious Delta variant over the last month, state officials have updated mask recommendations heading into the 2021-22 school year.

InamemorandumreleasedjointlybyMassachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley and Acting Department of Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke, new guidance was released for masking and other protec-

Turn To **COVID**, page **A10**

It all began in the summer of 1950 ,when a church member named Harriet Haynes suggested an auction in response to a call for fundraising ideas. According to the “History of the Annual Sturbridge Federated Church Auction,” penned by Ray Stevens and Tim Bardsley on the occasion of the event’s 50th anniversary in 2009, that first auction was held on the same Sturbridge Common with Barney Richards, a well-known Southbridge personality, as the first auctioneer and the rest, as they say, is history.

Early church auctions bore very little resemblance to today’s antique auction experience. In those days, the sale was held under the maple tree closest to the library.

The first tent went into use in 1977 for the 28th auction. Amazingly, it had never rained for any of the first 27 auctions.

Virtually all of the items for sale were household discards and appliances donated by local residents who were moving or thinning out household possessions. Typical items included stoves, refrigerators, waffle irons, storm windows, garden tools, dogs, cats, and pianos. On auction day, it was not uncommon to find cardboard boxes filled with a variety of donated items with the best item always left on top in the hope of attracting a one-dollar bid. With a minimum bid of a quarter, and increases of 10 cents accepted, it took a long time to turn a respectable profit.

Today, a majority of the items in the auction are

Turn To **CHURCH AUCTION**, page **A10**

Southbridge Garden Club is back!

STURBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club is back! After a year-and-a-half of virtual meetings, curtailed fundraising efforts and socially distanced get-togethers, the Southbridge Garden Club held its first in-person meeting on Tuesday, July 20 at Pine Lake RV Resort in Sturbridge.

The business portion of the meeting included the reading of the June meeting minutes and the treasurer’s report. Most important, the Club conducted a second discussion, reviewed and voted on proposed changes to the bylaws, which were approved unanimously.

Following the business meeting members enjoyed refreshments as they viewed a screening of “The Gardener,” a narrated visual tour of one of the newest old-world gardens. The 2018 film, directed by Sebastien Chabot, explores how influential gardener and plantsman Frank Cabot pursued his personal quest for perfection at Les Quatre Vents, his twenty-acre English style garden and summer estate in Charlevoix County in Quebec.

Over a span of 75 years and three generations, Cabot and his family converted Les Quatre Vents into “an enchanted place of beauty and surprise, a horticultural masterpiece of the 21st century.” Cabot, his family, gardening experts and writers offer commentary as the film examines Cabot’s incredible personal story and his artistic philosophy that resulted in one of the greatest gardens



in the world. Frank Cabot also helped found the Garden Conservancy, which is dedicated to preserving remarkable gardens.

Turn To **GARDEN CLUB**, page **A10**

Joshua Hyde Library hosting Training Active Bystanders workshop

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Public Library announces an event for everyone ages 12 and up called Training Active Bystanders, on Aug. 24 to be held at the Sturbridge Senior Center at 480 Main St. in Sturbridge.

Presented by Quabbin Mediation and sponsored by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library, this two-hour workshop will begin at 6 p.m., and focuses on creating safety in contentious situations. Active bystandership does not mean aggression against the harm-doer. Training Active Bystanders is a way to analyze harm-doing situations and assists participants in discovering the positive power of bystanders.

For more information, or to register for this program or any other programs, please go to sturbridgelibrary.org or Facebook @sturbridgelibrary.

Hundreds attend National Night Out



A Southbridge school representative provides goodie bags to kids who visit the Pioneer tent.



Town Manager Michael McCall and Police Chief Shane Woodson talk in the sun.



(Right) Auxiliary Officer Jim Cullers chats with a gaggle of girls.



(Middle Photo) Kori Brousseau shares information about New Hope with a couple young ladies.



Animal Control Officer Kaitlyn Spencer and her canine friend were roaming the crowd promoting the idea of getting the police department support animals to help calm people (especially children) being interviewed by officers.



(Left) Sheriff Lew Evangelidis shares thoughts at his table.



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Bay Path accepting nursing program applications for August 2022

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is currently accepting applications — based on a selective admissions process — for practical nursing (PN) students that will begin the program in August 2022. The PN program prepares graduates to sit for the NCLEX-PN examination, enabling the graduate to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

The deadline for applications is May 2, 2022, and approximately 40 students will be chosen for the next class, graduating in June 2023.

“This is the first time in years that we are announcing an application deadline very well in advance, for the incoming cohort starting in August 2022,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. “This decision is based on regional needs and our capacity to place the students in clinical settings.” Dr. Bolandrina added, “We revised some of the selection criteria based on feedback from faculty, alumni, and communities of interest such as members of the advisory committee who better understands the rankings and criteria. We hope this will encourage both men and women, young adults, and second-career individuals to apply for the 2022 cohort and become LPNs by 2023.”

For Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) interested in becoming a Registered Nurse (RN) and pursuing an associate degree in nursing (ADN) or a bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN), Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy maintains an affiliation agreement with Fitchburg State University (FSU) and Worcester State University (WSU) for the LPN to BSN bridge program. Quinsigamond Community College offers an LPN to RN bridge program.

The Bay Path Practical Nursing




Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building

300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 www.council.org. The Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd., Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433.

To apply for August 2022 start, contact PN Secretary Ruth “DeeDee” Betz, ASN, LPN by calling 508-248-

5971, ext. 1674 or emailing RBetz@baypath.net.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge Villager 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.net 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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Cornerstone Bank awards college scholarships to local graduates

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is proud to announce the 16 recipients of their scholarship awards program for local high school graduates. Each chosen graduate is awarded \$2,000 to assist with college expenses.

“Cornerstone Bank is honored to help high school graduates throughout the community pursue higher education in the fields of business and finance,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “It’s important to us that we can support students throughout our community in reaching their goals; we are excited to see what their futures hold.”

This is the list of the 2021 scholarship recipients along with the name of the school they plan to attend in the fall:

- Daniel Bowen of Spencer, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Sydney DiMarzio of Ware, University of Connecticut
- Colin Drake of Charlton, Bryant University
- Jacqueline Dugay of Ware, Washington and Lee University
- Madison Dungey of Sturbridge, Franklin Pierce University
- Calvin Fullerton of Charlton, Penn State University
- Kyle LeBlanc of Charlton, West Virginia University
- Matthew Majersky of Holden, Stonehill College
- Ainsley Maus of Brookfield, The George Washington University
- Gabriela Piwowarczyk of Webster, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Michael Romano of Rutland, Florida International University
- Darian Shepherd of West Brookfield, Johnson & Wales University
- Miles Sullivan of Westminster, Fitchburg State University
- Joseph Szela of Oxford, Bentley University

University

- Rebecca Turley of Fiskdale, The George Washington University
- Isabella Vangos of Auburn, Bentley University

“It is with pride that we award the achievements of these 16 students who excelled academically as well as in extracurricular activities and community involvement,” said Tallman. “We wish them continued success in the next chapter of their educations.”

To be considered for a scholarship, each student had to:

- Be a 2021 high school graduate
- Anticipate being a full-time student at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education
- Anticipate studying in a business or financial field
- Demonstrate achievement and high standards in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement
- Submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office
- Submit a one-page essay

Learn more about the Cornerstone Bank scholarship recipients here: www.cornerstonebank.com/2021-scholarship-recipients/

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred

Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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- Collection of taxes and other revenue. Daily deposit reconciliation.
- Management of tax title accounts, consisting of processing payments, communicating with property owners, lien-holders, Tax Title Legal Counsel and preparation of legal documents.
- Monthly bank account and budget reconciliations.
- Accounts receivables and issuance of 1099’s annually as required.
- Respond to inquiries from the public or other Town departments as necessary offering assistance when possible, or making referral to the appropriate person or department.

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municipal experience or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience preferred.

- Background in bookkeeping, banking or cash reconciliation.
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A full job description can be found at www.brimfieldma.org under Board of Selectmen. Interested individuals are asked to apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Treasurer-Collector, Town of Brimfield, P.O. Box 30, Brimfield, MA 01010, or to Treasurer-Collector@brimfieldma.org. Position will remain open until qualified candidate is chosen. **Posted 8/5/2021.** The town of Brimfield is an equal Opportunity provider and employer.

Sharon Ashleigh, Treasurer-Collector

QCC highlights high demand careers at virtual community event

WORCESTER — More than 20 community leaders learned what the most in demand careers were and how Quinsigamond Community College was there to support their organizations and their constituents. At a recent virtual community event, QCC staff highlighted some of the top healthcare, manufacturing and information technology (IT) careers and the programs that QCC offers in these areas.

“It is imperative we offer the tools and information to best advise our community organizations on what types of high demand careers are available, and how to get them trained as quickly and efficiently as possible,” said Director of Community Engagement, Déborah L. González, Ph.D. “QCC’s focus is on providing the practical skills that can help students improve their skill sets, find employment, and embark

on a career path.” During a virtual presentation by the College, representatives from QCC’s Workforce Development and Continuing Education (CWDCE), as well QCC’s Admissions office discussed the pathways students can take to a better career and future.

CWDCE Program Manager Kathleen O’Connor addressed the variety of free programs that the College offers through the Snap to Work Program for those who meet the eligibility requirements, as well as the free programs offered through grant funding. She noted that these programs offer wraparound services and some offer free textbooks, assistance with transportation, childcare, some pay hourly stipends and some grant programs offer job placements.

El Buen Samaritano Food Program, Inc. Director of Operations Maricelis (Mari) Gonzalez said she feels the Snap to Work program opportunities would be very beneficial for her constituents, many of whom are receiving Snap benefits, while they look for employment.

“I do come across volunteers that in order to get Snap benefits, they have to commit to 20 hours (of volunteer work). I’m thinking instead of doing this, let’s get them into a certificate program,” Ms. Gonzalez said. “Look what we have in our own backyard. We have these free programs that can help people get to the next level ...I know QCC will get them to that next level.”

Today, healthcare and social assistance are the largest employment sector (20.3 percent), with a wide spectrum of entry-level jobs and wage earning potential and multiple occupational pathways. In demand careers include CNAs, LPNs, RNs, Pharmacy Technicians and Direct Care Workers.

The Advanced Manufacturing sector also has a large need for workers such as CNC Machinists, Quality Control Technician and Production Workers. At QCC, students can use a variety of short-term educational pathways to begin a career in advanced manufacturing.

Many of the CWDCE programs are quick turnaround programs that are low-cost and enable students to enter the workforce immediately, or continue in a credit-based certificate or degree program. The CWDCE also offers subscription-based, all-you-can-learn online modules that enable students to access over 500 unique online courses in Advanced Manufacturing or Microsoft 365. These training modules can be accessed from 30, 60, 90, 180, 365 days of unlimited use for a set rate.

“Students are in charge of their own learning pathway,” Ms. O’Connor said.

Professional and Technical Services careers also top the list with a current need for occupations such as Software/Web Developer, Cyber Security and Biomanufacturing Technicians.

A variety of CWDCE programs include IT career pathways. Students to take 18-week courses to become front-end software developers or back-end software developers, as well a five-week Google IT Help Technician Certificate program. Additionally, for those students who wish to continue their education after a non-credit program, they can meet with QCC’s Career Services and Credit for Prior Learning to learn how to get credit for their work.

QCC recognized the need to offer programs in Spanish and the CWDCE designed a Personal Care Homemaker Training program for students in both English and Spanish models. Students are eligible to work with an agency and they can choose to be paired with someone who is English or Spanish speaking.

QCC’s Associate Director of Admissions, Denise Haile, Ed.D. addressed the credit options available, highlighting the 120 degree and certificate programs, many of which are in the high demand, high pay areas of healthcare, manufacturing and IT. Examples of programs include Emergency Medical Assistant Certificate, Computer Systems Engineering Technology-Help Desk Technician Certificate to Associate degrees such as Manufacturing Technology-Applied Manufacturing Option.

Preparing students from employment is a key element in both credit and non-credit programs. From resume and cover letter workshops, to mock interview sessions, workplace and “dress for success” sessions, QCC ensures students are thoroughly prepared to enter the workforce.

Enrollment is currently underway for the Fall semester. Courses for credit and non-credit programs are available, days, nights, weekends and online. Visit www.QCC.edu/admissions to learn more.

Informational community events will continue to be held throughout the year with the next event set for September 29. The event will focus on student success resources.

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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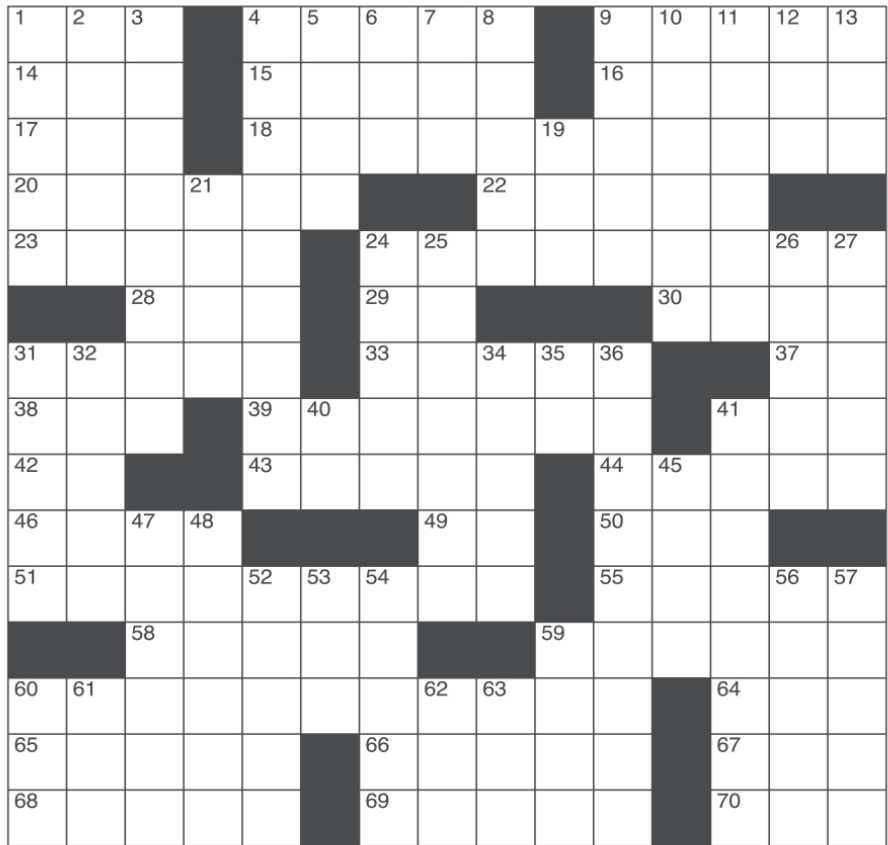
WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

— REAL ESTATE —

BRIMFIELD
\$364,000, 44 Little Alum Rd, Seymour, Herbert F, and Seymour, Kristi L, to Poirier, Katherine E, and Giebel, Kelly V.
\$190,000, 29 Prospect Hill Rd, Labonte, Raymond F, and Labonte, Phattiya, to Labonte, Shaina R, and Newton, Timothy.

HOLLAND
\$260,000, 23 Cherokee Rd, Maple Ledge Assoc Inc, to Ohara, Mollie, and Rathburn, Joshua.
\$205,000, 122 Old County Rd, Doyle, Patrick R, to Prescott, Hannah M.

STURBRIDGE
\$1,500,000, 367 Main St, Karikan Sturbridge Owner, to NMR Realty LLC.
\$1,200,000, 171 Charlton Rd, Penney Realty LLC, to Steerage Rock Prop LLC.
\$550,000, 14 Woodlawn Dr, Eleanor K Flynn IRT, and Flynn, Daniel B, to Gonzalez-Salinas, Santiag, and Ryan, Melanie M.
\$370,000, 134 Cedar St, Coleman, Ronald J, and Coleman, Michael T, to Dunnigan, Ian P, and Dunnigan, Rebecca R.
\$360,000, 8 Laflamme Ln, Grenier, Wayne, and Grenier, Carol, to Camas, Amaryllis J, and Leiva, Marta I.
\$180,000, 130 Mashapaug Rd, Renaud, Robert J, to Liu, Yuee.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Calls balls and strikes

4. Turkish officer

9. Repaired shoe

14. Grass genus

15. Small, sealed vial

16. Primp

17. Immoral act

18. A tool to communicate

20. Crumbles away

22. Egg-like

23. Districts (abbr.)

24. Dressed

28. Small island (British)

29. Dialect of Chinese

30. Force unit

31. Borderlines

33. Norse gods

37. Morning

38. Fiddler crabs

39. Tell a story
41. Consumed

42. Atomic #58

43. About old Norse poems

44. Fencing swords

46. One-time Tigers third baseman

49. Southpaw (abbr.)

50. Neither

51. Conversations

55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation

58. Cyprinids

59. Appropriate to a festival

60. Pearl Jam frontman

64. Wrath

65. Italian city

66. A way to get there

67. A nose or snout

68. German seaport

69. A horse for riding

70. Airline representative (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Unhappy

2. Silk fabric

3. Unbroken view of a region

4. Middle Eastern territory

5. __ and Andy, TV show

6. Central processing unit

7. Department of Housing and Urban Development

8. Midcentury newspaper columnist

9. Weapon

10. Delivered a speech

11. Probably going to happen

12. Midway between northeast and east

13. Danish krone

19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)

21. Fall slowly in drops

24. Bestow an honor upon

25. Childishly silly

26. Related on the mother’s side

27. Populations of related plants
31. Coherent

32. Tribe of ancient Britons

34. Financial firm Goldman __

35. Stephen King thriller

36. Went in again

40. Commercial

41. Poking holes in the ground

45. Prisoners of war

47. Pursued pleasure

48. “Seinfeld” character

52. Body of water

53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)

54. People who utilize

56. Nostrils

57. Inner mass of some fungi

59. Honor lavishly

60. Midway between east and southeast

61. Turn down

62. Small round mark

63. Expected at a certain time

PUZZLE SOLUTION

V	S	G		D	E	E	L	S		N	E	D	M	E
B	E	N		E	L	U	O	R		V	N	E	I	S
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Beaupre named associate dean at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Mauri Peltó, PhD, vice president for academic affairs at Nichols College, has announced the appointment of Jean Beaupre, EdD, to associate dean for academic affairs.

Beaupre, associate professor of communication and marketing, has been at Nichols for 10 years and has held several administrative and leadership positions. She is program chair for the BA in communications and has been and will continue to be involved in initiatives for women on campus as well as with the business community.

"Nichols already provides such a strong, comprehensive academic experience for our students. I'm looking forward to being a part of the leadership team and contributing to our next exciting chapter," said Beaupre.

Prior to joining the Nichols faculty, Beaupre was a strategist/client services manager in the advertising agency industry for 20 years.

She co-founded Smith & Jones Advertising/Marketing Agency, which served several industries, including consumer packaged goods, high tech, B2B, and higher education. She has served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce of Central Mass. South, the AdClub of Greater Worcester, and the United Way.

Beaupre earned a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Northeastern University and is a resident of Thompson, Conn.

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an



Jean Beaupre

experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols offers master's degrees in business,

leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

Suzanne Geary Nagle Foundation announces \$6,000 in scholarships awarded to high school seniors

REGION — It is with great pleasure that the Suzanne Geary Nagle Educational Foundation announces the scholarship recipients for the 2021 academic year.

From Quaboag Regional High, Sadie Bridges, an able and capable student, is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Bridges finished first in her class with a long list of student involvement, including National Honor Society, theater, co-founder of the student Environmental Club, plus many other activities. This fall, she will be attending the University of Vermont studying neurosciences. We have no doubt that she will excel in all she does.

North Brookfield has chosen Summer Simpson as their 2021 SGN Foundation awardee of a \$1,000 scholarship. A good student, Simpson will be going to Northern Vermont University to study biology and animal sciences.

From Tantasqua Regional High School, Ethan Kenyon was in the last in Suzanne Nagle's last class at Brookfield Elementary School. The \$1,000 award should help Kenyon with the expenses. He will be attending Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., pursuing a major in Physical Therapy. His love of all sports fostered his intended major. As a good academic student at Tantasqua, Kenyon will do very well as a physical therapist. Best wishes.

From Cleveland High, the Foundation is pleased to award Jacob

Dulmaine another \$1,000 scholarship. Graduating with high honors, Dulmaine was in the high school band for six years. He was recently inducted into the Order of Eagle Scouts. Dulmaine, very active in his church, participated in several trips to rural areas to help where needed. He will be attending the University of North Carolina to study computer sciences.

Another graduate of Brookfield Elementary and Tantasqua High School the Foundation has given a \$1,000 scholarship to is Lauren Glennon. Her list of accomplishments is impressive. National Honor Society, Student Council, lifeguard at an area school for challenged students and many other achievements have demonstrated that she is exceptional. She recently "soloed" and earned her pilot's license. She will be attending the University of North Dakota to study Aeronautical Science. Continue to fly high!

Finally, a \$1,000 grant was given to the needs based academic fund at St. Joseph Regional High in Montvale, N.J. in gratitude for their academic excellence provided to students over the past 55 years.

For more than five years, it has been a great honor of the Suzanne Geary Nagle Educational Foundation to provide scholarships to worthy students, a sponsor of a lunch program for needy kids and their parents, training for emergency situations and several community projects.

Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Anselm

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, which included Patrick O. Sorensen of Sturbridge.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. A total of 573 students representing 24 states received this honor.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2021

semester at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire.

About Saint Anselm College

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.

Local students inducted into International Honor Society for Business, Management and Administration

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Local Saint Anselm College student Patrick Sorensen of Sturbridge has been accepted into the Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society for Business, Management and Administration for the 2020-2021 academic year.

To be eligible for induction business students must rank in the top 20% of their junior or senior class and must be invited by their chapter's faculty officers.

Sigma Beta Delta, founded in 1994 in Williamsburg, Virginia, aims to promote scholarship and recognize and reward scholastic achievement in business subjects. The

Saint Anselm College chapter was installed in 2015.

About Saint Anselm College

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

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EDITORIAL

Helicopter parenting a college student

Gone are the days when your child would head off to college to only place a collect call home once a week, or perhaps would send a letter once a month. In those days, our parents had no idea what we were doing on a daily basis, who we were with or where we were at. They had no idea what test scores were coming in or what we had for dinner.

In current times, college students are in instant, constant contact with their parents and we're not so sure that's a good thing. Sure, it's nice to keep in touch but at what cost to your child? Do we really need to know about every fleeting moment of our child's lives? Naturally, we want to protect our children and keep them safe, but this is not the way to do it. Teach them the skills to protect themselves long before they fill out that college application.

To make things worse, most universities now have Facebook pages for parents. While this can be a great resource, it is also a breeding ground for parents to enable other parents, to enable their children, to lack independence and the skills to be resourceful.

Way back when, children had to be home by dark. In today's world, you have parents posting questions on parent's pages on whether or not to use Tide Pods in the washers at school. Why not let your child head off to the laundry mat at school, with a Tide Pod and figure it out for themselves? Other questions are often posed in regard to the furniture in dorm rooms, where parents are asking other parents for pictures so they can better prepare their student prior to moving in. Window sizes, storage space under the bed, outlets, you name it, it's been asked. Again, why not let your college student figure these things out for themselves along with their roommates? They are not in middle school anymore and can very well handle figuring out what they need on their own. If they ask for your help, then of course step in.

Point blank, parents are asking questions on behalf of their children. If a student has a question about parking, or a class or something in regard to move in day, teach them to pick up the phone and call the appropriate person, you know, like an adult would do.

While we think parent to parent support is a great resource, it has gone too far. Parents are posting pictures of their child in their dorm rooms as if it is their first day of Kindergarten. We know that parents are proud, as they should be, but wouldn't those pictures be better suited for a private page for friends and family to see, instead of potentially embarrassing your child?

If a student is having an issue with a roommate, parents are leaning on these pages to sort it out, asking for advice on how to handle it. Why not just tell your student, how to handle it themselves? It is natural for parents to want to swoop in and save the day and fix everything, but in doing so you are creating a way for your young adult to not be self-sufficient. Common sense tells us, that if your student is having a roommate issue, they need to talk to their hall director.

Parents have asked questions such as 'What winter jackets are boys wearing this year?' 'Does my child need an umbrella?' 'Does anyone do grocery delivery?' 'Where can my son sign up for activities?' These appear to us to be a bit over the top.

Trust in your parenting and trust in your child to take care of their own needs. When parents hover, it can have adverse effects. This doesn't mean parents can't be involved or shouldn't be involved in some way.

When helicopter parents overparent, they are sending the message to their student that they cannot do these simple things on their own. A survey of 450 students with helicopter parents, discovered that these individuals lacked the confidence in thinking they could accomplish their own goals in the workplace. As a result, they were more dependent on others and had difficulty coping which led to an increase in anxiety and panic attacks when put under pressure. You will not be around forever, and your child is capable of handling things on their own. The purpose of child rearing is to teach them how to navigate the world on their own, so they can live the best quality of life possible.

The solution is to have a conversation with your child, and ask them how they want you to be involved and how and when you can support them.

OPINION

Views and commentary from Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

August is National Peach Month

Here in New England, late summer is celebrated with the long awaited peach crop. Native peaches are offered up by area orchards, local farmers markets and roadside stands. In recognition of the refreshing, ever so sweet, summertime peach, August has been deemed National Peach Month. Read on for some “peachy” information on peaches!



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Peachy Salsa
This Salsa balances sweet and hot, for a versatile topping that's sure to be a crowd pleaser:

Ingredients: one pound peaches, (about three medium); one tablespoon lemon juice; two ripe tomatoes; six large green onions; one tablespoon canned jalapeno peppers, chopped; 12 tablespoons good quality olive oil; six tablespoon sherry vinegar; two tablespoon honey

Instructions: Dip peaches into boiling water and then peel the skins. Cut peaches into thin strips, throw away pits.. Toss with lemon juice. Dip tomatoes into boiling water; then peel and seed them. Cut into medium julienne strips. Combine peaches and tomatoes. Add onions and peppers. Whisk together oil, vinegar and honey. Pour over other ingredients. Refrigerate.

Peach Cobbler
Just like grandma used to make!

Ingredients: eight cups fresh peaches, sliced and peeled; two cups sugar; one quarter cup flour; half teaspoon ground cinnamon; quarter teaspoon ground nutmeg; one third cup butter, melted. Pastry for double-crust pie.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 475°F. Combine the peaches, sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg in a Dutch oven. Allow to set until sugar is dissolved and a syrup forms. Over medium heat, bring the peach mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to low and cook until tender; about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in melted butter. Set aside and keep warm. Roll out half the pastry as for a pie, but cut it into an 8-inch square. Spoon half the peach mixture into a lightly buttered 8-inch square Pyrex dish. Cover with the pastry square. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and spoon remaining peach mixture over the baked pastry. Roll out the remaining pastry, and cut into strips about an inch wide. Arrange strips in a loose lattice weave over the peach mixture. Sprinkle lightly with granulated sugar, if desired. Bake an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until browned.

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.

Why are you the way you are?

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

I've always wondered why people are the way they are. Why is one person happy, and motivated, and why is another depressed, and unmotivated?

There are many factors—genetics, upbringing, and environment. A specific event or a chain of events may have happened to cause a person to be a certain way.

Most of us probably know someone living with addiction. A person with an addiction is unable to abstain from their addiction. It's their priority, their obsession, the primary part of their daily activity. They find it incredibly difficult to stop.

Some addictions are less severe and are debatable as to how harmful they are. A Mormon friend I knew refused to walk into a coffee house with me, “that place is a den of iniquity,” he said!

Maybe he's right! I'm strung out on coffee all day long!

I remember being surprised to learn that gambling is an addiction. I didn't understand why. I thought substances like alcohol, nicotine, drugs, or caffeine cause addictions. It turns out that chronic gamblers are addicted to the rush they

feel when they roll the dice. What causes that rush? The simple answer is their brain.

They've programmed themselves to become addicted to a neurochemical cocktail that causes them to feel the gamblers rush.

What is a feeling? A feeling is produced by a neurochemical or a blend of neurochemicals called peptides.

What causes the peptides to be produced by the brain? Generally speaking, it's the thoughts you think. Every thought produces a peptide or a blend of peptides which cause you to have feelings.

Feelings are the byproduct of a chemical reaction that starts with a single thought.

In the book “Evolve your Brain,” Joe Dispenza says, “Conscious thoughts, repeated often enough, become unconscious thinking.”

Most people meditate on the same thought patterns for so long they program their brain to produce a blend of peptides unconsciously without even thinking about it, these peptides cause them to feel a certain way.

Even when a pattern of thinking causes a person pain, it's difficult for them to change; oftentimes it's because they

Review your IRA, 401(k) beneficiaries



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JEFF
BURDICK

If you've had an IRA and a 401(k) for many years, you may occasionally ask yourself some questions: “Am I contributing enough?” “Am I still funding these accounts with the right mix of investments for my goals and risk tolerance?” But here's one inquiry you might be overlooking: “Have I used the correct beneficiary designations?” And the answer you get is important.

It wouldn't be surprising if you haven't thought much about the beneficiary designation – after all, it was just something you once signed, possibly a long time ago. Is it really that big a deal?

It could be. For one thing, what if your family circumstances have changed since you named a beneficiary? If you've remarried, you may not want your former spouse to receive your IRA and 401(k) assets or the proceeds of your life insurance policy, for which you also named a beneficiary.

However, upon remarrying, many people do review their estate plans, including their wills, living trusts, durable powers of attorney and health care directives. If you've revised these documents, do you have to worry about the old beneficiary designations? You might be surprised to learn that these previous designations can supersede what's in your updated will and other documents. The end result could be an “accidental” inheritance in which your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone who is no longer in your life. Furthermore, your retirement plans and insurance policy may not just require a single beneficiary – you may also be asked to name a contingent beneficiary, to whom assets will pass if the primary beneficiary has already died. As you can imagine, the situation could become quite muddled if stepchildren are involved in a remarriage.

To avoid these potential problems, make sure to review the beneficiary designations on all of your accounts at some point – and especially after a significant change in your family situation. If you see something that is outdated or incorrect, contact your retirement account administrator – or your insurance representative, in the case of life insurance – to request a change-of-beneficiary form. And if you really want to be on the safe side, you may want to enlist a legal professional to help you with this review to make sure the beneficiary designations reflect your current family situation and are consistent with what's in your estate plans.

In fact, if you're already working with an experienced estate planning attorney – and you should – you might also pick up some other suggestions for dealing with beneficiaries. Just to name one, it's generally not a good idea to name minor children as beneficiaries. Because children can't control the assets until they become adults, a court would likely have to name a guardian – one that you might not have wanted. Instead, you could either name your own custodian to manage the assets designated to the minor or establish a trust for the benefit of the minor, which can distribute the money in several disbursements over a period of years – which is often a good move, since young adults aren't always the best at managing large lump sums.

If you're like many people, you have a strong desire to leave something behind. But you'll want to do it in the right way. So, pay close attention to your beneficiary designations – when you first create them and throughout your life.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

All We Know Is Local



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Tuna fishing is red hot

Tuna fishing was red hot last week, with numerous reports of successful anglers landing some giants. This past weekend Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge landed a 500-pound tuna aboard the Fire Escape Charters

with Captain Mark Pettit. This week's picture shows Matt Fontaine with the huge tuna that was landed, with a team effort of the three anglers on board. Nice fish!

False Albacore should be arriving soon on coastal waters. Catching one of these fish on light spinning rods on fly's is exciting and are targeted by many anglers. One of my favorite spots is the outer West Wall in Point Judith, R.I. Mel True of Fish Net Charters has had his clients catching 30 to 40 lb. stripers on almost every trip. They were using eels. Unfortunately, most fish had to be released because of the slot size.

Seabass are still being caught in Rhode Island, but the limit still remains at three fish daily. Anglers are still picking through a lot of short fluke in Rhode Island, and some anglers do manage to keep a couple 19 inch-plus fluke during a full day on the water. Many released fluke do not survive after being released, but no one seems to be concerned.

Feeding songbirds is not recommended at this time, as most residents have heard about the rare disease that is killing them in the Mid-Atlantic states. Some birds have also been found dead in Mass. but may or may not be linked to the Mid-Atlantic states. This past week, some ducks near or in Boston, are also dying from an unknown source. Numerous fish kills were reported along some of the saltwater beaches, from some mysterious infection.

Bear and bobcat sightings are on the rise locally! Reports from various residents of the valley, are

increasing weekly on these two newest resident animals. They do not pose a danger to residents, but small dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam freely. Coyotes & Fisher cats also pose a threat to unattended dog and cats, and their species are also growing locally. Deer and turkey sightings are reported daily with a good number of them surviving the wet spring and summer months. Wildlife in the valley continues to grow annually, which is good news for sportsmen.

During the pandemic, many people were forced to work from home. Many families purchased a pet for themselves, or their family members, and many have become attached to their new family members, realizing the joy and company that a pet brings to them. A recent letter from my Veterinarian for their old and new pet owners to be patient with their services, due to the sharp rise in veterinarian's business.

You can now go online to find out the status of your doe permit from the Mass. Fish & Wildlife Web site. Log on to the Massfishhunt site, and you will be able to check your permit status. If you did win an antlerless deer permit you will need to pay a \$5 fee using your credit card or debit card. The extra permits in Zones 9-10-11-13 and 14 that are not purchased in numerous zones, will go on sale on in late September. Next year, if passed, all permits and stamps will slowly increase annually to \$6 in 2022 to \$30 IN 2026.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Antique, collectibles, and auction news



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE
TUISKULA

There's been plenty of noteworthy antiques, collectibles, and auction news since I last covered the latest news well over a month ago.

Last month, I discussed how prices for some collectibles have exploded recently. The recent sale of a 1996 Super Mario 64 game further highlights this trend. Smithsonian Magazine reports that "Nintendo released 'Super Mario 64' as one of the first games for its Nintendo 64 console in 1996." The games originally sold for about \$60 and Nintendo sold around 12 million copies. According to Smithsonian Magazine, the "Super Mario 64" was the first Mario game to feature three-dimensional environments." The recently sold unopened game graded a near perfect 9.8 out of 10. It set a video game auction record of \$1.56 million, surpassing the previous record for a "Legend of Zelda" cartridge that sold for \$870,000 two days prior.



The most prized card in sports collectibles is being auctioned again. T206 Honus Wagner cards were produced between 1909 and 1911 by American Tobacco Company. Forbes reports that the card "is in extremely limited supply and has been setting price records for more than 80 years, most recently in 2016 at \$3.12 million." Only 60 copies of the Honus Wagner card are known to exist. Some believe Wagner didn't want his name associated with tobacco out of concern that children would start smoking cigarettes. Others say he simply couldn't agree on his compensation with the American Tobacco Company. The previous auction record was for a 1952 Mickey Mantle card which sold for \$5.2 million this past January. The bidding for the Wagner card had reached \$4.8 million as of Sunday, August 8th. When the bidding ends on August 15th,

there could very well be a new sports card auction record.

Closer to home, a 1919 Picasso, Le Tricorne, painting that was recently discovered in a New England closet just sold at auction in Massachusetts. According to MassLive, "Le Tricorne is a framed mixed media work of art on paper that measures 16 by 16 inches." Picasso designed the maquette (preliminary sketch) while working on his larger work of the same name at the New York Historical Society. The unidentified painting owner said the painting belonged to their great aunt. They said that their great aunt studied in England and their grandmother studied in France in the 1920s. Their uncle owned mills in Maine. The owner said, "they were some of the first women to fly to Asia on a trip to buy silk with their uncle," according to MassLive. The

Picasso and several other paintings had been stored in a closet for over 50 years. The painting sold for \$150,000. Be sure not to brush things over when cleaning out your closets.

Bidding is underway for our online sports memorabilia auction featuring a Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig signed baseball, Mickey Mantle rookie card, and Tom Brady autographed rookie card. We are currently cataloging a Webster estate auction with Corvettes, vintage boat motors, boats and many other items. We will also soon be finishing the cataloging of another online model railroad and die-cast car auction. Our virtual appraisal day for the Townsend Historical Society will be on November 13th. Registration is underway for my November 10th "Evaluating your Antiques" class at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer / Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

MOORE

continued from page A8

are addicted to their emotions. This is a major reason most people find changing their thought patterns impossibly difficult.

I spent many years taking acting classes. The method of acting I studied taught me that I should never act, instead I should authentically feel what my character is supposed to feel. Rather than pretend to cry, I was taught to find a way to truly cry. It's not easy for me to cry during a performance, but I've done it a few times on stage, and for the camera. The way I do it is by thinking thoughts that make me cry; sad thoughts, depressing thoughts.

Good actors are living proof that changing your thoughts will change your feelings.

A good question to ask yourself is, "Where have my thoughts led me?" Thoughts are like the steering wheel of

a car, they are steering your destiny. Have your thoughts led you to feel emotions that keep you from the life you really want?

We've been taught from an early age that drug and alcohol addictions will ruin your life; is it possible to be addicted to negative emotions?

It is possible to change; at any age. Sometimes it helps to think about what you have rather than what you don't have. The glass half full approach!

Instead of allowing your thoughts to make you feel bad, you can use your thoughts to make you feel good.

Joe Dispenza says "The process of change requires unlearning. It requires breaking the habit of the old self and reinventing a new self."

When you change the way you think, you become a new person. Jesus called this process "Repentance."

If you want to change the way you feel, an excellent place to start is by changing the thoughts that you think.

Harvest and enjoy mint from the garden



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Add a bit of cool flavor to your beverages, meals and desserts this summer with homegrown mint. Try using peppermint leaves in fruit cocktails and ice cream. Add spearmint to your tea or use the leaves to season lamb and jelly. Or try chocolate mint for a unique, sweet and refreshing flavor in desserts and drinks.

Mint is easy to grow and suited to container gardens. In fact, growing it in a pot will help keep this vigorous herb contained. Or sink a container of mint in the garden or plant where surrounding walks and walls will keep it in check. Keep a watchful eye and remove any unwanted plants as they appear.

Grow mint in a full sun to partial shade location with moist, well-drained soil. Mulch the soil to conserve moisture. Though hardy in zones 3 to 11, you will need to provide a bit of winter protection when growing mint in containers in colder regions. Either sink the container in a vacant spot in the garden or move the planter into an unheated garage. Water thoroughly whenever the soil is thawed and dry.

Gardeners lacking outdoor growing space or in areas with cold winters can also grow this herb indoors. Grow mint in a quality well-drained potting mix. Place in a sunny window or under artificial lights and keep the soil evenly moist.

Harvest the mint leaves as needed. Cut leafy stems off the plant just above a healthy leaf or bud so the wound closes faster and the remaining plant will look better. Rinse off the clippings and remove tough stems and bad leaves before adding mint to your favorite beverage or dish.

You'll enjoy the most intense fla-



vor when harvesting mint just before the plants begin to flower. This is the best time to make larger harvests for drying and freezing. Fortunately, you can remove up to 75% of foliage from an established plant. Watch for fresh, new growth and continue to harvest as needed.

Store any extra mint cuttings in a vase of water, loosely cover with a plastic bag and place in the refrigerator.

Consider including mint in your patio, balcony or deck plantings. Keeping it close to the kitchen and outdoor living space will make it easy for you to harvest and use. Plus, your guests will enjoy plucking a few fresh mint leaves to add to their iced tea, mojito, other favorite summer beverage or salad.

Not only does this easy-to-grow herb add flavor, but it also aids digestion. Add a garnish of mint to dress up the dessert plate and calm a queasy stomach. And use it to increase the manganese, vitamin C and vitamin A levels in your diet.

Make this the year you plant, harvest and enjoy some minty fresh flavor straight from the garden.

Melinda Myers has written 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.

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Nichols announces new partnerships for Sports concentration

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College is celebrating new opportunities for students enrolled in their sport sales and strategy concentration as the business school has partnered with two major organizations to offer hands on experience to students including with representative of the the 2021 NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks.

Nichols College has entered a new contract with The Milwaukee Way Sales Academy which offers a training course taught by sales managers of the Bucks. The program will allow students to learn from sales associates who helped contribute to the growth and success of the Bucks organizations including individualized coaching and professional certification from the franchise. Nichols College is also introducing SponsorUnited which gives students access to an aggregate platform focusing on sports sponsorship data used by sports teams across the

globe. The platform will allow students hands on experience researching, buying and selling sponsorships including applying those skills to Nichols' own sporting events. These two opportunities will help participants in one of the college's newest concentrations gain connections and resources to succeed in a growing field in New England.

"Experiential learning is a hallmark of the Nichols education, and our nationally ranked sport management program has progressively raised the bar on offering impactful and distinctive opportunities for our students," said Glenn M. Sulmasy, President of Nichols College said in the press release.

Brittany Jacobs, PhD, chair of college's sport management, added that she is excited to learn from the sales team behind the champion Milwaukee Bucks.

"Working with 2021 NBA champs adds a whole new dimension to the partnership, which already offered a steep value proposition for our

students. It takes their training to a decidedly new level," Jacobs said.

With 260 students enrolled, sport management is the largest major at Nichols College. According to data collected by Hanover Research and released by Nichols College, sales

positions are one of the highest growing professions in the sports industry with sports-related jobs estimated to grow nearly 9 percent in New England alone in the next five years.

How to help students improve their focus on their studies

Teachers strive to create supportive and challenging classroom environments for their students. Such settings can bring out the best in students and help them overcome obstacles, including an inability to focus.

The struggles students can have with focusing on their studies was apparent during the pandemic. A 2020 survey of more than 400 college students found that 64 percent were concerned about their ability to maintain their focus and discipline in remote instructional environments. Though educators, students and parents are hopeful that remote learning will soon be a thing of the past, no one is certain about what lies ahead in regard to the 2021-22 school year. Ideally, students will be back in school time full-time five days per week by the start of the new academic year. However, there's no guarantee that will be the case, and students may need help focusing on their studies.

- Emphasize one activity at a time. Various studies have shown that multitasking adversely affects performance and makes it hard to concentrate. A recent study from researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that performing two or three activities simultaneously puts significantly more demand on the brain than simply doing those tasks one after

another. All students, and especially those who are struggling with focus, should be encouraged to take on one task at a time.

- Take breaks. The Cleveland Clinic notes that various studies have found that periodic breaks improve mood, boost performance and increase a person's ability to concentrate and pay attention. Many students are well acquainted with lengthy cramming sessions on the eve of a big exam, which can feel like a rite of passage for high schoolers and college students. Parents and educators can emphasize the importance of taking breaks during such sessions and how periodic rest can help improve performance.

- Take a piecemeal approach to big tasks. The Child Mind Institute notes that breaking big tasks down into smaller, more manageable pieces can help kids effectively tackle more challenging tasks. The piecemeal approach can make big tasks seem less daunting, and the success kids have at each smaller task can provide some needed momentum as they draw closer to solving the problem.

Many students struggle to focus on their studies. Some simple strategies can help students overcome such challenges and fulfill their academic potential.

Emily Kievra of Holland graduates from University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford congratulates Emily Kievra of Holland for graduating in May of 2021. Kievra was one of nearly 900 undergraduates who celebrated the completion of their degrees this spring.

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OBITUARY

Mary C. Veber, 81

Southbridge- Mary C. (Kennedy) Veber, 81, of Chapin St., passed away on Monday, July 26th, in Southbridge Rehabilitation and Health Center, after an illness.

Her beloved husband of 49 years, Fred E. Veber, Jr. died in 2008; She leaves her four sons, Mark Veber and his wife Pamela of Palmer; daughter-in-law Laura, survivor of husband Paul Veber of Chicopee, Todd Veber and his fiancé Cathy Davis of MO, Glen Veber and his wife Lourdes of Southbridge and Gary Veber and his wife Patricia of Woodstock, CT; her brother, James Kennedy of Southbridge; 16 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and friends. Mary was predeceased by her son, Paul Veber in 2014 and her two sisters, Margaret Maly and Louise Beaupre.

She was born in Southbridge the daughter of James P. and Cecile (Suprenant) Kennedy.

Mary lived in Holland for over



sixty years, making many close friends. She worked at the Public House, as well as Ames department store, babysitting, and was a volunteer at the voting polls in Holland. She and her husband enjoyed trips to Hawaii and the Grand Canyon, as well as camping and playing cards with family and friends. Mary was also a member of the Holland

Senior Center and a devote catholic and member of St. Christopher's Church in Brimfield.

Calling hours for Mary will be on Wednesday, Aug. 25th, in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge from 9:00 am to 11:00 am with the service to follow at 11:00 am. Burial will follow in the Holland Cemetery, Holland.

The family also kindly requests the use of masks.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Holland Senior Center, 40 Brimfield Road, Holland.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

GARDEN CLUB

continued from page A1

At the beginning of the summer, member and Program Chair Karen Ballou instituted "Wednesdays in the Garden,"

bi-monthly informal get-togethers during which attendees are invited to different members' homes to relax, enjoy con-

versation and have an opportunity to explore the hostess's garden.

Throughout the summer, Club members also tended the gardens at the Arts Center in

Southbridge on a rotating basis.

The Club continues to schedule tours to area gardens and parks, including the Gardens at Wickham Park and Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

This year, the Club will hold its annual GreenS Sale, a popular fundraiser that supports scholarships for local students and horticultural beautification efforts on the Arts Center ground and for Southbridge and surrounding towns. In preparation for this event, the Club is sponsoring workshops on wreath making and bow making.

The Southbridge Garden Club will hold its annual meeting in October at Avelino's in Sturbridge.

The Southbridge Garden Club has been serving the Tri-Community area since 1953 and became a member of the Garden Club Federation in Massachusetts in 2003. The Club's mission is to "share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

For more information or for inquiries regarding membership, please contact Barbara Kalber at 508-347-3412, 508-864-6079 or bkalb@aol.com.

CHUCRH AUCTION

continued from page A1

antiques donated by down-sizing church and community members or purchased by auction committee members at local yard sales and flea markets. The items are then lovingly refurbished by volunteers at the Monday Night Auction Socials. These are organized weekly classes that meet every Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. to teach volunteers the arts of caning, rushing, refinishing, and stenciling. The classes were tailored to people of all skill levels, but particularly to the inexperienced who wanted to learn a new old skill.

The Monday Night Auction Social began in 1987 with 18 people in attendance. That first year – the 39th auction – the group met 35 times with 42 volunteers turning out at least once to complete the restoration of 78 items. Since the 51st auction in 2000, the dedicated auction social group has been responsible for generating 92 percent of the revenue for each annual auction through the many antique items they refurbish and restore.

The Arts and Crafts Table

In 1981, Glenna Pearson organized a group to produce some hand-made, original crafts for sale at the auction. Thirty years later, that tradition continues with homemade baked goods and craft items created by members of the Koinonia Women's Group, their friends, and relatives. These include Iris-folding cards, hand-painted canvas totes, stone art work shadow boxes, assorted jewelry items, spool angels, and a Noah's Ark assemblage, gift baskets and a few oil paintings. There is also a silent auction with close to 100 gift certificates solicited by Suzie Schwartz from many generous local businesses in Sturbridge and neighboring towns.

Another popular development over the years has been the addition of an annual dollhouse carefully restored and furnished by Koinonia members. This year's dollhouse is an elegant multi-story design with a removable gabled façade and richly furnished by Janet Ray-Sinianian and Kathy Krikorian.

The auctioneers

In its 71-year history, the auction has had only three auctioneers. Barney Richards was the auctioneer for the first two years. Gordon Reid, best known as the originator of the Brimfield Flea Market, sold thousands of "dollar boxes" over the next 23 years. When Gordon passed in 1974, the auction gavel passed to the Robert H. Glass family of auctioneers, now in their 47th year, with Robert Glass, Jr. and Gwen Glass Carbone swinging the gavel.

The Publick House Connection

The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant, across the Common from the auction, has been a longtime supporter of the annual event. Each year, the Inn offers a certificate for dinner for two to any bidder whose purchases total \$500 or more, and one night of lodging plus dinner for two to any bidder whose purchases total \$1,000 or more. These certificates

COVID

continued from page A1

tive measures at school.

State officials remind parents that the following items are recommendations. Individual school districts have the power to adopt masking policies at their schools.

"This guidance was developed jointly by DESE and DPH, and it outlines recommendations on masking, COVID-19 testing, and quarantine protocols," the joint statement read. "It also includes information on back-to-school vaccine clinics, local vaccine sites, and public awareness materials for families."

This fall, the DESE and DPH strongly recommend that all students in kindergarten through grade six wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs. Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.

Additionally, state officials recommend that the following groups also wear masks when indoors this fall: unvaccinated staff members; unvaccinated students; unvaccinated visitors to schools; and those in certain risk groups.

"Any individual at higher risk for severe disease from COVID, or with a household member who is at high risk, is encouraged to mask regardless of vaccination status," the joint statement read.

The DESE and DPH currently recommend that schools allow vaccinated students to remain unmasked, but guidance is subject to change if conditions worsen.

All districts and schools statewide will be required to operate in-person, full-time, five days a week this year. Students will be returning to classes, sporting events, and other extracurricular programs, but many parents are concerned that the state's recommendations on masking won't be enough to ensure safety. Other parents and students want to keep the masks off for good and believe the risks involving the Delta variant have been overblown.

For state officials, it has been a challenge to navigate changing conditions amid pressure from multiple sources. Officials continue to stress that any student at any level wishing to wear a mask this year should be allowed to do so. There are also several venues where masks are still required for all students and staff, which has added to the confusion and frustration for parents as the first day of school approaches.

will also be available for bidders at the 2021 auction.

The Sturbridge and Publick House Chairs

Artisan Phil Jones' talent and skill are legendary. His ability to reconstruct, replace, or repair parts of an antique to original condition required craftsmanship of the highest order. Jones was the originator of the first Sturbridge Chair in the mid-1960s, a highly-prized limited series offering decorated with a rosewood finish and a lovely Sturbridge scene in bronze powder stenciling. When Jones completed his last Sturbridge chair in 1995, legend says he burned his stencils so he couldn't be cajoled into producing another the following year.

Not to be outdone, Brian Rhea took over creation of the Sturbridge chair with a new set of stencils the following year and has been producing them ever since. Due to the pandemic-related cancellation of last year's auction, two chairs will be up for sale in 2021. This year's chairs are numbers 27 and 28 in the Rhea series.

Meanwhile, Tim Bardsley introduced the equally collectible Publick House Chair in the early 1980s and has created a new addition to the series annually. This year's chairs are numbers 50 and 51 in the Bardsley series.

How auction proceeds are put to use

It is estimated that more than \$750,000.00 has been generated by the Sturbridge Federated Church Auction across the years. Funds from the auction have always been used for capital projects, never to pay a salary or an expense items. The projects that the auction has supported are legion. Projects like helping to pay off the addition of the Haynes Chapel, paying off the Maple Street handicapped access addition and elevator; and paying in full for the church's new boiler system. The top three revenue-producing auctions were the 70th, the 60th, and the 50th.

The committee presenting the 71st and final auction includes co-chairs Tim Bardsley and Ken Benson, and members Bob Cordell, Brian Rhea, Ray Simpson, and Ron Steitzel.

"One consistent element throughout the auction's seventy-one years has been the involvement of literally hundreds of volunteers and the tremendous support and encouragement from numerous community organizations, small businesses and loyal bidders from around the country," says Bardsley.

"At the risk of missing even one of the many, many important contributors to this auction across the years, we'd like to simply acknowledge and thank everyone who has played a part in making the Sturbridge Federated Church Auction a tremendous and lasting success. It has truly been a monumental effort with hundreds of moving parts that could not have been accomplished without the active engagement of our community."

"We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, Aug. 14 for the final hurrah," Bardsley said. "We thank the Lord for his many blessings!"

"By federal public health order; all students and staff are required to wear masks on school buses at this time. Also, all staff and students must wear masks while in school health offices," the joint statement read.

In other COVID-19 recommendations, the DESE and DPH continue to encourage schools to maintain ventilation upgrades; continue hand hygiene practices; and extend policies for students and staff members to stay home when sick.

The DESE's COVID-19 help center remains open and available for consultation with districts and schools.

"The DESE and DPH will continue to consult with medical advisors and may update the masking requirements as we learn more about COVID-19's effects on hospitalizations in Massachusetts and on children," the joint statement read.

Districts and schools are also encouraged to maintain a plan for COVID-19 testing in schools, including both diagnostic testing and pooled testing for students and staff. The DESE and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services will continue to offer these services at no cost to districts.


"Diagnostic testing, such as the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test, is an important tool for use in testing asymptomatic close contacts," the joint statement read. "Diagnostic testing is especially important this year, as we head into cold and flu season. Districts are strongly encouraged to sign up for the statewide COVID-19 testing program as soon as it becomes available."

Last week, the nation averaged over 100,000 new daily COVID-19 cases. Hospitalizations and deaths are also up significantly since June.

Officials remind residents that more than 900 vaccination sites are available across the state. Most of these sites accept walk-in appointments, including CVS and Walgreens pharmacies, pediatric primary care offices, and community health centers. The COVID-19 vaccine is free for all, and no ID or insurance is needed to obtain the vaccine.

"We continue to urge all school personnel to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and their school community. We appreciate your assistance to keep all of our students, faculty, staff, and volunteers safe and healthy," the joint statement read.

For more information about the vaccine and locations, visit www.mass.gov/covidvaccine.




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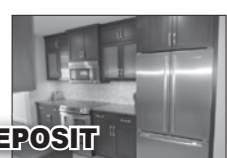
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How school shopping has changed in the pandemic era

Back-to-school shopping sales have long been indicators that the summer vacation season is coming to a close. Students and their parents may visit area stores or browse online looking for items to make the coming school year a success. Those lists have looked similar for decades, but shopping for school supplies in the pandemic era may prove to be a unique experience.

Though hundreds of millions of adults and adolescents have now been vaccinated against COVID-19, there figures to be some lingering effects of the pandemic during the upcoming school year. That could affect which school supplies families buy in the weeks to come. Here's a look at some of the latest trends.

- A shift from physical stores: According to data from IBM's U.S. Retail Index, the pandemic has accelerated a shift away from physical stores to digital shopping by about five years. It's likely that school shoppers will turn to the internet for their supplies, which means local brick and mortar shops should increase their web presence and digital shopping capabilities to reach online shoppers. This includes omnichannel fulfillment, such as buy online and pickup in store (BOPIS) options.
- Reassessment of what's essential:



The pandemic may have changed which items consumers consider essential. For example, clothing became less significant as a greater number of students were enrolled in virtual learning. Back-to-school shoppers may purchase less clothing and focus more on tech items, among others.

• Traditional supplies become less necessary: In 2020, Deloitte forecasted that a shift in preferences and intentions would result in parents buying fewer traditional supplies, such as notebooks and office supplies, as they chose to invest in digital resources to supplement children's education. That shift likely will continue into this school year.

• Support for local retailers: Community spirit grew in the early days of the pandemic and continues

now. Many people prefer to shop in locally owned stores. Eighty percent of customers surveyed feel more or as connected to their communities, according to the business industry consultant company Accenture.

• Customers are trying new brands and products: Shoppers are trying new products out of curiosity as well

as necessity. Back-to-school shopping may include novel brands and other items that may not have been readily purchased in years past.

Back-to-school shopping may continue to look a bit different than in previous years, spawning trends that may ultimately become the new normal.

Friday's Child



Jayven
Age 14

Hi! My name is Jayven and I like to play board games and football!

Jayven is an inquisitive boy of African-American and Hispanic descent. He loves board games and is always happy to play one, either with his friends or with an adult. Jayven also likes to be outside, and his favorite outdoor activity is playing football, which he is currently doing with Pop Warner Football. Jayven likes playing football so much that when he grows up, he would like to play for the NFL. Just in case he isn't drafted, though, he is also considering careers as a detective or as a piano teacher. Jayven is currently doing well in school.

Legally freed for adoption, Jayven is looking for a loving and patient family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home. Jayven is very close with his younger brother and has expressed a desire to be a role model for him. An ideal family for Jayven will be open to helping him maintain this relationship.

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Design ideas to give your home a farmhouse feel

Farmhouse style homes are having a moment. A 2020 survey from Homes.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsman, mid-century modern ranch, French chateau, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 42 of the 50 states indicated this simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home renovation projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on



their homes, and such projects can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse design elements homeowners can consider as they look to transform their home interiors with this popular

style in mind.

- **Exposed beams:** Exposed beams instantly evoke images of a farmhouse. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that this rustic renovation project can utilize real wood or faux beams that look like the real thing. Decorative beams that have nothing to do with a home's structural integrity can be installed by skilled do-it-yourselfers. However, even faux beams are heavy, and BobVila.com recommends homeowners have an engineer assess their existing structure prior to installation.

- **Distressed wood finishes:** Distressing is designed to make something look less than perfect. Distressed wood finishes can be found throughout many farmhouse style homes.

Furniture and picture frames can provide the distressed look farmhouse fans are looking for. This is a relatively inexpensive project that many homeowners can tackle on their own after watching some online tutorials that recommend the right tools and techniques to get the job done right.

- **Kitchen sink:** Many components combine to create a truly classic farmhouse kitchen. But perhaps no component is more essential than the classic farmhouse sink. The renovation experts at HGTV note that a classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin. Farmhouse sinks are large enough to handle all the dishes that come after a big family meal. Old-fashioned porcelain sinks are worth consideration by homeowners

who want their kitchen sinks to evoke a traditional farmhouse feel.

- **Countertops:** HGTV recommends butcher block countertops for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Homeowners overhauling their kitchens to create a farmhouse feel should consider installing a large island with a walnut butcher block countertop for an authentic farmhouse feel.

Farmhouse style homes are wildly popular. Some simple renovations can help homeowners with a fondness for farmhouse style bring this classic look into their homes.



Courtesy

QUINTESSENTIAL BRASS TO PERFORM IN SOUTHBRIDGE

On Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m., Quintessential Brass will be at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge performing classics by John Williams, John Phillip Sousa, Paul Dukas and Nicholas Rimsky-Korsakov, and the timeless hits of Henry Mancini, Bruno Mars, the Monkees, Tijuana Brass, Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, Britney Spears, ABBA, and, as always, music from movies, TV, Broadway and the Big Band Era. Quintessential Brass takes the role of the brass quintet to the limit and beyond. Programs are selected to entertain audiences of all ages. This brass quintet consists of five full-time professional musicians who have, individually, performed with groups all over the world, recorded CDs and movie soundtracks, performed for Presidents, and at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Quintessential Brass has recorded two CDs: "Miscellanea" and "A Quintessential Christmas." Pictured are Mike Peipman, trumpet; Adam Mejaour, trumpet; Robin Milinazzo, horn; David Lindsey, trombone; and Leslie Havens, bass trombone & tuba. This concert is supported in part by the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

What to know before planting around your property

When planning a landscape, it's tempting to pick the most colorful, vibrant plants. An eye-popping property filled with yellows, purples, pinks, and other bold colors is sure to catch anyone's eye. However, the right plant for a property is not always the most colorful.

Gardening novices can easily be overwhelmed on a trip to their local garden center, where employees may ask a host of questions that have little to do with homeowners' preferences and everything to do with the growing conditions around their properties. Those questions may seem a little intense, but they're well-intentioned. Successful gardening is more about soil conditions and access to sunlight than it is about the plants themselves. An awe-inspiring hydrangea bush will only impress if it's planted in a location where it can thrive.

The Landscape, Nursery and Urban



Forestry program at UMass Amherst Extension advises homeowners to learn about the following site conditions, and ultimately share that knowledge with local garden center representatives, before they pick and plant anything around their properties.

- **Hardiness zone:** The Plant Hardiness Zone Map from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is designed to help gardeners determine which plants are most likely to thrive where they live. The map can be found on the USDA website at www.usda.gov.

- **Light availability, intensity, and duration, from full sun to deep shade:** Prior to planting, homeowners can document this

information in a notebook or on their smartphones. Do so for a long enough period of time that you can get an accurate idea of the conditions in which plants will have to grow, and then take that information with you to the garden center where you will buy your plants. Employees can then use this info to help you find the right fit given the light conditions.

- **Water availability, both quantity and quality, as well as ease of access**

- **Exposure to wind and temperature extremes**

- **Exposure to weather events, snow loads, erosion, and flooding:** Garden center employees can likely recommend plants based on traditional weather

er patterns in a given area.

- **Soil type, drainage and compaction:** Homeowners can take note of any areas of their property where water pools or the ground feels especially soggy after rainfall. Share this information with garden center employees prior to picking plants for such areas. If soil appears compacted, aeration prior to planting may be necessary.

- **Competition from existing vegetation, keeping in mind the roots underground that you can't see**

- **Above ground wires or obstructions:** Trees will grow up, and the presence of power lines or other obstructions may threaten the trees or prove dangerous if trees eventually grow into or hang over power lines.

Knowledge of various conditions prior to planting can save homeowners the cost of replacing plants and the hassle of dealing with plants that don't take.

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