

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge presents service awards



Wor. Mike Sgariglia receiving the RW. Robert Johnston Service Award from (DDGM) RW. Anselme B. Maxine.

Courtesy

SOUTHBIDGE — On March 1, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was open to family and friends due to next phase of the covid-19 restrictions being lifted from the Governor Baker. Norah Proper, of Sturbridge, was presented with the Grand Lady’s Service Award and Wor. Mike Sgariglia of Auburn was presented the Right Worshipful Robert Johnston Service Award. These awards were presented by the (DDGM) 24th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master RT. Wor. Anselme B. Maxine.

The Grand Lady’s Service Award is a recognition granted by the lodges Worshipful Master only once a year. It is presented to a Lady who supports the work and the men of the Lodge often with little or no recognition.

Proper has been very instrumental in many fund-raising events over the last couple of years. She also has volunteered at our monthly breakfast in the past with her awesome baking and cooking skills which we hope to restart soon again once more Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. She has shown us her sewing skills and has made the lodge new white aprons to be worn by Brethren when attending Masonic funeral services for our departed Brothers. She has designed, cut, and assembled more than two dozen aprons for our Lodge. To top it all off, nine days later, March 10, she just gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, her second daughter Collette Joan Proper. Our members are looking forward to seeing Collette running around our lodge. Quinebaug Lodge is blessed by such ladies and have awarded them with a simple “thank you” for their help over the many years.

The R.W. Robert Johnston Service Award is also awarded once a year by the Master of the Lodge. This award was presented to Wor. Mike Sgariglia, he is one of the unsung Brother of the Lodge working behind the scenes who goes above and beyond the call of duty, perhaps unnoticed to some. Mike has also been very instrumental and active in the Lodge. Besides

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Spaces available for community yard sale

AUBURN— Spring cleaning? Don’t throw that good “stuff” away. Recycle it by selling it to someone who needs it! Do you have an accumulation of things that are too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don’t have enough to hold your own Yard Sale? Join us on the lawn of the First Congregational Church, Saturday, June 12, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for our annual Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale. This is a rain or shine event.

After having to cancel the 2020 Yard Sale we are excited to say we are back for this year. Because we have all been so restricted in what we could do this past year we anticipate even more people setting up to sell their “treasures” as well as a larger turnout of people looking for that special bargain or those out to get a feel for a return of normalcy. Masks will be required and all Covid guidelines will be enforced.

We also will be having our Plant Sale. There will be a large selection of annuals and perennials. Those

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Shaun Benton named Director of Operations at Quality Beverage



Shaun Benton

AUBURN — T. Conrad Wetterau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Quality Beverage L.P., one of New England’s largest stand-alone independent distributors of Anheuser-Busch InBev branded products, today announced the appointment of Shaun Benton as

Director of Operations at the company’s Auburn Division.

“Shaun Benton’s promotion exemplifies the outstanding team effort that he and every employee display while driving growth that allows Quality Beverage to move forward and prosper,” said Conrad Wetterau, Chief Executive Officer and President of Quality Beverage.

In his new role, Mr. Benton will oversee day-to-day operations in Auburn. He has worked in the beer industry since 1997, most recently

as Facility Manager in Auburn after serving as Inventory Manager and Team Leader.

Prior to joining the former Consolidated Beverages, Mr. Benton served the country as a proud member of the United States Coast Guard, including roles throughout the Eastern Atlantic seaboard in Search and Rescue operations, Marine Environmental Protection, and Law Enforcement.

Mr. Benton lives in Thompson with his daughter and son.

About Quality Beverage

Since 1987, Taunton-based Quality Beverage LP has provided beer drinkers with fresh, superior beer as one of New England’s largest stand-alone independent Anheuser-Busch distributors. Quality Beverage enjoys exclusive distribution rights for all Anheuser-Busch InBev brands, as well as a number of additional leading import and craft brands, in 137 Massachusetts cities and towns across Worcester, Bristol, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk and Middlesex counties.

Community celebrates the life — and legacy – of Dick Hoyt

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

HOLLAND – The community is celebrating the life and legacy of Dick Hoyt, who inspired the nation by teaming up with his son at more than a thousand races over the years.

Hoyt, 80, passed away last week. He was a beloved member of the Boston Marathon community after pushing his son Rick in a wheelchair for several Marathon events. Together, they championed inclusion and perseverance for decades as part of Team Hoyt.

“Dick Hoyt was an iconic part of the Boston Marathon for decades. Like so many, I was

inspired by Dick and his son Rick when we saw them cross the finish line every year,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “We send our condolences to the Hoyt family and everyone whose lives they touched.”

Rick Hoyt, 59, was diagnosed at a young age as a spastic quadriplegic with cerebral palsy. Dick and his wife, Judy, were advised to institutionalize Rick when he was a child because officials felt there was little chance of him leading a productive life. But the Hoyts never allowed their son to be defined by his limitations, instead fighting to get him active and involved as much as possible.

Dick and Judy Hoyt often took Rick sledding and swimming as a boy. In 1975, at the age of 13, Rick was admitted into a public school system, and he later graduated from Boston University with a degree in special



Courtesy

Local legend Dick Hoyt, 80, passed away last week. Here, he is pictured pushing his son Rick during one of their many races.

Driver uninjured after car enters Buffumville Lake



A tow truck pulls a vehicle out of Buffumville Lake in the early morning hours on March 14. Photo courtesy of the Charlton Fire Department's Facebook page.

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

CHARLTON – No major injuries were reported after Charlton emergency responders were called in to remove a vehicle from Buffumville Lake on Sunday, March 14.

Charlton Fire Chief Ed Knopf said responders arrived near a boat launch along the lake's shore to find the driver already back on land early Sunday morning, and proceeded to work on removing the vehicle from the water to prevent contamination.

"The individual who was driving had extricated himself from the vehicle, and was waiting on the shore when we arrived. They were taken to UMass to make sure no hypothermia has set in, but they suffered no life-threatening injuries. The car was about twenty feet out from the shoreline, and we activated the

District 7 Dive Team to come out and assist with getting the car strapped so that a local tow company could pull it out of the water," Knopf said.

Charlton is one of around 26 towns that utilize the District 7 Dive Team for incidents on water including boating accidents, falling through ice, and vehicle incidents. Chief Knopf called the process very technical as removing the vehicle improperly could have resulted in gas or oil contamination creating a bigger problem.

"Obviously, there's training the dive team goes through in order to perform at these types of incidents. We need to make sure there are no leaks, and in this case, there were none. We always send one diver out with backup and safety divers on hand just in case the diver encounters any issues. The divers use our tools to connect to the car in a fashion

where it can be pulled out carefully and effectively," said the chief.

The driver's identity had not been not revealed publicly as of our press deadline, nor was the cause of the accident. Knopf could not disclose an exact cause for the incident a the time of the interview; however, he did credit everyone involved for a flawless response effort.

"Everybody acted professionally. The District 7 Dive Team is an unbelievable asset to the community that a lot of people may not know about until we need to call them. These men and women train throughout the year above and beyond their normal functions as firefighters and EMTs. This is something they work very hard to perfect, and they invest a lot of hours. Each and every one of them performed above and beyond at the scene of this incident," the chief concluded.

MARIANAPOLIS PREP SCHOOL ANNOUNCES TRIMESTER 2 HONOR ROLL

THOMPSON, Conn. – Below are the students who have earned their place on the Trimester 2 Honor Roll.

Head of School List
Olivia-Mae Acquaah-Harrison, Charlton; Oyetola Ajayi-Obe, Worcester; Abigail Alicandro, North Oxford; James Alves, Uxbridge; Jenin Ayyash, Worcester; Kaitlin Baca, Webster; John Barnwell, Danielson, Conn.; Callista Bibeau, Danielson, Conn.; Abigail Boria, Charlton; Benjamin Bouchard, Douglas; Celia Bouchard, Douglas; Samuel Bouchard, Douglas; Campbell Braun, South Grafton; Jessie Calkins, Charlton; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, Conn.; Dominika Chmielewski, Webster; Lauren Conde, Danielson, Conn.; Sidney Corriveau, Brimfield; Jasmine Creighton, Webster; Anna Czechowski, Webster; Giana DeCesare, Chepachet, R.I.; Alexandra Delano, Charlton; Joseph DiPietro, Worcester; Danielle Doiron, Charlton; Fiona Doiron, Charlton; Ava

Fabiano, Killingly, Conn.; Chiara Faiola, Auburn; Felicia Fongemie, Ashford, Conn.; Barbara Forgues, Shrewsbury; Fabian Gabriel, Zlin, Czech Republic; Ashley Giorgio, Millbury; Xiayuan Gong, Wuxi, China; Isabella Gonzalez, Plainfield, Conn.; Madelyn Grundstrom, Moosup, Conn.; Emily Hammond, Sutton; Angelina Hargrave, Charlton; Sophie Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Thu Hoang, Hai Phong, Vietnam; Maura Hoban, Millbury; Patrick Hoban, Millbury; Kaylynn Horan, Putnam, Conn.; Nghi Huynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Mackenzie Jutras, Greenville, R.I.; Ethan Kalmin, Dudley; Claire Kelleher, Auburn; Avery Kurzontkowski, Shrewsbury; Kate Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Molly Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Linh Le, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Abigail Leahy, Leicester; Lauren Lemire, Southbridge; Chengxun Li, Xiamen, China; Zachary Litke, Brooklyn, Conn.; Alana Lorusso, North Oxford; Sydney Lundt, Woodstock, Conn.; Bridget MacDonough, Grafton; Ian MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Kiera MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Szymon Mamro, Webster; David Mankarios, Webster; Delia Marchand, Holden; Salvatore Masciarelli, Northbridge; Wednesday Maskova, Sestajovice, Czech Republic; Tessa McCabe, Douglas; Benjamin McGarry, Thompson, Conn.; Conner McLeod, Foster, R.I.; Keegan McLeod, Foster, R.I.; Emma McQuiston, Webster; Katherine Melnick, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Sara Michailides, Chepachet, R.I.; Ayame Mizuno, Nagoya, Japan; Luciana Najjar,

Northborough; Michael Nespala, Celakovice, Czech Republic; Abbie O'Brien, Plainfield, Conn.; Hayley O'Connell, Webster; Collin O'Connor, Sutton; Declan O'Connor, West Boylston; Riley O'Connor, Dudley; Jenna Olivieri, Douglas; John Perveiler, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Long Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Katrina Piekieniak, Dudley; Morgan Polinski, Webster; Wiktorina Potem, Webster; Sophia Rabitor, Dayville, Conn.; Jill Reardon, Fiskdale; Brianne Rett, Uxbridge; Olivia Richardson, Lincoln, R.I.; Emma Russell, Brooklyn, Conn.; Anthony Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; Thomas Santos Soares, Porto Alegre, Brazil; William Savoie, Northbridge; Cassidy Semo, Dudley; Trinity Semo, Dudley; Emily Shamback, Sterling, Conn.; Andrew Shultz, Oxford; Zachary Stoddard, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Maya Summiel, Dayville, Conn.; Lily Tessmer, Lancaster; Violeta Torres, Plainfield, Conn.; Daniel Twohig-Mann, Douglas; Rachel Ullstrom, Auburn; Isabella Vigliotti, Worcester; John Vigliotti, Worcester; Caroline Vigneault, Southbridge; Caroline Villa, Auburn; Tram Vo, Phan Thiet, Vietnam; Emily Walsh, Thompson, Conn.; Yungpeng Wang, Shenzhen, China; Kyle Woodruff, Southbridge; Wenyang Yuan, Beijing, China; Abdullah Zameer, Woodstock, Conn.

Oxford; Timothy Hall, Plainfield, Conn.; Audrey Hammond, Sutton; Lily Hayes, Danielson, Conn.; Garret Hippert, Brooklyn, Conn.; James Hoban, Millbury; Ehmil Johnson, Auburn; Kualim Johnson, Auburn; Thomas Kennison, Somers, Conn.; Caroline King, Rochester; Haruna Kobayashi, Nagoya, Japan; Olivia Kowalski, Charlton; Juhyoung Lee, Seoul, South Korea; Kaya Lukasek, Webster; Yihui Luo, Lian Yun Gang, China; Claire Marchand, Holden; Charles Mukweva, Harare, Zimbabwe; Luis Arturo Perez Povedano, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Linh Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Elena Polsky, Thompson, Conn.; Alek Popovich, Charlton; Emma Raps, Webster; Grace Rhoads, Stafford Springs, Conn.; Morgan Royston, Oxford; Kailey Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; Alex Spetseris, Webster; Matthew Tomasino, Leicester; Chinh Tong, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Owen Trainor, Brooklyn, Conn.; Thang Tran, Da Nang, Vietnam; Ashley Vandenbrouck, Oxford; Maggie Vo, Worcester; Elizabeth Walker, Thompson, Conn.; Anna Wildes, North Uxbridge; Xingyu Zhu, Wenzhou, China; Yutian Zhu, Hangzhou, China; Anthony Zurowski, Plainfield, Conn.

Honor Roll
Andrew Adrianopoulos, Worcester; Emma Blanchard, Dayville, Conn.; Rayliana Bonnell, Oxford; Shaylan Cashman, Charlton; Claire Crossman, Oxford; Donovan Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Thomas Joiner, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Zachary King, Plainfield, Conn.; Camille Larson, Charlton; Michael Levesque, Narragansett, R.I.; Sydney Masciarelli, Northbridge; Colby Mayen, Dudley; Andrew Peck, Paxton; Ana Ros Tejerina, Las Rozas de Madrid, Spain; David Splaine, Rochdale; Wondimu Weinberg-O'Brien, Worcester; Tyler Whiteley, Foster, R.I.; Jessica Wright, Millbury

WORCESTER ACADEMY ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL AND HEADMASTER'S LIST

WORCESTER — Worcester Academy proudly announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster's List for Semester 1 of the 2020-2021 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each of these Worcester Academy students has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Among the students are:
Eva O'Reilly of Auburn, Class of 2023, First Honors.
Kathryn O'Reilly of Auburn, Class of 2022, Headmaster's List.

About Worcester Academy
Worcester Academy is an acclaimed independent school overlooking the thriving city of Worcester, Massachusetts. A proud community of explorers and collaborators, we prepare our students not just for college, but for life; through an expansive curriculum that balances

problem-solving with communication skills, independence with connection, and hard work with fun and creativity. Our students benefit from an experiential education that expands their perspectives, builds their character, and deepens their understanding through community engagement and real-world application--enabling them to "Achieve the Honorable" (the Academy motto) with their classmates and peers; in the Worcester community; and throughout their lives.

For information, contact Director of External Communications Neil Isakson at 508-459-6918 or neil.isakson@worcestera-cademy.org.

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*these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms
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Start Date: ASAP

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*this position is primarily a kitchen prep position

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Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

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Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570
For questions about positions please call or email Ellen Nylen at 508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or enylen@webster-schools.org
*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.

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AUBURN NEWS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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THE AUBURN NEWS (546-680) is published weekly for \$45 per year (in county) by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Out of county rate is \$56 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Southbridge. To subscribe call (800) 367-9898. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

Bay Path student helps neighbor with cancer

CHARLTON — What started as small acts of kindness in February quickly



Khamphan Houatchanthara

grew into something bigger. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy student Khamphan Houatchanthara makes it a point to walk with faculty to the parking lot, making sure faculty is not alone and feels unsafe at the end of long lectures at night. Kindness is inherent with the Southbridge resident and when she learned of a neighbor who was diagnosed with cancer, she verbalized her desire to do more than just pray for the said neighbor. Houatchanthara picked up (and delivered) prescription medications (and over-the-counter pain medications) multiple times. With her boyfriend's help, they cleared the neighbor's driveway after a snowfall. She also brought the neighbor to the emergency department at Harrington Hospital for medical assistance. Houatchanthara then invited her family, friends, and co-workers at Simon Says Pizza Chef to join her in support of her neighbor, so her neighbor can focus on treatment, recovery, and healing. Houatchanthara with the assistance of an anonymous donor launched a fundraiser. New and previously loved totes, satchels, and pocketbooks from designers Kate Spade, Tory Burch,

Michael Kors, Stella McCartney, Juicy Couture, and Vera Bradley were donated for the cause. Money raised will be used to support her neighbor who is being treated for cancer at the Dana Farber Cancer Center. The fundraiser totaled over a thousand dollars. The funds will help with utility bills and other essentials. "I am so happy to help. A loss of income due to cancer and its treatment can lead to financial strain," said Houatchanthara. "Our fundraiser allowed my neighbor to focus on healing and relieve some of the stresses." Houatchanthara is on track to graduate this June with the Practical Nursing Class of 2021. When not busy with academics and clinicals, Houatchanthara is also an active member of the UNICEF Club raising awareness for children's advocacy. Everyone has a friend, neighbor, family member, or colleague who has been impacted by cancer. Houatchanthara hopes cancer patients have someone in their community standing with them. Even when it starts as just a small gesture of kindness.



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.

Michael McAuliffe graduates from Emporia State University

EMPORIA, Kan. — Michael Edward McAuliffe of Auburn graduated from Emporia State University in December 2020. McAuliffe earned a Master of Science degree in Health, Physical Education, & Recreation. About Emporia State University Emporia State University offers over 200 academic programs in the School of Business, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Library and Information Management and The Teachers College. For four consecutive years, ESU is the only public university in Kansas to have earned national recognition as a College of Distinction, an honor for universities that demonstrate innovative application of high-impact education. In addition, U.S. News and World Report data shows ESU students have the lowest student debt of all Kansas public universities. U.S. News also cited ESU's School of Business as a best value for both in-state and out-of-state students and ranked the online graduate education program in the Top 100 programs in the nation. For more information, visit www.emporia.edu.

Cornerstone Bank recognizes employees for dedicated service

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is celebrating 24 employees who have hit a landmark in their tenure with Years of Service Awards. Employees are honored for every five years of service they have completed with the Bank. "The passion and commitment our employees bring to the workplace every day is inspiring," said CEO of Cornerstone Bank Todd Tallman. "These 24 employees have helped us maintain steady growth over their years of service and embody our values of respect, integrity, trust and excellence. We thank you all for your dedication and loyalty over the past five, 10 and even 45 years!" "Despite the hardships of this past year, these employees and the rest of our staff have pushed through, showing tremendous strength and resilience," said President Randal Webber. "I applaud our service award recipients for their longstanding devotion to our organization." Below is a list of employees receiving the Years of Service Award:

Name	Service Years	Years of Service
Sheryle I. Gaudette	1975-2020	45
Karen Largesse	1985-2020	35
Jason D. Main	2000-2020	20
Charlotte L. Schmidt	2000-2020	20
Amy Dolan	2000-2020	20
John T. Jawor	2005-2020	15
Jamey A. Mekal	2005-2020	15
Melissa Dyer	2005-2020	15
James E. Beaudry	2005-2020	15
Michael M. Pacheco	2010-2020	10

Kyle S. Bourque	2010-2020	10
Sara Seaver	2010-2020	10
Susan M. Wilcox	2010-2020	10
Michael Quink	2010-2020	10
Heather Dumais	2015-2020	5
Thomas W. Moschos	2015-2020	5
Allison R. Nugent	2015-2020	5
Maritza Vega	2015-2020	5
Rebecca A. Field	2015-2020	5
Johanne T. Mahon	2015-2020	5
Catherine Hanna	2015-2020	5
Lisa L. Tucker	2015-2020	5
Marissa A. Leazott	2015-2020	5
Laura J. Pimental	2015-2020	5

To learn more about Cornerstone Bank, visit cornerstone-bank.com. 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.

Quinsigamond Community College announces fall semester plans

WORCESTER — Given current progress in the fight against the pandemic, Quinsigamond Community College is planning to resume in-person services for the Fall 2021 semester to the extent that it is safe and permissible. Last year, to ensure the safety of its community, QCC made the difficult

decision to significantly limit in-person services and, with the exception of clinical courses and a few labs, pivoted to remote learning. The College is exploring logistics and will continue to make decisions to help ensure the safety of its students, faculty, staff and community.

"At QCC, we are committed to student success. We know that many of our students benefit from in-person classes and services, while others take advantage of the flexibility of online courses," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

Prior to the pandemic, approximately 20 percent of QCC's courses were already held online. The pandemic allowed the College to increase its capacity to serve students through online and remote services.

"We hope to build on our experience in these areas to provide more services and flexibility for our students," President Pedraja continued. "While we believe that we will have a robust in-person presence this fall, we are constantly monitoring the situation, and will continue to follow the best advice available and adapt accordingly."

Additionally, QCC has significantly increased financial support to its students through \$2.4 million in federal emergency funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II, authorized by the Coronavirus

Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and an additional \$1 million in institutional funds. The College's Student Emergency Fund is also available for students in significant hardship due to the pandemic, who are exempt from receiving certain federal aid due to citizenship, residency or enrollment status.

"No one should be barred from attending college this fall due to scheduling issues or financial hardships. At QCC, we have worked tirelessly to eliminate those barriers and make higher education accessible for everyone," President Pedraja said.

QCC will begin its VIP registration for returning and active students on March 29, with new student registration beginning on April 12.

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

Sturbridge-Part-Time Reception-Processor

Small insurance agency in Sturbridge, MA looking for a Part-time morning receptionist 9am-1pm M-F. Needs to be processor reliable, organized, personable, detail oriented individual, who can maintain a flexible schedule. Must have good working knowledge of word, excel and outlook.

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State launches new mass vaccination registration system

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**

REGION – Officials recently unveiled a new pre-registration signup tool available for the state’s seven mass vaccination sites.

Launched last week, the new system will make it easier for residents to request and book an appointment at a mass vaccination site. More venues will be added to the preregistration system in the coming weeks, officials said.

The new preregistration system replaced the state’s original online booking program, which was fraught with problems. The Web site crashed on multiple occasions, and residents had significant issues with attempting to schedule appointments.

Gov. Charlie Baker and his team are hoping for a smoother experience with the new model.

“Available appointments will be offered to residents based on their vaccine eligibility and the availability of appointments at mass vaccination sites nearby,”

read a statement released by Baker’s office.

The state’s COVID-19 vaccine scheduling hotline will remain in place to help residents without internet access, as well as those who have difficulty navigating the new preregistration process.

In total, the state now has 170 public vaccination sites offering appointments. More information on vaccine sites can be found at: vaxfinder.mass.gov.

The new preregistration tool is available at: www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine. Eligible residents must complete an online form to request to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site.

After completing the form, residents will receive a confirmation via their preferred method of contact (text, email, phone). They will also receive a weekly update about their status. Residents may opt out of their preregistration at any time if they secure an appointment elsewhere.

“When an appointment becomes available at a mass vaccination site, the resident will be notified and will have 24 hours to accept the appointment once it is offered to them,” read the statement issued by Baker’s office. “If an appointment is not accepted after 24 hours, the resident will go back into the queue to wait for another appointment.”

To accommodate older residents and others who are unable to use the form, the new preregistration process allows family members, caregivers, or other companions to fill

out the form on behalf of a resident.

Individuals who do not have internet access can call 2-1-1 to preregister.

Residents are thanked for their continued patience during an unprecedented time. State officials are hopeful that supply issues will start to improve over the coming weeks.

“Due to high demand and limited supply, there are only a small number of appointments for eligible residents,” Baker said. “Given the limited number of available appointments due to constraints on vaccine supply, it could take several weeks for eligible, pre-registered residents to receive a notification about an available appointment.”

Weekly state allocations of the vaccine are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses.

In addition to the state allocation, the federal government distributes vaccines to CVS Health sites as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership. These quantities fluctuate on a weekly basis and are not counted toward the state’s weekly allocation, officials said.

For residents who don’t wish to attend a mass vaccination site, appointments are also being booked at more than 160 other public vaccine sites across the Commonwealth. The state has also allocated a supply of doses to certain healthcare providers, hospitals, and community health centers that will provide instructions to their patients on the vaccine process.

In other vaccine news, approximately 400,000 K-12 educators, childcare workers, and K-12 school staff members are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts. State officials want to ensure that all school staff members have a chance to be vaccinated before schools reopen next month.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21		22				23			
				24		25				26				
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35				36				37				38		
39														
42														
45														
52	53	54												
60														
64														
67														

CLUES ACROSS

1. Volcanic crater

5. Long times

10. Swedish rock group

14. Having the means to do something

15. Rods or spindles

16. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood

17. Missing soldiers

18. Measuring instrument

19. All of the components considered individually

20. Play “__ Irish Rose”

22. Gene

23. Barrels

24. London-based soccer team

27. Feline

30. Breed of sheep

31. Body part

32. Doctors’ group

35. One who follows the rules

37. Cigarette residue

38. Ancient Greek sophist

39. Polish yeast cakes
40. Promotional materials

41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

42. Completed perfectly

43. Photo

44. A peninsula in SW Asia

45. The common gibbon

46. Disfigure

47. Ribonucleic acid

48. Japanese honorific

49. Pieces of music

52. Expressed pleasure

55. Having ten

56. Type of sword

60. Humble request for help

61. Eating houses

63. Italian Seaport

64. Cain and __

65. Measure the depth

66. U. of Miami’s mascot

67. Political outsiders

68. Greek sorceress

69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Mother

3. Jewish calendar month

3. Jai __, sport

4. Establish again

5. Swiss river

6. Racetrack wager

7. __ but goodie

8. Closeness

9. Soviet Socialist Republic

10. At right angles to a ship’s length

11. Women’s undergarments

12. Mountain stream

13. Expresses pleasure

21. Painful places on the body

23. Automobile

25. Scandinavian god of battle

26. Expresses surprise

27. Secret political clique

28. Yields manila hemp

29. River in central Italy

32. Brain injury science acronym

33. Mental illness.
34. A person from Asia

36. Father

37. General’s assistant (abbr.)

38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style

40. Large terrier

41. Hillsides

43. Golf score

44. Not or

46. Type of student

47. Flower cluster

49. Closes tightly

50. Saudi Arabian desert

51. Famed vaccine developer

52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

53. Actress Jessica

54. Pay attention to

57. Beloved big screen pig

58. __ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Cost per mille

62. Helps little firms

PUZZLE SOLUTION	K	C	E	N		A	E	D	E	M		S	D	A	R
	S	I	B	I		B	M	U	L	P		L	E	B	A
	I	R	A	B		S	E	F	A	C		A	E	L	P
	R	E	B	A	S		C	E	D		D	E	H	A	A
					S	E	D	A	N	E	R	E	S		
	N	A	S		A	N	R		R	A	M		R	A	L
	A	I	B	A	R	A		C	I	P		D	E	C	A
	I	N	I	L	B		S	D	A		S	V	B	A	B
	S	A	B	A		H	S	A		R	E	D	I	B	A
	A	M	A		R	A	E		A	A	R		T	A	C
				M	A	H	N	E	L	L	O	T			
	S	K	S	A	C		R	I	C		S	E	I	B	A
	H	C	A	E		R	A	D	A	R		S	A	I	M
	A	E	R	B		S	E	L	X	A		E	L	B	A
	A	B	B	A		S	N	O	E	A		R	A	A	M

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

Friday’s Child



Alijah
Age 13

Hi! My name is Alijah and I want to learn Spanish!

Alijah is a social, engaging and polite boy of Cape Verdean descent. His favorite activities include playing sports, board games, card games, and admiring the latest and greatest footwear like hot pink Nike Foams. He also likes cooking, baking, and swimming. Alijah enjoys showing off his basketball and football skills. He prides himself on being a good mentor to younger children and seeks out opportunities to do so.

Alijah does benefit from accommodations listed on his IEP to assist him with more emotional/social supports. He does well in school and is performing on grade level. Alijah is hopeful that he will

be able to step down to a less restrictive setting in the near future.

Legally freed for adoption, Alijah will do best in a family with two parents who will be able to give him the one-on-one attention that he craves and provide him with structure and clear rules. Since he is a great mentor to younger children, his team is seeking a family with younger children in the extended family for him to be a role model to but for there to be no other children or only older children in the home to ensure Alijah’s needs receive the attention he deserves. He would also love for his future family to have pets or be open to adopting a pet. It is very important to Alijah that he is able to maintain contact with his eight siblings who are also looking to be adopted.

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.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

Community Legal Aid wins unemployment suit

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION—Unemployed residents are hoping to receive their benefits soon, following a successful class action lawsuit.

The Community Legal Aid organization recently won its court case against the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), the state agency that administers unemployment insurance benefits in Massachusetts.

Representing several Bay State workers, Community Legal Aid filed a motion for a preliminary injunction late last year in Worcester Superior Court. The motion sought to require the DUA to resume pro-

cessing unemployment claims, thousands of which have been on hold for several months pending review.

Because the DUA was flooded with fraudulent unemployment claims during the pandemic, the agency adopted an emergency policy that put most claims on hold until they could be individually vetted. While this allowed for more fraudulent claims to be flagged, it also caused legitimate unemployment claimants to go multiple months without receiving their benefits. This left families statewide in financial turmoil throughout the winter; many residents were forced to contact their legislators to seek assistance after failing to

reach DUA agents over the phone.

On March 2, a Worcester Superior Court judge agreed with Community Legal Aid's motion, ordering the DUA to follow all processes required under Massachusetts law.

"This injunction will stop a number of practices of DUA that have been extremely harmful to large numbers of people who have filed claims for unemployment benefits," said Community Legal Aid's Litigation Director, Leigh Woodruff. "This includes claimants being put on hold for extended periods, approved claimants having benefits stopped because of redeterminations without any opportunity to

be heard, and claimants having current benefits stopped to recover old overpayments that are actually under appeal."

Adding to the stress of the pandemic, thousands of residents not only saw their unemployment benefits put on hold over the last year, but they also received notices that they owed the state money. Residents were then forced to contact the DUA and prove the legitimacy of their claims to an adjudicator, often waiting several hours on the phone.

Many residents were not even given an opportunity to appeal the DUA's findings.

"Under this order, the DUA can no longer put claims on hold and leave

families in limbo, without income or any way to appeal for months on end," Woodruff added.

The clients represented by Community Legal Aid for its case against the DUA were all workers whose employment had been affected by the pandemic. The DUA had initially approved these plaintiffs' unemployment claims and began paying them benefits, but the payments were later stopped.

"Before taking these actions, the DUA never notified the plaintiffs of any problems," read a statement released by Community Legal Aid. "With the preliminary injunction, the court has ordered the DUA to stop these practices because

they deprive workers of benefits without due process in violation of federal and state law."

Community Legal Aid has reached out to the DUA, asking how the agency intends to comply with the court's order. The New Leader also sought comment from DUA officials, but no response was given as of press time.

Community Legal Aid provides free civil legal assistance to low-income and elderly residents of western and central Massachusetts. To learn more about the organization, visit www.CommunityLegal.org.

QCC Mentoring earns high marks, reaches partner level in quality based membership

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Mentoring program has earned Mass Mentoring Partnership's highest level of certification: Partner Level Quality-Based Membership (QBM). Quality-Based Membership is a first-in-the-nation process created to promote high-quality best practices among Massachusetts youth mentoring programs. Now being replicated nationally, membership components are based on The Elements of Effective Practice, the national standard for mentoring programs.

QBM is a process that assesses a program's strengths and offers guidance on areas where they may need additional training or technical assistance. There are many benefits to QBM: It provides a meaningful "indicator of quality"; it benchmarks program practices against national standards of excellence; and it demonstrates a program's commitment to excellence to potential mentors, funders, parents, and community partners.

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) Mentoring joins 43 Mass Mentoring Partnership QBM certified mentoring programs in Massachusetts. The program connects QCC students with staff, faculty, industry, and community members to create one-on-one mentoring relationships. This unique program provides extensive benefits to students, as well as professional development and networking opportunities for mentors.

"Our students will greatly benefit from this certification. Mentors can have a lifelong, positive and profound effect on student mentees. Our mentoring program provides a way for students to connect with mentors and build positive relationships to support their college experience. Students also develop employer-desired skills, gain an understanding of workplace expectations and networking to increase their likelihood of finding a rewarding career," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "The program has become an integral component of student success."

"We commend Quinsigamond Community College as a partner in the QBM program and look forward to working with them to help amplify mentoring relationships in central Massachusetts," shared Lily Mendez, President and CEO, Mass Mentoring Partnership.

For more information on Mass Mentoring Partnership and its QBM program, visit <http://www.massmentors.org/qualitymembership> or email info@massmentors.org.

For more information on QCC's Mentoring program, visit www.qcc.edu/services/mentoring or email mentoring@qcc.mass.edu.

About Mass Mentoring Partnership

Founded in 1992, Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is committed to ensuring that every young person in the state has access to quality mentoring relationships, regardless of who they are or where they live. MMP is a

statewide capacity-building organization that partners with corporate, public and philanthropic entities to drive critical resources to a network of more than 370 mentoring and youth-serving organizations, representing more than 50,000 young people. www.massmentors.org

About Quinsigamond Community College

Quinsigamond Community College provides the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible, and high quality programming leading to transfer, career, and lifelong learning.

To learn more, visit www.QCC.edu. 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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LEGALS

ELM HILL WATER DISTRICT

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Elm Hill Water District 10 to be held at the district office 55 Jerome Ave., Auburn.
Edward P. Guries, Chairman
March 26, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 69 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Auburn, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bradley P. Sjosten to National City Bank, said mortgage dated October 30, 2003, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 32119 at Page 150 and now held by 20 Cap Fund I LLC by virtue of an assignment from Trinity Financial Services, LLC, to 20 Cap Fund I, LLC, dated November 7, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61773, Page 175, previously assigned by US Mortgage Resolution LLC to Trinity Financial Ser-

vices, LLC, by virtue of an assignment dated July 26, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61773, Page 173, previously assigned by PNC Bank, National Association, successor by merger to National City Bank, to US Mortgage Resolution LLC by virtue of an assignment dated October 24, 2018 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59673 at Page 223, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **April 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Auburn, with the building thereon, numbered 69 Bryn Mawr Avenue, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof on the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue at the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Florence E. Soltye, which point is one hundred (100) feet southwesterly of a stone

monument marking the intersection of the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue and the southerly line of Rock Avenue; THENCE by land of said Soltye southeasterly two hundred (200) feet to land now or formerly of Sarah P. Mitchell; THENCE southwesterly by land of said Mitchell, in a line parallel to the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue one hundred and twenty-one and fifty three hundredths (121.53) feet to land now or formerly of Joseph H. Whitaker; THENCE northwesterly by land now or formerly of said Whitaker two hundred (200) feet to the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue; THENCE northeasterly by the easterly line of Bryn Mawr Avenue one hundred and twenty-one and sixty two hundredths (121.62) feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 24,136 square feet of land.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated 10/28/2003, and recorded in Book

32119 at Page 135 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC

270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032

Attorney for 20 Cap Fund I LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage

(860) 677-2868

March 26, 2021

April 2, 2021

April 9, 2021

Rally demands “climate policies that match the urgency”



A couple of the young rallyers make the point that this is not an issue we can wait to act on.



Southbridge's Maureen Doyle and West Brookfield's Bob Datz reinforce each other's message. Doyle's mask refers to James Lovelock's Gaia Theory – the idea that Earth is self-regulating and life plays a major role in that.



One participant's sign links Covid to climate change. Many scientists have argued that the world's warming but increasingly unstable climate will promote diseases of various kinds, some new and some expanding from areas they've existed for a long time.



Bucket drummers provide a beat in the sun.



The WPI African Percussion Ensemble plays to warm up the cold crowd before most people marched to St Vincent Hospital to show support for picketing nurses there.



Part of the rally as it marches down Front Street en route to St. Vincent.



At left: Etel Haxhij talks about her dedication to protecting Earth for her children and those of other people.

At right: Andre Strong Bearheart plays and sings a Nipmuc Honor Song for the Native Ancestors of this land.



Photos by Gus Steeves

WORCESTER — Fossil Free Fridays, an organized protest effort nationwide to promote the end of our dependence on fossil fuels and protect a livable climate, has expanded into other days. In Shrewsbury, it's Thursday; in West Brookfield, it's Saturday, elsewhere on other days.

But the message is the same as that last Friday in Worcester. Person after person spoke on how protecting Nature goes hand-in-hand with promoting a more just society, breaking up giant corporate control of our government, addressing various forms of inequality, ensuring working people have safe jobs paying living wages, building or retrofitting homes to be green, creating a healthier food system, creating a more democratic, localized economy and energy system, and honoring the fact the land we live on has been Native American land for thousands of years.

But former Worcester City Council candidate and Mothers Out Front organizer Etel Haxhij summarized what the core underlying issue is: “I love my children too much to give up on my promise to give them a liveable planet.” To do that, she said, people need to push the government to enact “climate policies that match the urgency and crisis of the moment.”

At present, several protest signs and one speaker noted, “Governments are feeding us empty promises” today, while our culture and economy suffer from “a pandemic of greed.”

The event, organized by Sunrise Worcester, drew several dozen people despite the blustery cold. While most were Worcesterites, others hailed from Leicester, West Brookfield, Southbridge and Shrewsbury, among other places.

Andrew Ahearn of Sunrise Worcester said the group was specifically demanding seven things from the city government, and, by extension, other governmental entities: 100 percent renewable, fossil-free energy by 2030; energy-efficient affordable housing; safe and easy access to walking, biking and transit; using annual carbon budgets based on IPCC guidelines; protecting municipal “green and blue spaces;” thousands of good-paying, unionized, green jobs; and a local environmental justice liaison board.



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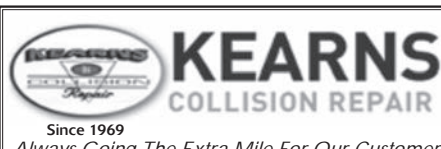


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EDITORIAL
BRENDA BERVE
EDITOR

Celebrating strong women

March is Women’s History Month, which includes International Women’s Day that took place on March 8. This may seem like a new progressive holiday; however, it stems back to 1909, when the Socialist Party of America, organized a day for Women on Feb. 28 in New York. One year later, the International Socialist Woman’s Conference announced that a day for women be held each year.

Fast forward to 1917 in Russia, where, on March 8, women were given the right to vote. In 1975, the holiday was adopted by the United Nations.

The long and the short is that this day is a day to celebrate women past, present and future. With that said our staff chose to highlight the women that we feel have had a standout role in influencing how our world operates today. The list was endless, therefore naturally hard to choose, so in order to prevent a 200-page editorial we narrowed the list down to our favorites.

Social reformer Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women’s Social and Political Union in 1903 to campaign for the parliamentary vote for women in Edwardian Britain, ‘Deeds, not words’ being its motto. Pankhurst is described as a charismatic leader and powerful orator, Pankhurst rallied thousands of women to demand, rather than ask politely, for their democratic right in a mass movement that has been unparalleled in British history. The battle did not come without consequences, she endured 13 imprisonments, leading her name and cause becoming known throughout the globe.

At the age of 15, Claudette Colvin was arrested at the age of 15 in Montgomery, Alabama when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman. This event gave the famous Rosa Parks the courage to do the same. Colvin was one of five plaintiffs involved in the federal court case filed by civil rights attorney Fred Gray in 1956, in which they challenged bus segregation. The outcome was that a judge ordered that the local laws in regards to bus segregation were unconstitutional. To find Colvin’s name in a history book is rare. This in part because she was an unmarried teenager who apparently was with child. Colvin went on to become a nurse’s aid.

In an interview in 2005, Colvin said, “I feel very, very proud of what I did. I do feel like what I did was a spark and it caught on.”

As for recognition, Colvin said, “I’m not disappointed. Let the people know Rosa Parks was the right person for the boycott. But also let them know that the attorneys took four other women to the Supreme Court to challenge the law that led to the end of segregation.”

Colvin’s family has been trying since 2016 to have her recognized and honored in the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Colvin was not invited officially to the opening of the museum in 2016.

Marie Curie is the next on our short list. Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who was the first to delve into radioactivity. Curie who was born in 1867, was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win it two times. Collecting several firsts, Curie was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris. In a time when most women spent their days in the home taking care of their children and husbands, Curie had to smash several ceilings for her own advancement. Curie was known for her honesty and moderate lifestyle. All of her prize money, she donated to scientific research and refused to copyright the radium-isolation process so that her fellow scientists could continue research unhindered. In 2011, Poland and France declared the year would be “The Year of Marie Curie.” She became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Pantheon in Paris in 1995.

In 1933, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt turned the position of First Lady from benign symbol to an active and intellectually vigorous power center. Roosevelt served as the United States Delegate to the UN General Assembly from 1945 to 1952. Roosevelt was the topic of much controversy for her outspoken nature, especially in regard to civil rights for African Americans. She was the first, First Lady to hold regular press conferences, host a weekly radio show and to speak at a national party convention. She was so bold to even disagree

Optimism: The vaccine for disappointment

-Writing is a hit or miss proposition. Sometimes I hit and the email reflects that the goal of my column was reached. At those moments, I’ll admit, I feel a sense of satisfaction.

At other times, I clearly miss the mark and the email also reflects it in many ways. I receive email of anger, dissatisfaction, disagreement, or disappointment, or even worse, no email at all. Regardless of the column, I rarely file it away not knowing how others feel.

Writhing “Positively Speaking” is a true joy. I love hearing from readers and eagerly accept the challenge of trying to help others live happier and more optimistic lives. I’m grateful that this publication allows me to do so.

If I can humbly say so, the last two columns seemed to hit a sweet spot. The first was a column on dealing with disappointment and the other on hope being the anchor of our souls. I’m still receiving positive email on both.

I believe the positive impact is partly because they were back-to-back. I think in essence, hope and optimism are our vaccines for disappointment.

We all experience disappointment. It’s an unavoidable part of life. The problem is most people dwell in it. Like a vaccine, hope and optimism can reduce or eliminate the despair of disappointment, but like a vaccine, you must take the action to get the shot.

I received my second dose of the Covid vaccine two weeks ago. My side effects were minimal. I had a sore arm. I was told by a few family members and friends not to get it ... that it would change my DNA by

some and by others it was a conspiracy to insert a chip



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

into my body. I listened, did my own research, then got the shot. I learned that cancer patients in my age bracket were three times more likely to die of Covid than others, so it was an easy decision.

But what about becoming more hopeful and optimistic in your life? What are the negative side effects? If you do it, you will occasionally be disappointed ... which you’ll be by nature anyway, but you’ll find yourself more willing to reach for your dreams and accomplish goals and live a happier, more fruitful life.

Whether we realize it or not, everything that we are consuming via media, stories, or the world around us, is forming our mindset. Not too long ago, my wife and I were spending a lot of time watching talk news. It was always playing in the background throughout the day, and I noticed I was getting more agitated, and my thoughts were gravitating towards more doom and gloom in this world rather than hopeful thoughts. It occurred to me – the news was forming me away from positivity. So, what did I do? I turned it off. Less news, more positivity. Less polarizing talk radio, more activities that bring me hope.

The question we must all ask ourselves, is what are we being formed into? What are you feeding your mind? What are you consuming? Are we being formed into becom-

ing more cynical, angry, and negative? Or are we surrounding ourselves by positive media, positive people, and positive stories that our forming us into joyfully optimistic people? Perhaps consider taking an audit in your life and discover who or what is forming you towards or away from optimism.

Research positive and optimistic stories of people like you and what they’ve accomplished. Follow optimistic people on social media. Immerse yourself in positive and optimistic news. Look for symbolic stories with positive meaning and outcome. They help guide and inspire you. I suspect that is why Jesus told so many parables. Whenever Jesus told a parable, it was an invitation to imagine things differently. Jesus’ stories formed the listener towards the values of the kingdom, not away. Jesus’ stories formed the listener to think on pure, lovely, gracious, merciful, and kind values.

What am I saying? Act! We usually find what we seek. Want a more successful and happier life? Seek a happier and more successful life. Don’t marinate in your disappointment. Do something ... take action to leave it behind.

Take the vaccine of optimism and your life will change for the better.

It’s easy ... it’s self-administered, and the only side effects are happiness and success.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Post winter care for your lawn



Melinda Myers

Snow mold appears as circular areas of matted brown grass sometimes found with gray or pink cobweb-like growth over these areas.

As winter gives way to spring, take a walk around the yard. Check the lawn for damage and provide a bit of early season care to help it recover from winter.

Use a leaf rake to lightly lift and separate the matted grass blades. This helps speed drying, increase airflow, and reduce the risk of pink and gray snow mold developing and damaging your lawn.

These fungal diseases are most common when heavy snowfalls or ice covers non-frozen turf or after late winter snowstorms. The damage is usually seen where snow lingers late in the season.

Symptoms appear as circular areas of matted brown grass. You may even see a gray or pink cobweb-like growth over these areas. Fortunately, lawns eventually recover. Reduce the risk of future problems with proper timing of lawn fertilization.

Remove any leaves or debris that ended up on the lawn. Large leaves on the grass capture moisture and prevent sunlight from reaching the plants below. Use leaves you collect as mulch in the garden or add to the compost pile.

Look for vole trails in the lawn. These small rodents travel beneath the snow and over the grass in search of food all winter long. Their travels create trails of bare or dead grass. The surrounding grass will eventually fill in the damaged areas. Speed recovery by sprinkling grass seed over the trails. Just mix a handful of grass seed in a mop bucket of topsoil to make a lawn patch. Sprinkle the mixture in the trails, gently tamp and water.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....

MELINDA
MYERS

you can cut the grass more efficiently. And speaking of savings, your mower will consume 22% less fuel and the lawn will use up to 30% less water when using sharp blades.

Soon it will be time to mow the lawn. Mow high and often, leaving grass clippings on the lawn to add organic matter, moisture, and nutrients to the soil. Always sweep clippings off walks and the drive to keep this valuable organic matter out of waterways.

Take care of winter damage now before the even busier garden season begins. Investing time now helps improve your lawn’s health and beauty, allowing you more time to enjoy the summer.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including 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 also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Business owners’ issues go beyond ‘Mom and Pop’ label



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If you own a small business, you typically don’t get a lot of recognition – so you may be pleased to learn that March 29 is National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day. You might not necessarily think of your business as a “Mom and Pop” operation, but it certainly contributes to the well-being of your family now, and possibly to that of future generations, too – if you make the right moves.

Depending on the nature of your business, you may have spent the past several months more concerned about today than tomorrow, given the serious economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still placing stress on a great many business owners across the country.

If your business has been adversely affected by the pandemic, you might be eligible for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. As you may know, recent legislation provided \$285 billion more for this program. To learn more, and to start the application process, visit the Small Business Administration Web site at www.sba.gov. You have until March 31 to apply for a PPP loan. Other relief also may be available.

But regardless of whether you apply for one of these loans, you can take other steps to help maximize the benefits you get from your business – and perhaps even extend its longevity.

Here are a few suggestions:

Establish a retirement plan. If you don’t already have a retirement plan, it’s never too late to set one up. As a business owner, you have several options, including an “owner-only” 401(k), a SIMPLE IRA and a SEP-IRA. All these plans are fairly easy to establish and can offer potential tax advantages, as well as providing you with a source of retirement income in the future. You may want to work with a financial professional to pick the right plan for your needs.

Coordinate your business assets with your investment portfolio. Like most business owners, you may have a great deal of your personal wealth tied up in your business. And, as the past year has certainly shown, this can be risky. Consequently, you’ll need to weigh this risk factor when deciding on investing in your retirement plan or in other investment accounts. This doesn’t mean you should try to avoid all risk only by pursuing the most conservative vehicles – which would be counterproductive to achieving enough growth to meet your retirement income goals – but you will need to pay close attention to your investment mix to ensure it provides you with an appropriate balance to what you’ve invested in your business.

Develop a transition strategy. How will you make the transition from business owner to the next phase of your life? Will you sell the business outright? Will you gradually transfer it to a family member? If so, what mechanism will you use? It’s a good idea to have these types of plans in place well before you need to enact them, so you may want to consult with your financial, legal and tax advisors soon.

A “Mom and Pop” business may sound quaint and carefree – but, as you know, running a business of any size can be an all-consuming endeavor and always involves significant financial concerns. Get the help you need to meet these challenges.

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@edwardjones.com.

AWARDS

continued from page A1

being our Lodge Ritualist and part of our continually active productive building committee, Brother Mike Sgariglia is also responsible for creating and making the 24th Masonic District Handmade Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron. Seven lodges within our District compete for the honor of winning and holding on to this apron every month

at our (LOI) Lodge of Instructions class. This is bragging rights for the most Brethren from a Lodge in attendance at these classes. He has also participated in many fund-raising events and has been a driving force for quite a few years in organizing our Christmas parties and decorating the lodge. He has been a key member of the monthly breakfast crew for several years which we hope to start again once covid restric-

tions are lifted and large gatherings are excepted again.

The members of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge are immensely proud of these two individuals who devote their time to the members of the lodge and to Freemasonry. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and to find a lodge nearest to you.



Left to right: Norah Proper receiving the Grand Lady's Service Award, (DDGM) RW. Anselme B. Maxine. and Bro. Robert St. Cyr.

YARD SALE

continued from page A1

who have been buying plants from us return year after year and see how each year we have more and more to offer. This year should be no different.

Spaces are available for a \$25 fee; a limited number of tables may be rented for \$5 each. We'll do all the advertising, both print and digital, and will post plenty of signs the day of the event at key locations in town. Depending on the Covid restrictions in place at the time we hope to have coffee and pastries, and hot dogs and soda available for sale.

Due to our central location and previous yard sales (26), we expect a large turnout. Don't delay, reserve your space now by calling Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646, please leave message, or the church office at 508-832-2845. You may also text 774-238-0260.

ANTIQUES

continued from page A9

9.0. The card is numbered 99/100 (99 of 100). The auction description notes that the consignor purchased it on eBay over a decade ago. Bidding ends on April 2. As of March 20, the current bid is over \$1.7 million. The card is expected to break the \$2.0 million mark, which is more than 10 times Tom Brady's rookie salary of \$193,000.

We will soon be offering an important collection of sports and non-sports cards all from one estate, with some dating back over 70 years ago. Our May

auction with paintings, jewelry, sterling silver, antique Asian pieces, Larry Bird and Wayne Gretzky rookie cards, and other quality pieces will go online in early May. Deadline for consigning for that auction ends in April. We will also be running our next online auction of antique, vintage, and contemporary toys soon. You can join our email list on our Web site to keep updated on upcoming events.

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

HOYT

continued from page A1

education.

In the spring of 1977, Rick told his father that he wanted to participate in a five-mile benefit run for a lacrosse player who was paralyzed in an accident. Even though Dick had no experience as a long-distance runner, he agreed to push Rick in his wheelchair for the race. They wound up completing all five miles and finishing in next to last place, but far more important than the results was the journey they were starting together.

In the following years and decades, the father-son duo took part in over 1,000 races, including marathons, duathlons, triathlons, and Ironman competitions. Additionally, they traversed the contiguous United States in 1992, completing 3,735 miles in 45 days.

Of all the competitions Team Hoyt participated in, the Boston Marathon was always a favorite. They officially hit the 1,000-race milestone during the

2009 Marathon.

"We are tremendously saddened to learn of the passing of Boston Marathon icon Dick Hoyt," read a statement released by the Boston Athletic Association, which runs the Marathon. "Dick personified what it means to be a Boston Marathoner, finishing 32 races with his son Rick. We are keeping his many family and friends in our prayers."

The 2013 Boston Marathon was initially slated to be Team Hoyt's final Marathon, but they were not able to finish the event due to the bombings. They returned in 2014 to finish the event with the other participants, stopping multiple times along the route to take photos and shake hands with supporters.

Dick Hoyt's inspirational journey with his son is forever captured by a statue in Hopkinton, located close to the Boston Marathon starting line. Whenever guests visit the statue, they are always reminded of the achievements that can be made when you never give up hope.

Regional Environmental Council (REC) celebrates Earth Day with neighborhood cleanups April 10

WORCESTER — The Annual REC Earth Day Neighborhood and Garden Cleanups, to be held on Saturday, April 10 from 8 a.m. to noon at multiple locations throughout Worcester. Thanks to a continued partnership between the Regional Environmental Council (REC), the City of Worcester, National Grid, and many other area businesses, colleges and universities, and community organizations, volunteers will once again join together to clean our sidewalks, parks and neighborhoods.

Since REC began coordinating the event in 1989, Worcester's Earth Day Cleanups have become an annual, city-wide tradition that engages Worcester-area residents and organizations to give Worcester a big spring cleaning. This year our top priority is keeping the community safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We are implementing new protocols with guidance from the Worcester Division of Public Health.

All Earth Day volunteers must maintain 6 feet of physical distance, and wear a mask that covers the nose and

mouth, protective eyewear, and disposable gloves at all times. This equipment will be provided along with trash bags and other materials.

Volunteers join together each year to celebrate Earth Day by making Worcester a healthy and beautiful place to live, work, learn and play! For more information or to volunteer, visit www.recworchester.org/earthday, or contact Katie at earthday@recworchester.org.

This year's cleanups are organized by the REC in partnership with the City of Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks and National Grid and through the generous sponsorship of the following: AbbVie, CCR Wealth Management, Sustainable Comfort, Inc., Mass. Audubon, E.L. Harvey & Sons, IC Federal Credit Union, Standard Auto, Worcester Common Ground, Tighe & Bond, Davis Publications, Worcester State University, Assumption College and UMass Medical School and in-kind support from Mechanics Bliss, Wheelabrator, & Superior Waste & Recycling.

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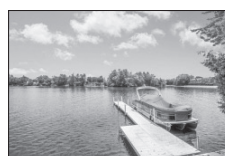


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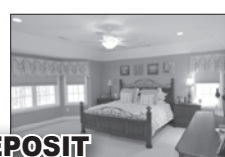
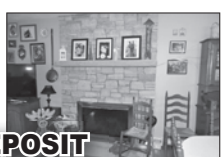
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WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond + Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Cambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Appliance! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



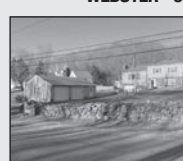
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Featured New Listing!

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



LOCATION! SCENIC Upper Gore Rd! Amazing "BIRD'S EYE VIEW" of Beautiful Webster Lake! Spacious Hip Roof Raised Ranch. 2279 SF+, 4 BRs, 1-Full Bath, 2- Half Baths, 0.73 Acre Lot! 18x36+ INGROUND POOL, STORAGE SHED, LG 24x36+ DETACHED 3 CAR GARAGE! 12x26+ 1 CAR GARAGE UNDER! **\$275,000.**

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!
Zoned General Business 5 Terrific Opportunity for one large business or divide it up into smaller businesses. 4,784 sf building on 0.8 acre just off I-395 exit 1, with high traffic & visibility. Excellent location! assisted sale **\$695,000.**

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



5+ Acre Waterfront Land - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open Field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfrontage. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!
Beautiful CAPE! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! 4 Bedrooms! 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/"Spa Like" Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK! has that TOO!! All Painted!! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$319,000.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **SORRY, SOLD \$132,900**

Featured New Listing!



WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE
To Be Built or Build to Suit - 2000+ Sq Ft Custom Cape! 3 large bedrooms, Master suite, Central air, 2 Fireplaces! 2 car garage. All town services. **\$425,000.**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplace Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment with 2 bedrooms. 2 - 2nd floor apartments have 3 bedrooms each. 30' x 44' beautiful Fieldstone Foundation, with walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing Is Everything!** **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd

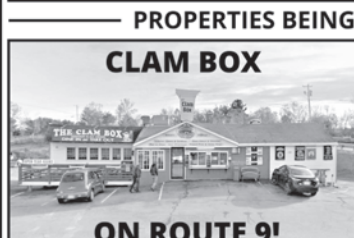


Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

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Bay Path UNICEF Club raises funds with snack bar

CHARLTON — The COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the UNICEF Club of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy from fundraising to support and advocate for children.

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club officers organized a snack bar. Supported by the Practical Nursing Class of 2021 and UNICEF Club advisor, Professor Cheryl Cahill the snack bar fundraiser totaled close to two hundred dollars.

“Delicious homemade baked goods with hot and cold beverages were served in exchange for a donation” stated Isabella Boateng of Manchester, Conn., UNICEF Club Officer.

“All proceeds will go a long way in helping vulnerable children during the pandemic,” Boateng added.

UNICEF is the world’s largest supplier of ready-to-use beneficial foods. Through UNICEF the production of a high protein paste that can revive a malnourished child in the matter of weeks is possible. UNICEF has aided in saving more children’s lives than any other charitable organization.

About the UNICEF Club
The Bay Path PN UNICEF Club program is a PN student-led initiative that partners with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to educate, advocate and fundraise to support UNICEF’s lifesaving work. It is a movement rooted in a belief



that students have a vital role to play in helping the world’s children survive. PN students elect five officers, plan and implement at least one activity per

term. A PN faculty serves as UNICEF Advisor.

At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the program is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical

Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing (www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org). For more information, visit www.baypath.net.



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