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Friday, October 30, 2020

CMS Chamber announces 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win!' Contest

South, the leading advocate for local business, is incredibly pleased to announce a new contest designed to incentivize holiday shoppers to keep it local this season. Shop at Member businesses of the Chamber of Central Mass South between Nov.

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass 1 and Dec. 15 and earn chances to win cash and valuable prizes, including a grand prize of \$500!

> "It is more important than ever that we spend our dollars where they will do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns," said

'With the 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win' contest, we've created a fun and engaging way to keep it local this holiday season.'

Turn To CHAMBER CONTEST, page A11

Southbridge Rotary awards \$6,000 in scholarships

Earlier this month Ron Carlson. Southbridge Rotary Club awarded six scholarships to recent graduates from Southbridge High School, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Tantasqua Regional High School and Bath Path Regional Technical High School. Recipients submitted applica-tions during the end of the last school year and were selected by the Scholarship Committee chaired by Rotary Member

SOUTHBRIDGE — and Hyde Tool CFO,

The awardees must live in the towns of Southbridge or Charlton and are all class of 2020 graduates and are freshmen at their respective colleges and universities.

Anjum Southbridge High School and attends WPI majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Joelis Velez Diaz, Southbridge High attends School, WPI majoring in

Turn To SCHOLARSHIPS, page A11



Courtesy

WORTHY WALK

Unable to ioin the annual Out of the Darkness Walk from Institute Park in Worcester, which was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Team JAK-L, formed in honor of captain Laurie Boucher's daughter Julie, decided to hold a walk

After school program looks to create a Bright Future for local youth

born in a small village called Techiman in Ghana, West Africa. He and his family moved to the United States at the age of 10. Ironically, his family ended up moving to North Village in Webster.

'It takes a village to raise a child" is an African proverb that means that the whole community is needed to nurture a child. I t feels as though, growing up in my Ghanian village and moving to my American North Village were no accidents, but instead an important reminder of the old proverb. I was determined to seize the opportunities that come with involving myself in the community. One of the first ways I connected with people when I came to the U.S. was through soccer and



I had some remarkable coaches that made a difference. North Village made me the man I am today and I owe a whole lot to my community," says co-founder Kwasi

Acheampong. After watching many of his peers succumb to a life of drugs and addiction, Kwasi decided to start a program that gave students a safer and more hopeful path in life. He created Our Bright Future, Incorporated.

Our Bright Future, Inc. is an after school enrichment program that incorporates stem with sports. Their mission is to empower youth and develop bright leaders through robotics, sports training, and guidance in academics. We incor-

Turn To BRIGHT FUTURE,

page A11

Hockey rinks put on ice

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION - Local hockey players are hanging up the skates for a while, as recent COVID-19 clusters at rinks caused the game to be temporarily put on ice statewide.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a new order prohibiting indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities from operating for two weeks. The order is in effect from Oct. 23 through Nov. 7.

"This order is in response to multiple COVID-19 clusters occurring at rinks throughout the state following games, practices, and tournaments,

read a statement released by the state's Department of Public Health. "Neighboring states, including Hampshire, have enacted similar temporary restrictions regarding indoor ice hockey.

Statewide, there have been at least 30 clusters of COVID-19 associated with organized ice hockey activities, health officials said. The outbreaks have involved residents from more than 60 communities in Massachusetts. Each of these clusters includes two or more confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases, totaling 108 confirmed cases.

Health officials blame the outbreaks

Turn To HOCKEY, page A11



Find the ABC's Fall Scramble inside this issue.

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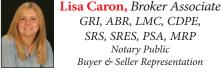
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accuracy in all its news reports. Although

Bay Path Director walks at Purgatory Chasm to raise money for AFSP

SUTTON — Bay Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Douglas, participated the 2020 Out of Darkness Experience, walk joining Massachusetts together American the Foundation Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

According to Michele Lee, Associate Area Director (MA) and Area Director (RI) for AFSP, "mental health and suicide prevention are now a top priority for many individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities. The AFSP is committed to offering resources, support, messages, and connection to everyone in need."

Bolandrina registered as captain for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy team and raised \$350, 75 percent more than the initial fundraising goal of \$200. Bolandrina was joined by her children Jessica, Lilly, and Max for the walk at Purgatory Chasm, Oct. 18.

"It was a beautiful day to walk for a great cause," said Bolandrina, who said her main focus is to raise awareness mental health and suicide prevention, but she added that she also wants to raise funds for AFSP. "I've been checking in with the alumni and the PN Class of 2021. As much as possible, we share insight, ideas, I hear about some of their challenges and successes, we continue to learn from each other on how we are here for all."

Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health First Aid Training are ongoing advocacies at the practical nursing education communi-

ty.
"We have not been able to host fundraisers in



our communities. we need to abide by state and town guidelines so the reinvented Out of the Darkness Walk into the Out of the Darkness

Bolandrina. "Together Fight Suicide" was a special day to experience with family or small groups around local neighbor-

Experience works well," said

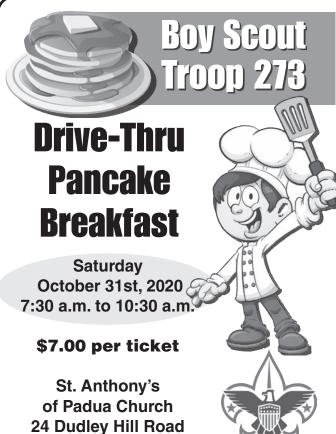
About AFSP The American

Foundation for Suicide Prevention is a voluntary health organization based in New York City, with a public policy office based in Washington, D.C., and local chapters in all 50 states in the United States. The organization's stated mission is to "save lives

and bring hope to

those affected by suicide." For more information, visit www.afsp.org.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical Nursing is a 40-week, month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates



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Lauri Caswell:

Doreen Sequin

Memorial Award

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Isabella Age 15

Hi! My name is Isabella and I want to be a part of a family that

takes trips together! Isabella is a sweet, caring, and bubbly teenage girl who loves animals. She is a great conversationalist and enjoys speaking to and learning about new people. Isabella is always open to trying new activities and is a talented artist. She also likes to play soccer and is currently taking a cooking class once a week after school. Isabella's greatest wish is to have a family of her own where she can have a pet.

Isabella likes going to school and she reports that she has many friends this year that she enjoys spending time with. Her favorite class is chorus

and she does well in school with extra supports.

Isabella really wants to be a part of a family and loves participating in all kinds of family gatherings. Isabella will do best in a patient family that can give her a lot of individualized attention. Her social worker is open to exploring families that consist of a single mother, two mothers, or a mother and a father. She will do best as an only child or with an older sister in the home. Isabella is legally freed for adoption.

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 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place



Massasoit Art Guild show live through Dec. 31 Photography: Place Digitally

REGION Due to COVID-19, this year's show is being exhibited virtually on The Guild's website at massasoitartguild.com. It was a difficult decision for us to make, but in light of the pandemic, we chose to hold our show online for the safety of the public and our art-

ists. The exhibit showcases 151 pieces of art by talented our artists and photographers. In with keeping the tradition of The Guild's mission to support the growth and development of local artists, our show has always doubled as an art sale. This year is no different the virtual gallery has prices and contact information listed for the exhibiting artists.

Guild The wishes to thank this year's judge, Bunnell, award winning pastel artist and teacher. work can be seen at ncbunnellstu-

dio.com. Please be sure visit the virtual gallery. Your purchases of art unique make gifts for the holiday season and support your local community

of artists. The Massasoit Art Guild is excited to announce this year's win-

Best In Show: Traditional Photography~ Morning Light by Donna Cobb

Place First Winners in all Categories

Acrylic: Irena Russell

Drawing Printing: Marilyn Kulesa Oil: Linda Spencer

Pastel: Judy Doyle Watercolor:

Peter Spencer Digitally Enhanced Photo:

Jonathan Dosick Other Media: Karen Langlie Presidents Award: Nancy McBride

Second Our Third and Place, Memorial Awards, and Honorable Mentions are as

Norman Cabana: 2nd Acrylic Place and Honorable Mention

Susan Kennedy Scott: Emile Gaucher Memorial Award and Honorable Mention

Irena Russell: 3rd Place Acrylic, 2nd Place Other Media, 2nd Place

Watercolor Marilyn Kulesa: Place Drawing &

Printing Linda Spencer: Place Drawing 3rd Printing, Place Watercolor

Michele Loftus-Maggie Hart Trzcinski: 2nd

Enhanced Photo, 3rd Place Traditional

Photography Donald Beal: Digitally **Enhanced Photo** Clifton Hunt: 2nd Place Oil

Loretta Medeiros: 3rd Place Oil

Sue Wiseheart: 3rd Place Other

Doyle: Judy Honorable Mention Pastel

Carole Bentley: 3rd Place Pastel

Veronica Furst: 2nd Place Pastel

Wendy Trucheon: 2nd Place Traditional Photography

Maggie Hart: Vernon Graham Memorial Award, Mildred Terry Memorial Award

Sandy DeCoff: Gayle Magwood



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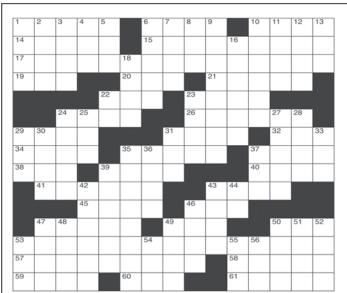
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Battered corners: dog-Mater: one's school
- 10. National capital
- 14. Frogs and toads order
- 15. Bathrooms (French) 17. Praise
- 19. Witch 20. Consume
- 21. Pork and lamb are two types
- 22. Rocky peak 23. Women's undergarments
- 24. From end to end 26. Bed sheets
- 29. South Sudanese king
- 31. Dislike immensely 32. Diving seabird
- 34. Breathe noisily
- 35. Full of roots
- 37. Inside

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One of two or more people or things
- 2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
- 3. Part of a ladder
- 5. Patriotic women 6. Fragrant essential oil
- 7. Aggressive, uncouth man
- 8. One thousandth of an inch Brisk and cheerful readiness
- 10. Serving no practical purpose
- 11. Prevent from going forward
- 12. Camera part
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Colorless, odorless gas 18. Long division of time
- 22. Atomic #73 23. Make a bleating sound 24. The kids love him
- 25. Female condition prior

S 7 B 7 B

- to menstrual period
- 27. Founder of Sikhism 28. Sudanese swamp

60. Make into leather 61. British noblemen

38. Small island in a river

43. Derogatory term for a country

46. Important in respiration and

49. "The Joy Luck Club" author

other biochemical reactions (abbr.)

45. Pike and pickerel genus

40. "CSI" actor George

39. Tear into pieces

41. Make less dense

47. Belgian city

53. Suggestions

58. Expression

59. Maize dough

50. Essence of "Aloha"

57. One who overindulges

- 29. Can help with you finances
- 30. Part of the human body 31. Mortar trough
- 33. Greek island 35. Change pagination
- 36. Queens hip hop group
- 37. Precursor to the EU 39. A way to go on
- 42. Slender marine fish 43. Georgetown's mascot
- 44. Farm state
- 46. Military leader (abbr.) 47. Russian river
- 48. Teams' best pitchers
- 49. In a more positive way 50. Long French river
- 51. Reactive structures in organic
- chemistry 52. Distinctive practices
- 53. Male gypsy
- 54. When you hope to get there 55. Men's fashion accessory

W A T A S A M

56. Journalist Tarbell

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Respiratory Care Week recognized at **Quinsigamond Community College**

Honoring those who are vital to our health and safety is the premise behind Respiratory Care Week, held this year from Oct. 25-31. No one knows this better than the Respiratory Care students at Quinsigamond Community College.

As the oldest Respiratory Care Program in the state of Massachusetts, QCC's program has been leading the way in the region. This was never more evident than during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the College received approval from the program's accrediting agency to allow QCC respiratory care students to simultaneously work on their student licenses and earn credits. This added a dozen students to the workforce, increased the Respiratory Therapists in Worcester by 10 percent and brought much needed medical resources to an extremely stressed healthcare system.

"From the moment QCC went remote, the program and the students worked diligently to explore new and effective avenues to complete educational requirements. Their team spirit and professionalism demonstrated that they had indeed transformed from lay persons to the professionals that they had aspired to become," said

Amy Hogan, assistant professor of the College's Respiratory Care program. "All sophomores graduated on time, achieved Registered Respiratory Therapist credentials, and secured Respiratory Therapist positions post-gradua-

This fall, there are 10 full-time students in the program, four second-year students and six firstyear students. The second-year students are working on their clinicals at St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester and first-year students are at UMass Memorial Campus, Worcester. While the students do not directly caring for COVID-19 patients, they are administering aerosolized medications, evaluating, and titrating oxygen therapy, caring for patients on mechanical ventilation, and providing various other therapies to optimize the lung health of their patients.

"COVID-19 has brought Respiratory Therapists to the forefront of the healthcare profession. Respiratory Therapists are the only medical specialists specifically trained in the cardiopulmonary system. As such, they are uniquely qualified to manage not only patients with COVID-19, but also any patient who has breathing issues," said QCC's Respiratory Care Program

Coordinator, Keith Hirst.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2019 median salary for Respiratory Therapists was \$61,330 and employment projections of 26 percent are anticipated in the next several years, due to an aging population that will lead to increased cases of respiratory issues.

"In Worcester County, with a population of approximately 830,839, approximately 97,500 (12 percent) of adults have some form of chronic lung disease. Now, with the COVID-19 virus, even more people are in need of these types of professionals. This is why Respiratory Care programs such as QCC's are so essential,' Mr. Hirst said.

Respiratory Care Week was established by President Ronald Regan in Sept 1983, due to the care that he received by respiratory therapists when he was shot, as well as to acknowledge the impact that chronic lung disease has on the population.

To learn more at Respiratory Care program, visit www.QCC.edu/respiratory-care.

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

Junior League of Worcester moves wreath fundraiser online

WORCESTER — The Junior League of Worcester (JLW) announced that its fourth annual Wreath Workshop Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. Teaming with Sparkle on Park, the JLW curated five do-it-yourself packages complete with a fresh wreath, ribbon and decorations to create from the comfort of your own home.

This year's event will use a virtual format, with a live stream, as well as a recorded video if the start-time is incompatible with one's schedule. Tickets can be purchased through the League's eventbrite at bit.ly\wreath2020.

"The Junior League of Worcester is celebrating it's 95th year of serving the Worcester community," explained JLW

President Lauren Evens. "2020 has been unlike any other but we are happy to be able to still deliver the workshop and provide people with a fun night in," she said.

Wreaths and decor will be available for pick up in Worcester on the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 27, and the morning of November 28. A variety of raffle items will also be on display during pickup

"The funds raised will help support our league's mission to develop the potential of women and create positive change for our community. Our initiatives are focused on bringing awareness to and ending human trafficking and period poverty in our local community," said Evens.

About the Junior League of Worcester

Celebrating its 95th year of supporting Worcester County, the Junior League of Worcester is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The JLW was founded in 1925 and is affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), which oversees 291 chapters in four countries - the US, Canada, Mexico, and the UK with 155,000 volunteers. To learn more about the Junior League of Worcester or to join our new member class, please visit www.

Hockey rinks put on ice

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION - Local hockey players are hanging up the skates for a while. as recent COVID-19 clusters at rinks caused the game to be temporarily put on ice statewide.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department Health Public issued a new order prohibiting indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities from operating for two weeks. The order is in effect from Oct. 23 through Nov. 7.

"This order is in response to multiple COVID-19 clusters occurring at rinks throughout the state following games, practices, and tournaments,' read a statement released by the state's Department of Public Health.

"Neighboring locker enacted have similar temporary restrictions regarding indoor ice hockey.'

Statewide, there have been at least 30 clusters of COVID-19 associated with organized ice hockey activities, health officials said. The outbreaks have involved residents from more than communities in Massachusetts. Each of these clusters includes two or more confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases, totaling 108 confirmed cases.

Health officials blame the outbreaks on the close proximity of hockey athletes, not only on the ice during games but also in cramped

rooms. states, including Mask use and ipants, as well as are supposed to be taking place at rinks statewide, but these guidelines are nearly impossible to enforce.

In the state's return-to-play framework released the summer, ice hockey, football, and several other sports were designated as highrisk activities. Amendments to guidelines the allowed for practices and other activities to take place, but officials are worried about future outbreaks. "This pause will

allow for the development of stronger COVID-19 protocols to further protect players, families, coaches, arena staff,

and other particrounding hockey rinks," read the Department of Public Health statement.

Current include tocols limitations the number of people allowed in an arena, social distancing measures, locker room regulations, and other precautions. Health officials said additional measures will be needed to minimize the risk of future clusters,

but they will only be effective if rink New Hampshire, social distancing communities sur- managers, coachathletes abide by them. The Department

of Public Health's current includes all indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities in Massachusetts. These rinks and facilities may not operate during this temporary two-week pause. College

professional hockey programs are exempt from this

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Bernabei

High School Notebook

Oct. 19

Tantasqua 157, Bay Path 173 — Travelling to Heritage Country Club to take on the Minutemen, Tantasqua's golf team defeated Bay Path to improve to 6-0 on the season. Medalist honors go to Jake Gagnon, who shot a 2-over par 37. Other contributing Warriors included Will Pieczynski (39), Aubyn Phillips (40) and Grace Farland (41). The low Bay Path golfer was Jason Kozlowski

Oct. 20

Tantasqua 153, Bay Path 184 — In their seventh match of the season, the Tantasqua Warriors again faced the Bay Path Minutemen, this time at home on the par 36 Hemlock Ridge layout. The Warriors played their best golf of the season as medalist honors go to Jake Gagnon for the second straight match. Other Warriors who contributed to the low total were Will Pieczynski with a 38, Aubyn Phillips with a 39 and Grace Farland with a 40. Tantasqua improves to 7-0. Bay Path is now 3-2.

Leicester 17, David Prouty 38



Leicester had its first meet of the 2020 cross-country season as the girls traveled to David Prouty and took their first win. Abby Gahagan (11th grade) converted from a sprinter to distance runner during last track season. In her first

attempt at cross-country, she exceeded expectations and won the meet with a time of 19:24. Abigail Johnson (11th grade), another sprinter turned distance runner, took second overall with a time of 21:00. Team co-captain Abby

grade) finished off the sweep of the top three spots with a time of 21:30. Bernabei's time already beat any time she ran last season. Seventh grader MaKenzie Cortes finished fourth overall. Cortes' performance was particularly impressive. She came into the season as the only girl with no running experience at all. She should easily improve on her strong start

as the season continues. Finishing out Leicester's top five was co-captain Molly Ledbetter (10th grade). The boys did not race; instead, they stayed home and ran time trials on the home course.

QCC's virtual legislative town hall demonstrates positive impact of community college

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College student Tabitha Leber defined the past six months during the COVID-19 pandemic as a time of resiliency. Ms. Leber was one of a group of current and former students and college administrators who took to the virtual airways recently for a Legislative Town Hall to discuss the pandemic, remote learning and what it means to be a student at QCC. Ms. Leber said she and her fellow classmates have learned to be prepared and resilient, thanks to the skills they were taught at the college.

Attending the event were Senator Michael Moore, Senator Anne Gobi, Representative James O'Day; Representative Natalie Higgins, Representative Hannah Kane; Melissa Olesen, regional director of Central & Western Massachusetts for Senator Edward Markey; Yael Langer, legislative director for Senator Anne Gobi; and Emily Johnson, on behalf of Representative Paul Frost.

Moderating the event was Mason Wheaton, a first-generation college student who kicked off the event with her inspirational parody song, "We Can Fight the Virus." Ms. Wheaton described her time at QCC as transformative.

"I am so grateful to have come here. Every day I have more experiences than I could have ever imagined. Without QCC I would have never attended college and life would have looked a lot different," she said. "So many students like me came here to have a better life."

The college recently announced it was going remote for its spring semester, and the students who participated in the event gave praise to the proactive way in which the college has supported its students.

Ms. Leber presented statistics on the needs of QCC students during the pandemic and told of the positive impact the QCC Foundation's Student Emergency Fund has made on their immediate, basic life needs.

"All QCC students qualified for the Student Emergency Fund: associate degree seeking students, certificate and workforce development students, adult students' programs, undocumented, international, parttime, full-time," Ms. Leber said, noting that the CARES Act Fund stipulations excluded many students.

The Student Emergency Fund has currently assisted 526 students. In a study of those who received this aid, 81 percent were women, 66 percent were parents or had other dependents, 63 percent were students of color and 43% were foreign born.

"I myself, as a single mother and a full-time student, am represented in this data," Ms. Leber said, telling of her own experiences coming to QCC as a single mother after a catastroph-

Today she is a dual major and working on a third degree in the current remote learning environment, while also helping her daughter with her own remote schooling.

She went on to explain that the emergency aid was critical for students to stay in college and complete the spring 2020 semester (93 percent of those who received aid did not withdraw during the spring semester). However, with a minimum aid award of \$100, and a maximum of \$250, the aid was not enough.

"It's heartbreaking how many of our students have been impacted by the pandemic," President Pedraja said. "Many of the students we serve are living on the margins and the pandemic has put them in survival mode. You cannot think about education when you are in survival mode. My fear is this population, which benefits greatly from education, is being affected the most by the pandemic and further increasing the equity gap."

We need to continue to raise funds to provide emergency aid to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. QCC is trying to make our lives and the lives of our families better,' Ms. Leber said.

Board Chair Sue Mailman reminded legislators that community colleges receive only 25 percent of the state's education funding, while UMass universities receive 50% of funding and state universities receive the other 25 percent of the state funding.

"If there was ever a time to rethink that formula it's now," Ms. Mailman

Turn To QCC, page A11



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Question 1 has 'a number of risks and uncertainties'

Besides the well-known and very expensive political races on this year's ballot, Massacusetts voters are also being asked to decide two key ballot questions. Question 1 is a fairly technical one regarding whether smaller car repair shops will be able to access the "telematics" that are now only available to garages owned by the car companies. Question 2 would change the way we conduct most elections from the present system to a "ranked choice" system. (For Question 2, see related story.)

According to Ballotpedia.org, Question 1 is the sixth most costly ballot question campaign in the country this year, collecting \$50.9 million – \$24.4 million for yes, \$26.5 million for no. About 75 percent of the no side's funding came from five major car manufacturers, while about half of the yes side's money comes from four major auto parts dealers. It seeks to expand on a ballot question the voters approved in 2012.

The two sides briefly summarized their points of view last Saturday on WATD 95.9 FM in separate interviews posted at https://959watd. com/blog/2020/10/ma-interviewswith-representatives-on-both-sidesof-ballot-question-1-debate/. But there does not seem to have been a publicly-available debate on the subject.

Pro-1 spokesman Tommy Hickey said the goal is to "update" a law passed by the voters in 2012 to give car owners "direct access" to certain kinds of information that's "nec-

essary to diagnose, maintain and repair the car. That is not GPS information: it's not personal information." To him, it closes a "carve-out in that law for wireless communications systems," which are now common but were not then. Those wireless systems diagnose car issues from the car's sensors, and such information would go to the owners if they have a certain smartphone app; they could then take it to any mechanic,

Anti-1 spokesman Conor Yunitz, however, said the existing right to repair law already covers such "telematics" data. If the manufacturers chose to make all data wireless, they'd still have to provide it to independent shops, he said. Instead, he sees this as "an enormous cybersecurity risk" because it "creates a wireless entry point" into a car that could be hacked. To him, problems mechanics face "should be addressed under the existing law. They won't be solved by Question 1."

"This is a national fight over data" between big parts companies and big car manufacturers, Yunitz said. "It's not about right to repair."

Earlier this month, the Tufts University Center for State Policy Analysis released a report by Evan Horowitz looking at the issues surrounding Question 1. It's available at https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/ sites/default/files/cSPA_right_to_ repair.pdf.

In it, Horowitz essentially echoed Yunitz's last statement and the Ballotpedia data, noting, "[T]he large amount of spending and political advocacy surrounding this ballot question suggests there's more to it

than just a codification of existing not indefinitely but for a timeframe rights. Over 100 automobile repair shops have joined the campaign in support of Question 1, indicating this is an issue they believe matters significantly to their business. And hefty spending from the "yes" and "no" campaigns suggests both sides see real stakes."

One well-publicized issue is that telematics access has been portrayed by some anti-1 ads as increasing the risk of stalking and other dangers. That, Horowitz found, is unlikely.

"So long as GPS and other privacy-related information is excluded as it seems to be - concerns about data misuse are greatly diminished. Some risks remain, however, including potential exploitation of the system for remotely updating your car," he wrote. "... Unauthorized access to tire pressure or airbag deployment details wouldn't expose the same kind of personal details as unauthorized access to your GPS-tracked movements. Moreover, telematics data already involves a real risk of misuse, with or without this ballot question. Automakers are collecting large quantities of telematics data – including about your location with little transparency or formal oversight, only a voluntary code of

The variety and secrecy of such data could make it difficult for mechanics to know if they're actually getting what they need, and the remedies to enforce sharing are weak, he noted. If the law passes, he found, "Should you decide to use an independent shop, you can grant them access to your repair-relevant telematics data via the mobile app

you determine." That could include the ability to see how you drive in real time and advise on maintenance needs, among other things. Some of those could be done remotely, and already can be.

"It might have made sense for the ballot question to require some kind of express sign-off from drivers before updates take place. But the more general issue is that allowing independent mechanics to access telematics data requires changes to automobile security systems that could introduce new vulnerabilities, especially given the narrow timeframe." Horowitz found. "...Note. however, that malicious and negligent manipulation of your vehicle would still be illegal under other laws. And the hacking issue transcends this ballot question; it is already a threat and will persist so long as new cars are designed to accept remote commands.'

In conclusion, Horowitz states, "There remain a number of risks and uncertainties associated with this ballot question, which could be mitigated with timely legislative action." Such action could include extending the timeframe for compliance, which is now the 2022 model

Early voting runs through this Friday. Election Day itself is Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mailed or dropped-off ballots must be in the town clerk's hands by the close of polls on Tuesday.

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

Question 2 changes how elections work

BY GUS STEEVES

REGION — Question 2 has seen by far the greatest difference in spending of the two questions. According to Ballotpedia.org, the pro-2 side has collected about \$9.7 million in donations, while the anti-2 side has just \$3576.77. Voters need to turn their ballots over to vote on this one; it's on the back.

In September, the Edward M Kennedy Institute for the US Senate hosted a debate between pro-2 spokesman Evan Falchuk and anti-2 spokesman Lee Goodman. Falchuk is chair of the Yes on 2 board and ran for governor in 2016, while Goodman was a Federal Elections Commissioner 2013-18 and a key attorney in the failed effort to overturn Maine's Ranked Choice Voting law in 2019. The event is still available at https://www.emkinstitute. org/explore-the-institute/public-events-programs/public/rankedchoice-voting.

In general, both sides agree ranked choice voting (RCV), also termed instant runoff voting, has existed for "well over 100 years" and is used in several American city elections plus several foreign systems. It works this way: Instead of picking just one

candidate in a multiple-candidate race, the voter ranks them however they wish. They can choose just one, or they can rank them all (some states set a limit on the number of choices voters can rank). If nobody get s a majority of votes in the first round, the candidate with the lowest total is eliminated and the voters who ranked him/her first get their ballots counted for their second choice instead. This rolling process goes on until someone has a majority and wins the race.

"If you can rank your donuts ... as so many do, you can do ranked choice voting," Falchuk said. Later he summarized the need this way: "Voters have to be able to vote for the person they really like, versus worrying about voting for someone that might cause someone else to

To him, the voters have repeatedly said they "want more choices" and RCV will push candidates to reach beyond their core voters to "ask them what we agree on." At the same time, it will allow third parties a better chance to be heard.

Goodman saw that as a problem, claiming it will increase polarization as mainstream candidates try to court supporters of single-issue and other "fringe" candidates. He claimed RCV requires voters to try to "predict" who will make it to second and subsequent rounds, that studies have shown Latino and African-American voters "tend to mismark their ballots at statistically-significantly higher rates than [those from] more affluent communities," that it favors more educated voters, and that it's not needed in Massachusetts, where most elections are "won by over 60 percent"

even with third-party candidates. To him, two alternatives are better than RCV: having actual runoffs on a separate date or giving the voters on one date multiple ballots that would show them the choices in 'conjectural runoff rounds.'

Goodman noted that about 90 percent of RCV elections are actually won by the first round's top vote-getter, but about 10 percent see someone else end up on top. He noted that one aspect of RCV is that voters who do not rank enough candidates can see their ballots drop out as the number of rounds gets higher.

Falchuk, on the other hand, argued Goodman was making it much more complicated than it is and that his arguments "have been rejected over and over again," particularly by the courts in Maine. One issue that came up there, he added, was a claim that older voters had trouble with RCV, but the judge "destroyed the expert for cooking the books. ... It's not true." He also rejected the idea that "black and Latino voters aren't as smart as other voters," noting many RCV proponents are black and Latino.

Goodman argued he was "merely reflecting what the studies say" and sees such things as "practical and documented concerns" that should be considered. Both men agreed that educating voters on how to mark their ballot and how it's counted are important to make it work well. Falchuk said he thinks the Secretary of State and municipal clerks can do Goodman agreed they can, saying,

"I think this has been templated enough that your state can do it," but it will require some funding for new software and maybe more voting machines. Falchuk agreed, but pointed to Maine, where early predictions said it'd cost \$1 million more, but it actually cost just \$100,000 more to run the first RCV election. What needs to be determined is whether towns will handle the second and later counting rounds, or if those will go to the state. Maine communities didn't have the capacity to do that, but Goodman noted it is possible to program the voting machines to do it

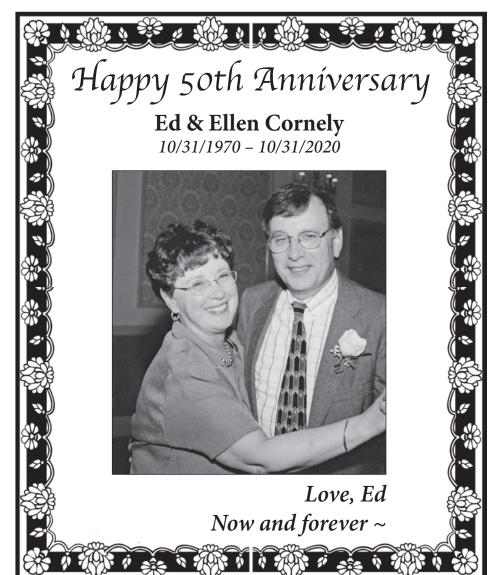
Falchuk said RCV would prevent what happened in the recent 4th Congressional District primary, where the winner only received 22 percent of the vote - "78 percent of voters voted for someone else," and all of the candidates have endorsed

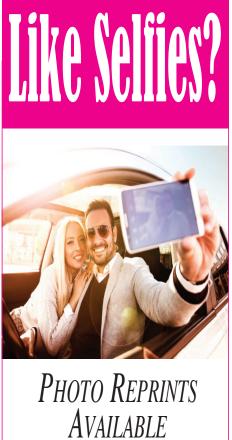
Regarding constitutionality, the Maine case and Massachusetts have different language. Maine's Supreme Court initially ruled it unconstitutional because the document specifically calls for "plurality" elections, Goodman said. (Maine voters subsequently changed that.) In Massachusetts, though, the language doesn't use that word, just calls for the winner to be the one who gets the most votes. Falchuk noted the state constitution doesn't say how that's calculated, and this ballot question will define that if it passes.

RCV would first be used for the state and federal elections of 2022, but will not apply to future presidential races. A local option would allow towns to adopt it for local elections.

Early voting runs through this Election Day itself is Friday. Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mailed or dropped-off ballots must be in the town clerk's hands by the close of polls on Tuesday.

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





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LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 140 §58 the Wales Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on November 2nd, 2020 at the Wales Town Offices at 6:30 PM, on the application of William Matchett of 45 Union Rd, for a special permit seeking a Class Il car dealers license. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website (www.townofwales.net) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns please email planning@townofwales.net October 23, 2020

October 30, 2020

Wales Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 40A §10 & §11, the Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on November 16th, 2020 at the Wales Town Offices at 6:00 PM, on the application of William Matchett of 45 Union Rd, for a special permit in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4.2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.2.4.1 states "The proposed extension, alteration, or change must not increase the non-conformity (if any) with open space, yard, height, and off-street parking requirements." Specifically, the applicant wishes to build a 20 X 40 garage. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website (www.townofwales. net) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns please email planning@townofwales.net

October 30, 2020 November 16, 2020

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ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Wednesday, November 18. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the November 27th issue.

One entry per person.

Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!



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> Frank G. Chilinski PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> > Brendan Berube **EDITOR**

EDITORIAL Your voice, and your vote, matter

We have heard a good deal of buzz from younger voters recently regarding the upcoming election, and the overwhelming consensus among them is a sense that their votes do not count. While there are exceptions to this rule, we feel it is important to stress to our younger counterparts how important it is to pay attention and to head to the ballot box.

The youth voice is important, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or something in between. Important issues in every election directly relate to concerns students and young professionals have, which is even more reason to arm yourself with knowledge. Truth be told, younger voters are needed now more than ever. Issues that concern students are college tuition reform, healthcare and federal job programs to name a few. You may not care now, but you may care a few years from now when choices politicians make, begin to affect your life, and they will.

Young voters make up almost 50 percent of the voting population, giving you a stronger voice than you think, making your votes collectively more influential across the board. An interesting bit of trivia is that youth votes declined by 2 percent from a record of 52 percent in 2008. In 2016, 19 percent of those ages 18-29 voted in the presidential election. Those ages 45-64, however, made up for

49 percent of the vote. You may not think your vote matters, but the fact is that every vote counts. The climate of the country appears to be so divided that the youth vote matters now more than ever. Oftentimes politicians will win by a small margin as low as 20 votes, especially in local and state races, proof that your vote does matter. Young people that want to inspire change need to find the candidate who represents their values best,

and cast their votes.

With news at our fingertips these days, it's easier now more than ever to educate yourself regarding politics. Sure it may seem boring and often times it is, but educating yourself on current events and the issues will serve you well. One bit of advice is not to believe everything you read or see, and to always fact check your sources. Protect your interests and use your voice, after all this is what democracy is all about.

Do not be discouraged or intimidated to vote — it's easy. You have a right to be at the polls just like every other American. Bring a friend and go grab some lunch or breakfast afterwards, making it a fun occasion.



VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A hidden gem

To the Editor:

I would like to let everyone in Sturbridge know what a gem they (you) have at the Sturbridge Senior

Center. Leslie Wong is the best director, being concerned for everyone and running excellent programs.

During this trying period, I know she continues to care and help everyone. I hope everyone will support their senior

> Cecilia Desrosiers Holland

Paint a Room -Change Your Mood

Perhaps nothing provides the "wow" effect as fast (or as cheaply) as redoing the walls of a room. After all, paint offers an easy and inexpensive means of transforming a living space - but that's not all. While paint can

make a significant difference in a room's appearance, it can also make a difference in the mood of the people within those four

Case in point: In the 1950s color experts shared their groundbreaking data that revealed that rooms painted certain shades of blues and green not only served to calm, but could have a sedative effect! A decade or so later, prison officials discovered cell walls painted a bubble gum pink color calmed violent prisoners

Alexander Schauss, Ph.D., director of the American Institute for Biosocial Research in Washington, who was the first to research and report on the "pink effect", stated: "Even if a person tries to be angry or aggressive in the presence of pink, he can't. The heart muscles can't race fast enough. It's a tranquilizing color that saps your energy. Even the color-blind are tranquilized by pink rooms."

For all those painting this season, here's a rundown on the psychology

Creative Color: Want to foster your creativity? Try painting an office or work space light blue. Light blue also promotes imagination, inner security and confidence! Need to be more organized? Try pairing light blue with yellow, to stimulate the mind and help with organizational skills.

Deep Sleep: Dark blue, however, tends to encourage deep and peaceful sleep, which makes the dramatic color ideal for a bedroom.

Diet Aid: According to the Paint Quality Institute, medium blue is an appetite suppressant, so you might want to avoid using it in the kitchen or dining room, unless you're on a diet. In that case, a blue plate might just do the trick.

Bright and Brighter: The color vellow is not only bright, it inspires mental brightness too! Yellow is associated with intelligence and expressive thoughts. Yellow is even credited with improving memory. If that's not enough to sell you on the color, yellow is a mood booster too!

But with yellow a little goes a long way, and too much bright yellow can over stimulate the nervous system.

TAKE THE HINT KAREN

TRAINOR

Hunger Pangs: It's no secret red inspires

Spa Shade: Green is considered a healthy color, fostering comfort, relaxation and a sense of wellness. Green is a good choice for a bathroom, sun porch or reading nook. On the other hand, lighter shades of green such as mint green, can refresh and invigorate the mind. Darker greens, however, add a sense of calm to the decor and are another

Bust the Blues: Depressed? Try powerful energy of orange even promotes the capacity to forgive!

Your tips can win you a fabuyour 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 publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!. c/o Stonebridge Press. P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdrr@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for a three course dinner for two at the historic

again one day. When that happens, you may need to look at the equities portion of your portfolio to see if you want to make some adjustments. Many other changes, though, are hard to predict. It's possible that future legislation could affect specific industries, either positively or negatively. Such moves could also influence the way you look at certain investments, but if you have a diversified portfolio that contains a broad mix of stocks, bonds and other securities, any actions affecting one particular industry probably won't cause you to

in other sectors. In any case, while it may be a good idea to keep an eye open for things like tax rate changes or how new policies may affect different market segments, your main emphasis, in terms of your investment decisions, should remain on your goals and what you need to do

significantly adjust holdings invested

Vote for a solid

investment

strategy

Election Day is little more than a

week away. As a citizen, you may feel

the results will affect many aspects of

life in this country. But as an investor,

your situation probably won't change

ly driven volatility, but that often hap-

pens around elections, and it typically

doesn't last long. But what about the

longer term? How might changes in

policy and new legislation affect your

To begin, keep in mind that many

campaign promises remain just that

– promises. And even when some of

them are enacted, any ultimate legisla-

tion may be quite different from what

could see election-related changes that

could affect your investment strategy.

For example, over the years, we've

seen many adjustments in the tax rates

of capital gains and stock dividends,

and it's likely these rates will change

Still, sometime in the future, we

was proposed on the campaign trail.

No matter who wins, the financial markets may well show some political-

after the votes are counted.

investment outlook?

FINANCIAL

Focus

JEFF BURDICK

to achieve them.

At least once each year, review your portfolio carefully to make sure your investments are aligned with your goals, whether they are short-term (a new car, a long vacation and so on) or long-term (such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement). Periodically, depending on what's happening in your life and the progress of your investment portfolio, you may need to evaluate your goals to ensure they're prioritized appropriately to help keep you on track toward achieving what's most important to you.

Over time, your goals may change, too. Perhaps you've decided that instead of retiring early and traveling around the world, you now want to turn your hobby into a business. Changing this goal may require a different investment strategy. Or you might change your mind about where you want to live - instead of staying in your home, as originally planned, you might downsize and move to a different area. Your goals may change in many ways, all of which may warrant updating your investment strategies.

Here's the key point: You're the one electing to make these changes. No matter what happens in this or any other election, be sure to "vote" for the strategies that have the potential for a winning outcome.

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.





Chit Chat: Aqua or Turquoise encourages communication, making it the perfect paint color for a teenager's room - or in a salesroom office where the deal is sealed.

hunger, and many restaurants use the color psychology to whet a diners appetite. Red also increases the heart rate, energy and passion. But don't run off to buy a gallon of red yet. Studies show too much of some intense reds can cause irritability and anger. If you're using red in your room, try a darker shade of red, or try painting one wall to avoid becoming overwhelmed by the energetic color.

favorite bedroom color.

painting your walls orange, or at least a workable shade of orange, such as peach or terra cotta. Orange is the top mood booster, according to experts. Orange fights depression and cultivates good humor. The

Win Dinner for Two

lous 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

Publick House Inn!

Take heart — the madness of 2020 is coming to an end!

A friend texted me a few days ago and said, "You're going to need to issue a retraction.'

I responded with a very articulate and intelli-

gent, "Huh?" She then texted a picture of my first column of

the year, entitled, "2020 Promises to be Awesome!" Maybe awesome wasn't the correct word.

Another friend posted on Facebook, "Dear Mom, you once threatened to slap me into next year. Does that offer still stand?"

Although a funny statement, I think most of us would endure that slap if it truly delivered the desired

I'll admit, 2020 wasn't exactly what I expected and hoped for. We were handed a virus, (I believe history will show it came from China, but does it really matter?) that we didn't and maybe still don't understand. One side is saying, "We left you



Positively SPEAKING GARY W. MOORE

a plan! All you had to do was follow it," while the other side is claiming that early closing of the borders saved lives. I really don't care who was in office, this is a virus no one understood and it's impossible to pre-

pare for something you don't understand. Those screaming that the current administration has blood on their hands are making irresponsible claims to gain votes.

However, it's election season and irresponsible and ridiculous claims are being sprayed like machine gun fire from both sides. As we talked about a few weeks ago, it would seem that civility is dead.

The best news of the year is that the election will soon be over and "hopefully" the heat of the national discourse will cool.

Is that wishful thinking? I keep making the same point, but it's

Turn To **MOORE**, page **A9**

My favorite time of year



THE GREAT **OUTDOORS** RALPH **TRUE**

The month of October Is my favorite time of year. Hunting and fishing provides us with a lot of opportunities to get out and enjoy all Mother Nature has to offer, before we head into the cold weather, and more than likely a few snow storms before all is said and done. As we grow older, time seems to go a lot faster. I do not want to wish my life away, but because of Covid-19, I will be happy to see spring. That is when a vaccine will more than likely be available to the general public, and we can get back to some form of normality. Until then, we will need to take life a bit slower and refraining from social gatherings. It is only six months away. Hoping everyone stays safe until then.

People that love the outdoors and do hunting and fishing should have no problem social distancing while still enjoying life. Deer hunters are often perched up in a tree observing wildlife and waiting for that big buck to walk into shooting range. If he does not come, harvesting a smaller deer will still give him some venison for the cold months ahead.

Bird hunters also should have no problem with social distancing, walking through the woods with a couple of buddies, and their dog. With the state stocking birds once a week at two local hunting areas, bird hunting should provide some great hunting opportunities through the Thanksgiving holiday. After hunting a local stocked area for pheasant last week, I noticed a few ticks on my Labrador retriever when I brought her home. After removing as many as i could locate, I ran a flea comb through her hair the best that I could. Next came a bath with a flea & Tick shampoo. I keep her on Nexguard which is a once a month pill to keep her from contracting Lyme disease.

This past weekend, I decided to bake one of the pheasant that i retained from a hunt in open covers. The Ringneck pheasant was at least a couple of pounds after cleaning. I located an electric roaster oven that my wife always used to bake our Thanksgiving turkey. After she passed a couple of years ago, I had to take up cooking my own meals. I always liked to cook, but she would never let me into her kitchen. I can remember her words "You like to cook but you never clean up when you are done." That was not exactly true. It was just that she was a very, something she practiced daily.

Anyway, I went on to YouTube and





found a receipt for baking a chicken and figured it should apply to any bird. I quickly cleaned the baking oven three times, splashing soapy water all over the kitchen sink, and onto the floor. If my wife could see me now! After a good cleaning I washed the bird a couple of times and patted it dry per instructions. Salt and pepper and a full stick of butter was added to the bird along with a liberal amount of celery and onion. Placing the bird into the pan after heating it to 350 degrees, and it was time for the one hour or more cooking time. My two dogs Twig and Molly seemed to be entertained by my actions.

Finally, it was time to taste the results of my first baked bird Allowing the bird to cool a few minutes I pulled a leg from the bird's body and took a good bite into the meat. It was a bit chewy and did not have much flavor. After a few bites. I looked at the two dogs that seemed to be drooling, hoping for a bite. I took another bite and soon realized I had screwed it up. I lifted the remaining bird from the pan allowed it to cool, cut off some of the bird for the dogs, and threw the rest in the trash.

Relax. Take a breath. Turn off the noise. We are better than this and from Nov. 4 to Dec. 31, don't let the results of this election determine your happiness. Let's work on taking our year back and ending on a happier note.

American optimism is what has made the United States of America a beacon of hope, peace, and prosperity. Be hopeful. Find your peace. Let's all prosper together, regardless of outcome.

I choose optimism over despair. Vote, then move on. Will you join me?

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 @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

so I could not tell if even they really My wife often said that I only married her because of her great cooking. It was one of the reasons, but staying married for 62 years there had to be a lot more than just her cooking. Rest in peace, babe!

My next bird will come from the supermarket, and I still had the mess to clean up that I had made while

preparing it. The two dogs will eat almost anything that looks like food,

With many people out enjoying the outdoors this year, they to need to be very careful with their children becoming infected with Lyme disease. Daily checkups by parents should be made of all family members at the end of the day. A Thorough examination of the body, looking for a tick requires a few minutes to spot the extremely small deer tick. It could save one of your family a serious tick infection, that can turn into a life-threatening disease. There is a spray for your clothes called Permethrin that works very well to ward off ticks, but it should never be used on the skin. It is for clothing only, and can last up to a couple of weeks or more. Be sure to read all of the instructions before applying the spray.

This week's picture shows Andrea Henchey and her husband Curis shooting clay birds at the Uxbridge Rod & Gin Club this past Sunday. The trap range is open every Sunday weather permitting. It is open to the general public, so give it a try. You cannot find a nicer group of trap shooters, and they will be happy to help improve your shooting skills.

Do not forget to vote! Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them

Extend your enjoyment of nutritious pumpkins



GARDEN Moments MELINDA **MYERS**

Pumpkin is not just for dessert. Consider using this low calorie, flavorful vegetable, botanically classified as a fruit, in any of the courses of your fall or holiday meals.

The beta carotene that gives pumpkin its orange color is an important antioxidant. Increasing the beta carotenes in your diet can reduce the risk of developing some cancers and provide protection against heart

disease. And do not throw the seeds in the compost pile, roast them instead and enjoy the anti-inflammatory benefits of this snack. Remove the pulp by rinsing the seeds in cold water. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet treated with a nonstick cooking oil. Lightly salt. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Stir the seeds after 10 minutes. Allow to cool and store any leftovers, if there

are any, in an airtight container. Harvest pumpkins when the fruit is fully colored and the rind has lost its shine and is hard. The curly tendrils near the pumpkin will turn brown and die when the fruit is fully ripe. Use a pruning shear to cut the stem and avoid damage to the plant and your harvest. Leaving several inches of the pumpkin's stem intact increases their storage life. And look for blemish-free fruit with intact stems when buying pumpkins from the grocery store or farmers' market.



This Orange Smoothie variety is a great pumpkin for carving, painting, and its meat is sweet for homemade pumpkin pie.

Always harvest pumpkins before the first frost. Or cover plantings with floating row covers, old sheets or blankets when frost is in the forecast. Protecting plants from the first few frosty nights can keep them growing until the remaining frostfree days of the season are back in the forecast.

Only store pumpkins free of soft spots, cuts and other damage that can lead to decay. Cleaning them before storing can help extend their shelf life. Wipe them down with a

Turn To **GARDENING**, page **A11**

continued from page A8

MOORE

important.

I trust the will of the American people. If your candidate doesn't win, it's not the end of life on earth as we know it. There is another election in four years and the beauty of our system is that we have checks and balances to keep us from driving off the rails until then. The worse thing that can happen is if a single party takes control of all three branches of government. Trust me, neither party is always right or always wrong. A little gridlock slows things down and forces negotiation.

I've never seen both sides so frantic. The screams from both left and right claim that if the other party ends, the nation will be irreversibly changed for the worse.

Irreversibly? I don't think so. So please lower the volume, take a breath, and relax. The sun will rise on November fourth and life will go on.

As for COVID-19... it's become so politicized that it's hard to know what's true. And shame on both parties for using a national life and death circumstance as a tool to gain

But that is how 2020 began. It doesn't mean that it must end this way. I am not naive'. I understand there's nothing that's going to change until after the election. If we are going to save our nation, we must accept the will of the people, regardless of who wins, then move forward together.

Sounds simple... but it's not easy. First, watch a few movies and skip the evening news channels. Prime time is where the barking opinion heads work hard to hijack your head and heart. Watch a movie, read a book, take a walk... do anything but expose yourself to the evening

While in your car, listen to music and again, avoid the shrill political voices coming out of your radio. Please understand ... these voices are rarely there to inform. They are there to manipulate your hearts and mind to come over to their side.













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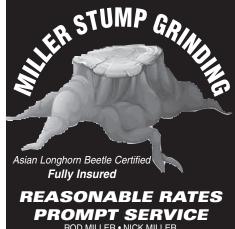
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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

CHAMBER CONTEST

continued from page A1

Keep it local and keep it simple are the themes of the contest. Here's how to get involved and earn your chance at some extra holiday goodness. Visit www.cmschamber.org and click on the Shop Local for the Holidays banner to read the official rules, download the entry form, and view more than 70 participating businesses. Bring the entry form with you as you shop and note all the businesses from which you made a purchase along with the amount spent. Then, take at least one selfie of you and/or your crew shopping at one of these fine establishments. Once you have made purchases from six of the participating businesses and taken your selfie, mail, email or drop off your completed entry form and photo at the Chamber office at 46 Hall Road in Sturbridge by noon

on Dec. 16. You can enter more than once as long as you are making 6 different and original purchases per entry. The winners will be drawn and announced on Thursday, Dec.

participating businesses include shops, dining establishments, service providers, as well as attractions and experiences located throughout the 12 towns served by the Chamber of Central Mass South. The Chamber is extremely grateful to the 'Shop Local for The Holidays and Win' contest sponsor, Cornerstone Bank, for their generous support of this effort.

Seeking promotion or advocacy for your business? If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated and passionate business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at cmschamber.org or reach the office at

HOCKEY

continued from page A1

on the close proximity of hockey athletes, not only on the ice during games but also in cramped locker rooms. Mask use and social distancing are supposed to be taking place at rinks statewide, but these guidelines are nearly impossible to

In the state's return-to-play framework released over the summer, ice hockey, football, and several other sports were designated as high-risk activities. Amendments to the guidelines allowed for practices and other activities to take place, but officials are worried about future outbreaks.

"This pause will allow for the development of stronger COVID-19 protocols to further protect players, families, coaches, arena staff, and other participants, as well as

communities surrounding hockey rinks," read the Department of Public Health statement.

Current protocols include limitations on the number of people allowed in an arena, social distancing measures, locker room regulations, and other precautions. Health officials said additional measures will be needed to minimize the risk of future clusters, but they will only be effective if rink managers, coaches, parents, and athletes abide by them.

The Department of Public Health's current order includes all indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities in Massachusetts. These rinks and facilities may not operate during this temporary two-week pause.

College and professional hockey programs are exempt from this

SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page A1

Engineering

Elizabeth Stone, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, attends Worcester State University majoring in Environmental Science

Anya Grondalski, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, attends Quinnipiac University majoring in Political Science & Journalism

Lannaya Brandt, Tantasqua Regional High School. Attends UMASS Amherst majoring in Psychology

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in the amount of \$1,000 is awarded to the individual that a pursued a trade during high school.

This year's recipient is Joseph Postale of Southbridge, who attended Bay Path Regional Technical High School and now attends Fitchburg State University majoring in Engineering and Architecture.

Rotary Club of Southbridge is a community service, non-profit organization that focuses on club, vocational, community, international and new generations service. For more information visit the Rotary Club of Southbridge Facebook page (@SouthbridgeRotaryClub).

BRIGHT FUTURE

continued from page A1

porate core values such as education, empowerment, discipline, leadership, diversity, and respect into our daily programs to help students shape their futures into bright ones. The program launched four years ago and there are now programs in three Massachusetts locations -

Webster, Southbridge, and Charlton. STEM education is so often left out of school settings and I t is not only personal experience, but also statistics that show that youth being involved in sports leads to lower dropout rates, higher GPAs, and more fine-tuned social skills. This is why we combine Stem education with sports. We also offer programs such as Mentorship (through our partnership at Big Brothers Big Sisters), Arts and Crafts, and Financial Literacy.

"We have been lucky to meet some wonderful people like Mr. and Mrs. Fels of the Fels Foundation and Mary O'Coin Executive Director

of United Way of South Central Massachusetts. Without them, there would be no Our Bright Future, Inc." says co-founder Kwasi Acheampong. We would like to thank all of our 2020 donors. Cornerstone Bank, Savers Bank, Oxford Insurance, The Last Green Valley, Fels Foundation, United Way of South Central Massachusetts, Southbridge Credit Union, Walmart, and Precision Auto Rebuilder.

Our Bright Future, Inc. is currently operating programs in Webster from 3 pm to 5 pm and coming soon to Southbridge on November 2nd, 2020. Due to COVID, Charlton's location will be delayed until January. Please visit their Web site at www. ourbrightfutureinc.org for more information on how you can sign-up your child.

If you are interested in donating to this wonderful organization or sponsoring a student please email Co-founder Kwasi Acheampong at ourbrightfutureinc@gmail.com or call (774) 578-5111.

QCC

continued from page A5

said. "This school matters in this region for our students and for employers.'

Recent 2020 graduate Jorgo Gushi, an electrical and computer engineering student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, addressed QCC's continued commitment to its students and their success, in addition to its strong community engagement, such as in its recent census and voting campaigns.

"I was recently elected as a member of the QCC's College Foundation's Board of Directors. I am also serving as the Chair of the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education and sitting on this board in a non-voting advisory capacity. Some of you might be surprised by the level of engagement I have in student leadership, advocacy and community service; however, this is common for QCC students," he said. "We enter QCC with a goal, a dream, and along the way we acquire skills needed to be successful in the workforce, and in life. We are taught confidence, communication, teamwork, humanity and awareness of our community.'

QCC student Veronica Morson and alumnae Nelly Medina are also active in the college community and beyond. They both introduced their voting campaign videos and discussed the importance of voting, as well as being engaged members of the community.

"QCC is not a college in Worcester; QCC is Worcester's college. QCC is our community's college and it strives day after day to make it better for its students and the community's residents," Mr. Gushi said.

"QCC supports all of their students because we are a community," Ms. Leber added.

Representative Kane, whose district includes Shrewsbury and Westborough, commended the work the college has done transitioning to remote learning.

"I really like the Worcester college comment," she said during the event. "I certainly believe QCC is our community college as well and take great pride in all that you are doing.

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

GARDENING

continued from page A9

dilute solution of one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water. Allow them to dry thoroughly before placing them in storage. Washing the fruit removes bacteria and fungal spores that can contribute to decay.

Store pumpkins in a dark, dry, cool location between 50 and 60 degrees for storage. Place them in a single layer on cardboard, crates or wooden shelves. Avoid storing them directly on a concrete floor that can lead to rot.

Check pumpkins regularly for rot and soft spots. Remove any that show signs of rot and add them to the compost pile. Pumpkins that are stored properly can last for several months.

Remember to take time this season to enjoy the harvest and flavor as you cook up some tasty, nutritious pumpkin dishes this fall

Melinda Myers is the author of 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 a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www. MelindaMyers.com.













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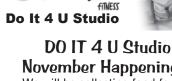
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Spacious Ranch. 1520+/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom. 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room, FHW/OIL Heat, - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot Dead end road. Close to 1-3951 \$255.500.

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



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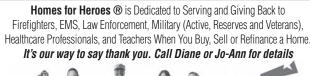
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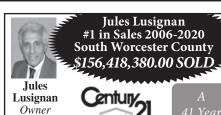


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N.F.L.

Prayer to the **Blessed Virgin**

holy Immaculate, my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord, the gueen of the universe, the advocate, the hope, the refuge of sinners. I who am the most miserable of all sinners, have recourse this day. I venerate thee, great queen, and I thank thee for the many graces thou has bestowed upon me even unto this day; in particular for having delivered me from the hell which I have so often deserved by my sins. I love thee, most dear Lady; and for the love I bear thee, I promise to serve thee willingly forever and to do what I can to make thee loved by others also. I place in thee all my hopes for salvation; me as thy servant and shelter me under thy mantle, thou who art the Mother of mercy. And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or at least obtain for me the strength to overcome them until death. From thee I implore a true love for Jesus Christ. Through thee I hope to die a holy death. My dear Mother, by the love thou bearest to Almighty God, I pray thee to assist me always, but most of all at the last moment of my life. Forsake me not then, until thou shalt see me safe in heaven, there to bless thee and sing of thy mercies through all eternity. Such is my hope. Amen.



PRAYER TO THE ANGELS

Pray 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days, ask for 3 wishes, 1 involving business and 2 involving the impossible. On the 9th day publish the prayer and your wish will be answered even though you may not believe it. As promised.

N.F.L.

Thanksgiving Prayer to

St. Jude Dearest St. Jude, thank you for your prayer and intercession on my behalf to the Lord, you have always answered my prayer but still I will never be able to thank you enough. Please forgive me on occasion that I may have forgotten or overlooked in thanking you for the favours granted. I promise you St. Jude to be ever grateful and always be, devoted to be you as my patron saint. For by the good Lord's grace has got me to this point in life, and there is still a very long road for me to traverse. Therefore, St. Jude, I

will always need you by my side and please continue to guide and help me with God's grace. I ask you St. Jude to not leave any prayers unanswered whether it is one of mine or from others who have invoked your aid. Look upon us the hopeless and desperate for the Lord's help in our life. I will always be in need of your help and you always hear my prayers, otherwise

my life will be very

difficult to lead.

AMEN.

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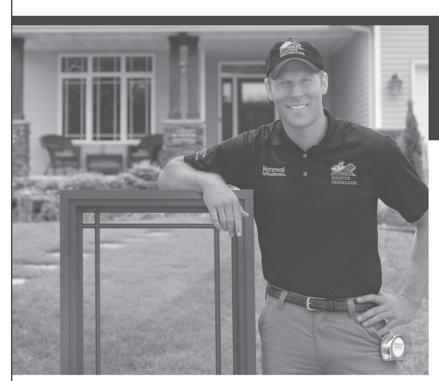
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Bay State Savings Bank Charitable Foundation awards grants to local non-profits

WORCESTER — Bay State Savings Bank is proud to announce their recent disbursement of more than \$17,000 to local non-profits. The Bank's Charitable Foundation met on Wednesday, October 7 and awarded grants to local non-profits in need of assistance for general, project, and capital support.

organizations include Funded ArtReach Studio, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MA and Metro West, Dismas House, Dress for Success Worcester, Inc., Living in Freedom Together, Love Your Labels, McCauley Nazareth Home for Boys, Inc., Project New Hope, Rise Above Foundation, Simon Says Give, VOX New England, Inc., and Worcester Youth Center, Inc.

The next Charitable Foundation Meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021. Non-profits interested in applying should visit the Bank's website at baystatesavingsbank.com/bss-charitable-foundation for the application and guidelines.



Courtesy

Pictured, from left to right: Diane Giampa, SVP of Human Resources, Marketing and Retail Banking, Bay State Savings Bank, Bill Moore, Executive Director, Project New Hope, and Peter Alden, President and CEO, Bay State Savings Bank.





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