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Baker offers funding to special education providers

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – The Baker-Polito Administration announced last week that \$16.1 million will be made available to assist special education providers.

The relief funding will be distributed among 32 special education residential school providers to defray costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Mass. Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders made the announcement during a visit to the New England Center for Children, a special education school in Southboro.

"Throughout the pandemic, special education residential schools remained open to sup-

port their students with unique challenges," Baker said. "Schools incurred unanticipated costs related to the purchase of personal protective equipment, infection control measures, increased staffing costs, and enhanced cleaning protocols."

The latest funding package is in addition to \$3 million provided by the Department of Early Education and Care in April to support the residential education school system. The funds will help schools remain open on a 24/7 basis throughout the pandemic while ensuring high safety and sanitation standards.

The state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services previously implemented \$139

Turn To **FUNDING** page A7



Courtesy

Gov. Charlie Baker announces a funding package to assist special education providers.

Area residents chosen as

Bank of America Student Leaders

WORCESTER — Bank of America today announced that the two Worcester-area teenagers selected as Student Leaders (#BofASStudentLeaders) have started their paid summer internship experience of leadership, civic engagement, and workforce skills-building. In light of the health concerns that remain in local communities, the program has been adapted to a virtual format, through which students will have the opportunity to participate in sessions that will expose them to the vital role that nonprofits play in advancing community health, the importance of public private partnerships to advance social change, and a focus on building financial acumen.

The Class of 2020 Worcester-area Bank of America Student Leaders are:

Henry Weiland, of Charlton, a rising senior at Shepherd Hill Regional High School;

Elyse Whittemore, of Auburn, a graduate of Auburn High School and incoming freshman at Worcester State University

Worcester-area Student Leaders will participate in programming that leverages Bank of America's national partnerships and expertise and will work closely with the bank's Worcester leadership and nonprofit partners. They will participate in a collaborative, mentoring-focused project at the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester. In addition, Student Leaders will engage in conversations focused on social justice, civil rights and how to build a more diverse and inclusive society and have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of their personal finances through

Better Money Habits®, Bank of America's financial wellness and education platform.

Bringing students from across the country together in order to discuss the role of citizenship and how cross sector collaboration creates community impact is a core component of the Student Leaders program. This year, 300 students will gather virtually for the Young America Together at Home program, delivered by the Close Up Foundation, which will include discussion of finding one's voice in order to effect change and pressing policy issues such as the economy, healthcare, the environment and immigration.

"Now more than ever, as we collectively navigate the challenges we face in our communities, we remain committed to

Turn To **LEADERS** page A7

Trinity Catholic Academy moves forward with annual Golf Classic

SOUTHBRIDGE—Trinity Catholic Academy is excited to announce the 25th Annual Golf Classic to be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, with coffee and pastries served at 6:30 a.m. and a 7:30 a.m. "Shot Gun Start"

The Golf Tournament was close to a "no go" due to Covid-19, but Heritage Country Club in Charlton has assured us that the program can be held with proper social distancing for a great day for up to 144 participants. First registered, first served! <https://trinitycatholicacademy.org/golf-classic/>

The year 2020 reflects the 25th year of this great golf event, as well as the "Kick Off Event" to celebrate 150 years of Catholic Education in Southbridge!

More about the history of Southbridge Catholic Education will be shared later.

The 25-year history of Trinity Catholic Academy Annual Golf Tournament traces back to Southbridge Catholic Alum, David Stevens, "NDHS '61 who had children attending TCA at the time. Along with other TCA parents, they organized the first TCA Classic Golf Tournament in 1995. David was President of the Tournament till 1999. At that time Hyde Tool's Bob Clemence, Director of Sales, became President of the Tournament. Much of Mr. Clemence's family are still attending Trinity and have since then. Bob Clemence remained President till 2014, and still serves on the committee to this day. To share the fun, in 2014, Paula Toti became President of the Tournament having worked at Trinity for several years herself as a Physical Ed teacher and custodian for about 8 years. Paula now teaches in the Shrewsbury School System but continues to volunteer and provide the enthusiasm for leading this much anticipated & well attended event. The past 6 or 7 years has also seen Brian Cournoyer as Vice President a "right hand man" for the event. Brian has been president of the PTO at TCA as well, with his son graduating this past June. Other members of the Committee include Melissa Hilli, Colleen Casey, Maura Power & Nadine Casey.

This event has been a major fundraiser for Trinity Catholic Academy, that provides support for the school and a great opportunity for family, friends, and Alumni to catch up with one another! TCA is very thankful for the past support of generous companies, donors and local folks who have made it possible for Catholic Education to continue in Southbridge to this 150-year mark, and who offer support for the years ahead. Smaller class size makes this school an added advantage for today's families in our 25-mile radius area that we serve for children Pre-K to Grade 8. Some of the tournament Day Options include:

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Putting contests

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Those looking to support the cause with a raffle gift donation are welcome to do so on the website or email: Sbdgecathalum@tca11.com.

To learn more about the 25th Annual Golf Classic, and be eligible for both cash & fun prizes, or offer support for this hidden gem in Southbridge! <https://trinitycatholicacademy.org/golf-classic/>



6 56525 10391 9

Charlton Sewing Center turns mask efforts to schools

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, much praise has been directed toward the staff and volunteers of the Charlton Sewing Center. Since March, the center has led the charge to creating more than 20,000 masks for different entities throughout the region and their latest endeavor has their sights set on schools.

With the plan of action still to be determined for many school districts, preparations are being made in case students and staff are brought back into the buildings with school reconvenes this fall. The Charlton Sewing Center has received requests from numerous districts for cloth masks to accommodate staff throughout the buildings and, as they have done since day one, the center obliged. According to Cathy Racine, owner of the Charlton Sewing Center, the Dudley Charlton Regional School District alone has commissioned 1,200 masks to date with plans to provide at least one to every staff member including

both Bay Path Regional Vocational High School and Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Tantasqua has also ordered 380 masks while Sutton, Grafton and Old Sturbridge Academy have also benefitted from the center's efforts.

Racine said the efforts of everyone involved

have been inspiring and they all hear and appreciate the gratitude of businesses and communities for the masks. Racine said the experience has been a powerful one for all allowing many in the sewing community to embrace their passion in a way they probably never expected.

"The response has been overwhelming. There's been lots of tears, lots of laughing, lots of virtual hugs and elbow bumps. I think this is a time where what we really love to do, we almost can't do like get together in quilt guilds and sewing guilds.

Turn To **MASKS** page A7



Courtesy

A small handful of the hundreds of masks being made for regional schools by the Charlton Sewing Center and its volunteers. These masks were set to be delivered to Sutton.

2ND ANNUAL



Find the ABC's Summer Scramble inside this issue.

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Hitchcock Academy Summer Concert Series returns

BRIMFIELD — The Summer Concert series is back with new dates, times and a new location. Grab your blanket or chair. Pack a picnic or enjoy food from the West Wind Farm food truck. Join in as Green Acres has generously partnered with Hitchcock Free Academy to host three concerts at their 66 Palmer Rd. (Route 20) location in Brimfield.

According to Hitchcock's Executive Director, Cindy Skowyra, having the concerts at the Green Acres field means plenty of space and easier parking.

The series begins on Tuesday, Aug. 4 with New England Weather Trio, featuring singer-songwriters Rob Adams, Jared Fiske and vocalist Jessica Adams. They travel throughout the Northeast performing everything from '60s rock to today's pop. Next in the series is local favorite Radio Ranch on Thursday, Aug. 20. Radio Ranch's veteran musicians Joe Calcasola, Matt Smith, Jim Lamothe, Art Reed, and Justin Calcasola will get your toes tapping and your soul singing with their lively blend of Country and Americana music. The New England Weather Trio concert and the Radio Ranch performance will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

On Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., The James Paul Band winds up the series with their mix of Southern Rock and original music. The group includes James Paul on vocals and guitar, Skip Dioreto on drums, Russell Oliveira as lead guitar, Brent Nielsen on bass and David Barret on keyboard and guitar. They bill themselves as, "five friends playing together." The band acknowledges their many influences including



The New England Weather Trio will kick off Hitchcock Academy's Summer Concert Series Tuesday evening.

The Black Crows, Creedence Clearwater Revival, John Mellencamp, Tom Petty and the Beatles, which all blend to contribute to their unique musical style.

The Hitchcock Academy concert series is a summer staple in the area and it happens because of the support of Country Bank, the Monson Lions Club, the Mass Cultural Council, the Brimfield Cultural Council and the Shirley Frye Memorial Fund. Although the shutdown prompted by Covid-19 meant postponement, current Phase 3 guidelines mean the shows can go on.

As in year's past, concert goers are encouraged to bring bug spray. This year they are also asked to adhere to the Phase 3 guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. However, Skowyra is quick to point out that Green Acres expanded area provides plenty of room to spread out. She encourages everyone: young, old, in between to come out into the open air; to enjoy being with community members and to make some memories all while enjoying some of summer's sweetest sounds.



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.

Lasell celebrates first-year students' academic achievements

NEWTON — Congratulations to the Lasell University students who completed their first year of studies.

Zhanna Gonchar of Auburn
Kaitlyn Johnson of Auburn
Sophia Mazzone of Auburn
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For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

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DCRSD reopening plan to be finalized

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — As the summer of 2020 draws to a close one biggest question on everyone's mind is whether or not students will be returning to schools in person or if their education will include some form of online learning component to conform to safety measures during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While parents of Dudley and Charlton students weren't given many solid answers during a meeting on June 22, they were assured that a plan will be in place well before the school year is set to begin at the end of August. The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee featured updates from different sub-groups within the district's reopening committee including plans related to social and emotional wellbeing, pathways for instruction, and resources and operations. However, Superintendent Steven Lamarche made a blunt and honest statement to parents that he could not answer specific questions about the plan as the specifics were still being ironed out and he wanted to avoid rumors and misconceptions in the public forum. That doesn't mean citizens and parents won't get their chance to speak on the matter as a meeting in the upcoming week will focus primarily on the draft plan for the upcoming year.

"We know that everyone is desperate to know our plan and to make family decisions. We are getting there. We continue to work on the details and will have a formal presentation to the school committee on Wednesday, Aug. 5. We'll have opportunities for feedback and continued discussions from here. Know that we all agree that we want our school open and a return to school for all of our students. That is easily said,

but it's not easily done. With the mountains of guidance and expectations from the state and the expectations of our family it is an incredible endeavor," Superintendent Lamarche said.

He further stated that he understands the way students are educated will change and that the district won't meet the expectations of every family, but they are trying to formulate the best plan possible to make sure the students are learning effectively while keeping health and safety in mind.

"We accept that this will continue to be our reality, but I want to promise you that we have incredible educators and leaders in the district who will craft a plan that puts health and safety as the number one priority. From there, we agree that social and emotional wellbeing will be integral to teaching, learning and reentry in our schools," said Lamarche.

The Superintendent described the process as a "reinvention" of the start of school and indicated that health officials from both Dudley and Charlton have been included in the ongoing discussions. He also noted that a specific format has not been finalized for a fully online approach, a complete return to buildings or a hybrid option are still on the table.

"We have much work to do and this timeline feels aggressive. Unfortunately, this will not answer all of the questions," Lamarche concluded. "It's a rolling process right now. We anticipate guidance in the areas of transportation, HVAC, guidance on conducting music classes, physical education classes or any athletics, and we are confident that further guidance on reopening in general will come forward in the next several weeks. We appreciate everyone's patience and all we ask is for your understanding that we are

doing everything to plan for the care and safety of staff and students."

Parents and citizens are invited to take part in the Zoom meeting on Aug. 5 with details on entering the meeting to be included on the Dudley Charlton Regional School District website. Prior to the meeting teachers, staff and families are expected to receive copies of the preliminary plan for review. The district's final plan is expected to be sent to staff and families in the week after the meeting.

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Friday's Child



Markis
Age 13

Hi! My name is Markis and I enjoy Legos and origami!

Markis is an intelligent boy of Caucasian and African American descent. He is very active and loves to be praised and supported by adults. He is also a big fan of video games! When he is outside, Markis loves to ride his bike. He is also interested in drawing and break dancing. Markis is sweet, loving, and needs to feel supported to be successful. He does well in school and performs at his best with some supports in math and writing.

Freed for adoption, Markis will need a two-parent family to help balance his needs. This family will need to be comfortable with setting limits and creating structure. His thinking can be very concrete at times, and he will need things presented to him clearly

and concisely. Markis loves animals and would thrive in a home with pets. He should be the only child in his new home. Markis has eight siblings, one of which is a twin with whom he visits upon request, as well as another brother in a program whom he visits with as well.

Who Can Adopt?

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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 to call home.

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Cornerstone Bank contributes to Worcester Together Fund

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank's Charitable Donations Committee is pleased to announce its recent donation of \$2,500 to the Worcester Together Fund. Once again, the Bank has provided support to assist those in our community impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Worcester Together Fund is a partnership between the United Way of Central Massachusetts, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and the City of Worcester. The fund was created to address urgent needs resulting from the impact of the coronavirus public health crisis and will address immediate and long-term needs of the local community.

To date, the Worcester Together Fund has provided over \$3 million in grants, focusing on areas of food and shelter, health, economic security, child nutrition, mental health, arts and culture, and enhancing operations to local non-profit organizations.

"The Worcester Together Fund has provided vital support to our local community during such an uncertain time," stated Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer and Chairman of the Bank's Charitable Donations Committee Todd M. Tallman. "We are pleased to give back to our community at a time when it's needed most."

For more information or to contribute to the Worcester Together Fund, please visit www.unitedwaycm.org or www.greaterworcester.org, or by texting worcestercovid19 to 243725.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough. 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. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.

Oxford schools aim for phased reopening

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Despite technically having the space to bring all students back, the Oxford School Committee voted unanimously to support using a “phased-in” model to start the new year.

That model is still being fleshed out, but Superintendent Kristine Nash said it will include two forms of remote learning. One design will be for the kids that intend to eventually return to class; her team is still working out whether to have students alternate in-school and remote learning daily or weekly and many other details. The other, which she dubbed a “remote learning academy,” will be for

high-risk students and others who opt not to attend because of Covid-19. Her team is planning the former to be taught by Oxford staff, but the academy will be more “self-directed” with staff only checking-in with students daily.

Nash, and several committee members, negatively compared the concept of a full-reopening to the state’s generally successful (so far) phased reopening, which she praised as “very thoughtful.”

“The thought that we could just flip the switch and bring all students back in is, to me, extremely frightening,” Nash said. “[It] doesn’t fit any manner, shape or form of what the state of Massachusetts has done.”

David Cornacchioli agreed, noting he sees risks for students and “some of our more veteran teachers” from moving too quickly.

Among other things, Nash noted Oxford will have to hire quite a few new staff members – especially hall and bus monitors to ensure social distancing, but potentially some teachers – rejigger bus routes for double runs, redeploy and retrain staff, and buy new supplies, equipment and furniture. Hiring 22 hall monitors alone (part-time at minimum wage) will cost around \$180,000, and she noted “that’s a must” because the teachers won’t be able to supervise kids getting on/off buses or moving between rooms, for example. In the past, the bus company has hired the bus monitors (10 at about \$27,000 a year each).

Although the district has received extra CARES funding and she’s still finalizing total cost estimates, “we will easily spend all of our resources,” Nash added.

Chair Dan Coonan noted there’s “no guarantee” they’d be able to fill the monitor jobs even if they find the money to do so.

The overall plan, she told last week’s meeting, is to run the hybrid for the first semester, then assess things. But she said Oxford could see a “yo-yo effect” in which Covid cases cause the schools to shut down, bouncing back and

forth from hybrid (or partly-in-school) to all-remote operations. To help minimize that risk, she’s telling all staff and students to stay home if they feel sick, although many have “dragged themselves in” in the past.

To member Palmina Griffin, the whole issue raises many concerns that need addressing. She said she’s “uncomfortable” with the idea of having some kids (the remote academy) being taught outside the district, noted state recommendations to leave windows and doors open will boost the heating bills, and urged Nash to look into a different online platform for presenting classes. Additionally, she predicted problems for AP and elective classes – “How do you say no to some kids and yes to others, because we’re probably not going to be able to have all those offerings?”

Referring to a recent survey circulated to staff and families, Griffin noted that while only three staff said they would not return to a full opening, others might opt not to work if it actually happens.

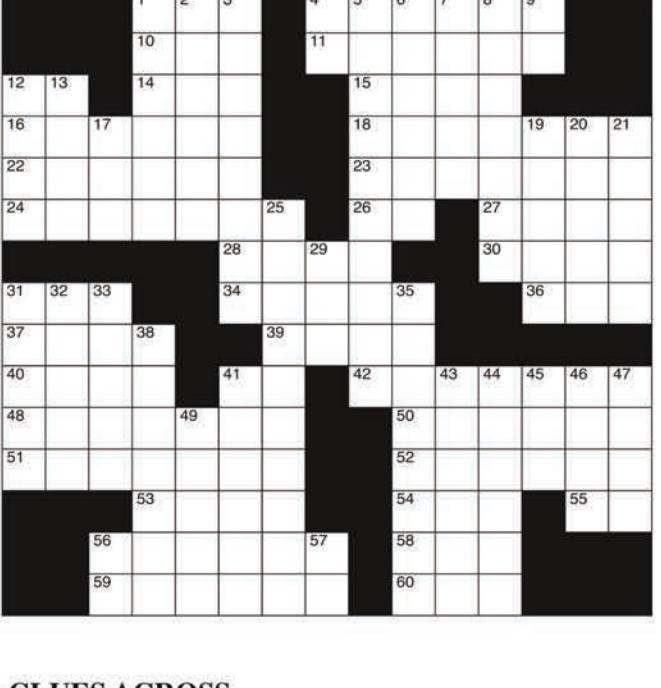
Nash said that survey found that 82 percent of families are willing to send their kids back to school in person. 54 percent preferred in-person school meeting the various safety guidelines, 24 percent want hybrid and 17 percent want remote. Regarding hybrid options, 53 percent preferred alternating weeks in and out of the building, while 35 percent preferred alternating days.

Griffin recommended drafting a resolution to circulate to other districts saying that “it’s not safe to bring our students back without a phased-in approach.” The committee opted not to do that, but Nash noted she expects the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to get a very similar message when it sees all of the districts’ reopening plans.

Despite the feasibility study showing the schools do have the space, Nash said she feels a full reopening is the equivalent of “trying to build something I can’t build right now. It isn’t going to work.”

She will bring the full plan back to the committee’s next meeting (Aug. 3) for approval.

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



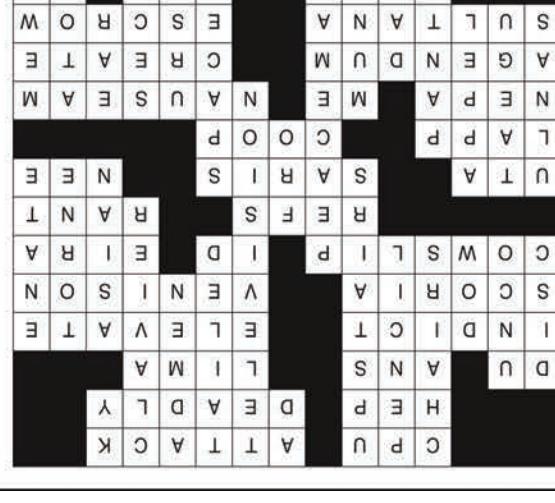
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Military action
- 10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
- 11. Unsafe
- 12. Of (French)
- 14. Autonomic nervous system
- 15. Type of bean
- 16. Accuse formally of a crime
- 18. Promote
- 22. Type of lava
- 23. Meat from a deer
- 24. Herbaceous plants
- 26. Potato state
- 27. Helsinki neighborhood
- 28. Sports officials
- 30. Shout wildly
- 31. Reptile genus
- 34. Frocks
- 36. Born of
- 37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- 39. Poultry cage
- 40. Aquatic insect genus
- 41. Of!
- 42. Ad __: tirelessly repetitive
- 48. Item
- 50. Produce
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Bond in a third party's control
- 53. Legendary character — Finn
- 54. Space station
- 55. Note at the end of a letter
- 56. In a way, contradicted
- 58. Midway between northeast and east
- 59. Bears important traffic
- 60. Brooklyn hooper

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Presides
- 2. Artist's tool
- 3. On a higher floor
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Something to watch
- 6. Chased
- 7. Commercial producers
- 8. Keyboard instrument
- 9. Blue grass state
- 12. Phonograph recording
- 13. Unusual
- 17. Popular average
- 19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
- 20. N. Sweden river
- 21. Related on the mother's side
- 25. Mediator
- 29. Partner of to
- 31. Arm bones
- 32. Korean seafood dish
- 33. Tap of the foot
- 35. Astronauts
- 38. Carolina footballer
- 41. Indiana city
- 43. Of or relating to bears
- 44. Not widely known
- 45. Body part
- 46. At the peak
- 47. High-pitched cries of a cat
- 49. A way to intimidate
- 56. Prosecutor
- 57. Atomic #66

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Harrington welcomes new Emergency Department Medical Director

SOUTHBRIDGE — Peter Antkowiak, MD has been named Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Harrington HealthCare System (HHS), which has Emergency Care Centers in Southbridge and Webster.

Harrington's Emergency Departments are staffed by the Associated Physicians of Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Antkowiak, who specializes in Emergency Medicine, is an attending emergency physician and administration fellow at Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians, and a clinical fellow and instructor of Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians and is certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

“We are so pleased to welcome Dr. Antkowiak as our new medical director of Emergency Medicine at Harrington HealthCare,” said HHS President and CEO Ed Moore. “His passion for providing superior patient care, combined with his demonstrated commitment to innovation in healthcare administration make him a strong leader for our emergency care team and an excellent fit for the culture of care we are proud to uphold at Harrington HealthCare System.”

Dr. Antkowiak completed his undergraduate studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and received his medical degree from Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y. He com-

pleted his residency at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, during which time he was a clinical associate of Tufts University School of Medicine. He is currently pursuing a Master in Health Management degree at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston.

Dr. Antkowiak is a past recipient of the Resident Innovation Award from Maine Medical Center selected by his peers as “Most likely to Change the Future of Emergency Medicine,” the Professionalism and Service Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians, the David R. Nalin Award for International Research and Innovation from the Nalin Endowed Fund, and the MS-1 Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Ethics from Albany Medical College, among other awards.

Dr. Antkowiak is a leading researcher in emergency department operations and leadership alongside his colleagues at Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians, having published and lectured internationally on topics related to emergency department optimization and hospital efficiency.

In addition to his medical career, Dr. Antkowiak is a co-founder and managing partner of illumeMed, a healthcare technology company that created CareUpdate, a HIPAA-compliant collaboration platform designed to optimize communication between medical professionals, patients and loved ones (acquired by Skyscape Inc. in 2019). He is also a past editor-in-chief of Useful Science, a blog and podcast aimed at sharing scientific information that is useful in everyday life. He serves on the advisory board of Skyscape Inc. and advises several companies including B5Venues, Vincere Health and CoVerified.

To learn more about Harrington HealthCare System's Emergency Care Centers, visit harringtonhospital.org/emergency.

About Harrington HealthCare System

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region's largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use. www.harringtonhospital.org



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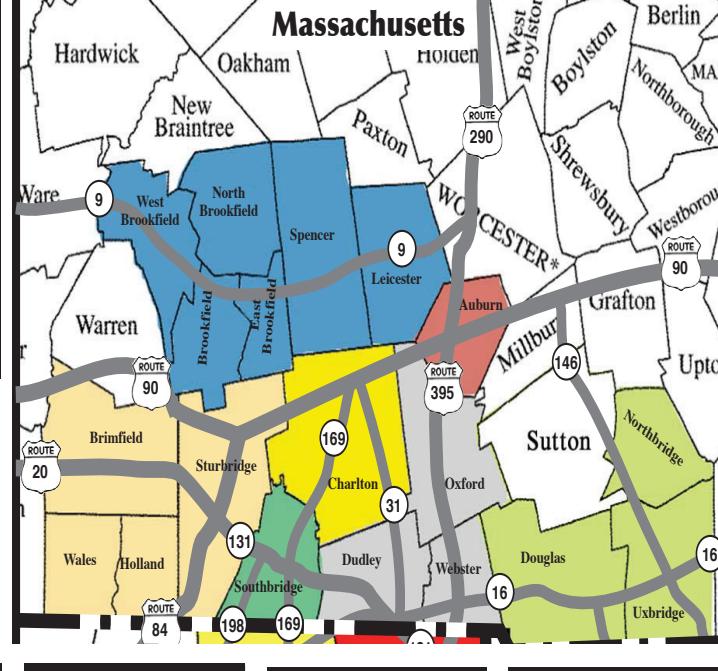
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School officials affirm commitment to AP program

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON —

School officials in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District are clarifying recent discussions concerning the status of advanced placement courses at Shepherd Hill Regional High School after an earlier meeting revealed parent and student concerns that AP prep work had yet to be assigned for the upcoming school year.

During a School Committee meeting in July, member Stephanie Reed revealed communication she received from parents and students that expressed concerns that AP courses may not take place in the fall. That meeting say Superintendent Steven Lamarche and Shepherd Hill Principal William Chaplin both assure residents that AP courses were not being cut but that summer work was put on a temporary hold

as a "pause" in case certain classes did not take place due to any combination of factors including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools.

In the weeks since the district received added comments from a 2020 graduate Ryan Moore, an Oxford native who attended the school through the school choice program. After hearing what he believed was the potential for AP courses to be cut Moore sent a letter to the district supporting the AP program which was read during a meeting on July 22.

"I believe that our AP program is one of the most integral parts to our school district's success and must always be preserved under any set of circumstances," Moore wrote in his letter.

He also stated his feelings that the AP courses were big resume boosters and helped prepare students and offer them an academic challenge

to prepare them for higher education.

"I am just one of many examples that I believe demonstrates how this program is vital not only for the future success of our students, but also for the financial health of our district," he added.

Responding to Moore and others who remain concerned about the fate of AP courses for the upcoming school year, Superintendent Lamarche doubled down on statements made earlier in the month that AP courses aren't going anywhere.

"We have not and would not contemplate cutting the AP program as a program. We wouldn't. The AP program is invaluable and provides an incredible academic opportunity for our students. Adjustments from year to year may be made due to enrollment in a course or if we are unable to assign a licensed creden-

tialed AP teacher to a course. Everything is up in the air this year. This has been an absolutely crazy year. I think one little piece was run with, but we would never contemplate cutting the AP program, ever," Lamarche said.

Principal Chaplin also stood by his statements from earlier in July indicating that any talk of completely doing away with the AP program is pure speculation and misinterpretation.

"I don't know where the sound bite got off that we were cutting. All we did was pause to get some clarity. Last week I informed all the department heads to go ahead and provide the summer work to all the students," Chaplin said.

Shepherd Hill's AP programs benefit close to 300 students a year according to Chaplin with as many as 500 exams taken every spring as many students enroll in multiple courses.

Nichols to provide free COVID-19 testing as part of comprehensive return-to-campus plan

DUDLEY — In careful preparation for its return to campus operations this fall, Nichols College has committed to providing free regular COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff.

The testing is part of a comprehensive plan designed to help ensure the safety of the college community. Other initiatives include the incorporation of personal protection equipment, such as plexiglass shields and other modifications to classrooms and common areas to promote social distancing, mask distribution, intensified cleaning protocols, and the responsibility for proper safety and hygiene expected of each community member.

Nichols has teamed up with the Broad Institute, a partnership of MIT and Harvard University, to supply test kits and process results. The tests will a self-administered nasal swab conducted in a designated campus testing center under the supervision of Nichols' health personnel. Resident students, student-athletes, and higher-risk individuals will be tested twice a week; commuter students, faculty, staff, and contracted employees will be tested once a week. Test results are expected within 24-48 hours. Protocols for self-isolation and contact tracing have been put in place.

Nichols is incurring the cost of \$25-\$30 per test for the estimated 350 tests per day.

"The continued health and safety of our college community is our primary concern," said Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. "Our plan, including a regular testing regime in combination with a range of universal safety practices, and protocols for any positive test results, is the most effective way to protect our community and afford students the educational experience they value and expect."

Since more than 80 percent of Nichols students hail from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut, the college also continues to monitor regional data on positive COVID-19 cases to inform ongoing plans to return to campus on Aug. 26.

Summertime seaside candy staple

Summertime fun frequently involves a trip to the seaside. While days are spent with toes in the sand, once the sun sets the entertainment moves away from the sand to the boardwalk attractions, food and fanfare.

Today, Atlantic City, New Jersey, is known for its casinos. But the city has a storied history as a seaside retreat. The Atlantic City Boardwalk opened on June 26, 1870, becoming the first boardwalk in the United States. National Geographic explains the first wooden planks were laid to curb the amount of sand beachcombers tracked into the train and hotel lobbies. Eventually, the boardwalk itself, with arcade halls and amusement attractions, would become its own destination.

Soon other boardwalks opened across the country, including in Coney



Island, New York, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Boardwalks became hubs of summertime fun, with food and confections. A well-known boardwalk treat, salt water taffy is a summertime staple. Salt water taffy is a soft taffy that was originally produced and marketed in Atlantic City. According to popular lore, David Bradley, whose candy store was flooded during a major storm in 1883, found all of his stock soaked with the salty Atlantic brine — including his taffy. When a young customer later came in asking if he had taffy, he jokingly offered her "salt water taffy." The customer sampled the piece and showed her friends. The name "salt water taffy" caught on.

A man named Joseph Franlinger helped make salt water taffy a household name. After observing boardwalk

visitors purchasing the candy during seaside jaunts, he found a way to box the candy and sell it so it wouldn't be reserved only for summer holidays. According to candy manufacturer Wokenfuss, by the 1920s, salt water taffy was at the height of its popularity, with more than 450 manufacturers making and/or selling the candy at the time. Each had his own method of preserving the candy, making it less sticky and more portable.

Taffy was first prepared in copper kettles heated over open coals. The sugary mixture was cooled on marble slabs and then pulled from a large hook. The pulling incorporated air into the mix to help keep the taffy soft. The taffy was hand-rolled to the desired thickness, cut and then wrapped.

Salt water taffy is primarily a treat enjoyed on the east coast of the United States, but it is sold throughout the United States and Canada. No trip to the boardwalk is complete without snagging a piece of sweet salt water taffy.

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FUNDING

continued from page A1

million in funding through its existing system for residential and congregate care service providers. The funds were used for increased staffing, enhanced infection control procedures, and personal protective equipment. However, certain facilities missed out on the funding, and Governor Baker was committed to making sure they were covered.

"Due to the structure of special education residential schools, they were not eligible for this earlier rate increase, but today's announcement will bring them in line with the previous rate increases provided to other residential and congregate care providers," Baker added.

State officials are also heavily focused on special education assistance in advance of the school year. To better support special education programs, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has released comprehensive guidance for the 2020-21 school year. The initial fall reopening guidance asks schools and districts to prepare plans for in-person instruction, remote learning, and a hybrid school model (a combination of in-person and remote learning that would be used if conditions worsen).

A separate document should be created by school officials to highlight plans for special education programming, state leaders said.

"This document complements the initial fall reopening guidance by providing further information on supporting students with disabilities during the upcoming school year," read a statement released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "It also provides necessary information in support of schools and districts, as they develop the portion of their reopening plans specifically related to special education."

LEADERS

continued from page A1

supporting youth and young adults of all backgrounds by connecting them to jobs, skills-building and leadership development," said Ed Sea, Market President, Bank of America in Central Massachusetts. "Creating opportunities for our youth to gain skills and build a network is a powerful investment in the future of our community."

Now in particular, in the wake of significant job losses nationwide, the ability to earn a paycheck will be essential to many young people whether they are helping to support their families or planning for the future. As part of their Student Leader experience, each student will receive a \$5,000 stipend to recognize them for their community achievements.

MAKSK

continued from page A1

This is the closest we can get to getting together as a sewing community and doing something," Racine said.

It's also a way for local sewing aficionados to make a difference at a time where many are seeking a way to help those around them. While there has been some controversial debate on the national stage about the ethics or effectiveness of requiring masks during the pandemic, Racine said the records show

Recent estimates suggest that the number of disconnected youth – those who aren't in school and don't have a job – has likely tripled since last year and could be as high as 18 million. Without access to opportunities that build career skills, many young people may be left behind, leading to high rates of youth unemployment and hindering overall economic progress. This summer, Bank of America is connecting approximately 3,000 young adults to summer jobs through partnerships with nonprofits and local mayors and its own Student Leaders® program.

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"The sewing community is taking this request very seriously. This isn't made up. This is straight from the schools who are going to maybe or maybe not have kids coming through those doors."

Even when their orders from the schools are fulfilled, the Charlton Sewing Center is not slowing down. Their next project will be to provide 1,000 for a reservation in the Zuni nation in New Mexico. They also plan to contribute to calls for thousands of masks from the Family Health Center in Worcester.

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Welcome to our 2nd Annual Summer Scramble!

We've decided to change it up for Summer and instead of a crossword puzzle, we've created a scramble. We hope you'll enjoy this challenging puzzle!
 Please find the answers (business names) on the ABC's of SUMMER page in this week's issue. We will unscramble for you and announce a winner of a \$25 Gift Card to an ABC Business in the August 21st issue.
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 Good luck!

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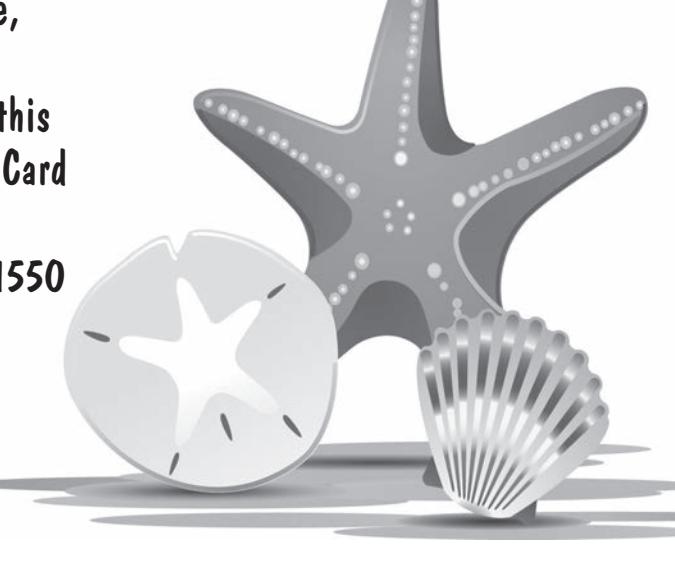
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We love your feedback comments: _____

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ABC'S OF SUMMER SCRABBLE

(These are not in alphabetical order)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. NSHASEE SALNO _____ | 14. AOGAUBQ LEIAITTAINHOBR _____ |
| 2. UROY CDB EORST _____ | 15. IYOTCVR SERTGOA _____ |
| 3. INHIGSG EERYNG RVNEALTTIEA _____ | 16. DGBUXREI OEHIDOPCTSR _____ |
| 4. WHIRDCKA MSRAREF _____ | 17. DTVICNEAHRZ ALRE STEETA _____ |
| 5. KIAEAML ADN NJUE _____ | 18. GRYSA TRETSG _____ |
| 6. EMRIROC EELSWJER _____ | 19. LCLIHA ETRI NDA AUTO _____ |
| 7. EBNS KALET C HKSCA _____ | 20. SODOYW TUAO YDOB _____ |
| 8. BAIETCN OTEPD _____ | 21. RNOAIRDD OEEKFE EASH _____ |
| 9. LOXAMUERU DROF _____ | 22. IFVE VLAEOS _____ |
| 10. EATACURC TPSE CLTOONR _____ | 23. ASLN TNPAI TNEREC _____ |
| 11. REPIOEN EALLVY LOI _____ | 24. ADEVS LCAEANPSPI _____ |
| 12. IASL CANRO TEXI RLEA SEAETT _____ | 25. 'FLESDEE FEFCOE PSOHEP _____ |
| 13. BE STAFTL _____ | _____ |

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Auburn News

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The darker the night, the brighter the stars

When we look up into the night sky, many of us are overcome with awe and wonder. It really does put into perspective just how small we are, as cliché as that sounds. Looking up, we have to wonder why all of humanity can't simply realize that what we are experiencing in life can happen just as well without violence and greed taking place all over the world, but alas here we are. A download of the app 'Star Chart' led us down a rabbit hole into astrology, with the focus being on the currently visible comet, Neowise. As a point of fact, Neowise was named after NASA's Near Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer.

First, a comet for those that don't know exactly what it is, is described often as a 'dirty snowball'. There are billions of them in our solar system, however it's a rare occurrence when one passes by the Earth, close enough to see it. A comet is an icy, small solar system body that warms when passing the sun. When this happens, it begins to release gases. This produces a visible atmosphere and sometimes includes a tail. Neowise, became closest to the Earth on July 22, just 64 million miles away. According to NASA, once it's gone, the comet will not be visible to the Earth for another 6,800 years.

The comet was discovered by astronomers in March, when it was noticed 160 million miles from Earth. The comet is a three-mile-wide chunk of ice and dust, apparently on a 6,000-year loop around the solar system. Many astronomers are relaying that it is the most impressive looking comet since Hale-Bopp, that appeared in 1997. That comet, is on a 2,500 year loop.

It was expected that Neowise would be visible until earlier this week; however, it may linger. When looking up to try to see the comet, look for the tail that has been described as 12 moons side by side. It is most visible at 10 p.m. according to the experts and binoculars will help for certain. The comet is located northwest, below the bottom left corner of the Big Dipper.

Perhaps the best discovery is to retrieve the benefits of stargazing. Since the beginning of time, mankind has gazed up at the stars. Before science revealed what exactly was going on, yet still unknowing, the night sky offered those who looked upon it a sense of calm, and a chance to de-stress. In our current climate, stargazing could be just one more way to reduce anxiety. To note, the telescope was invented in 1608. It has been proven, that soaking up the night sky, and staring at thousands of stars can help clear the mind.

Our ancestors once thought the moon was a God. Early art proves that man was just as intrigued by outer space as we are today. As we all know, mythology was born from space with the most famous gods being Chandra, Artemis, Thoth and Apollo. Thoth has been attributed to the invention of the 365-day calendar and was known as a 'wise counselor who solved disputes.' The Hindus said that an eclipse was the result of Rahuthe snake, who swallowed the orbs, causing them to go dark. A full moon was used to explain those who acted out in insanity.

Astrology is always fun if you believe in it. This pseudoscience goes back to the second millennium BCE, and was used to predict information based on the movement of what was going on in the solar system.

The most famous astronomer, Galileo Galilei (born in 1564), once said, "It vexes me when they would constrain science by the authority of the Scriptures, and yet do not consider themselves bound to answer reason and experiment."

Another one to remember, courtesy of author Richelle E. Goodrich, is "Sometimes while gazing at the night's sky, I imagine stars looking down making wishes on the brightest of us."

Maxfield Parrish prints



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

Some can still sell for hundreds or thousands though.

Maxfield Parrish is an artist whose prints appeal to many current collectors. He was born Frederick Maxfield Parrish on July 25, 1870 in Philadelphia, Pa. Britannica's biography describes him as an "American illustrator and painter who was perhaps the most popular commercial artist in the United States in the first half of the 20th century." After attending Haverford College, Parrish studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Drexel Institute of Art.

The National Museum of American Illustration in Newport, RI's website notes that Maxfield Parrish used a shade of blue similar to the color of Lapis lazuli in many of his works. They state, "his signature use of this color was so powerful that a certain cobalt blue became known as 'Parrish Blue.'" They consider Parrish "the most successful and best-known American illustrator of the early part of the twentieth century." Parrish's art was incorporated into magazine ads, calendars, and posters, along with lithographed prints that were produced to be framed and displayed.

In 1925, 25 percent of American households had a Maxfield Parrish print on their walls.

According to the National Museum of American Illustration, Victor Vasarely, Andy Warhol and Norman Rockwell were influenced by Parrish. Rockwell even said that Parrish was his idol.

With so many Parrish prints printed throughout his career, collectors can find some that are quite affordable. A Maxfield Parrish "Daybreak" print sold for \$60 at a Pennsylvania auction house in June. His "Circus Palace" print was sold at a New Hampshire auction for \$50.

Some Parrish prints are harder to find

GARDEN



MOMENTS

• • • • •

MELINDA

MYERS

No fruit on your tomato plants is likely due to the weather. Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny conditions, but temperature extremes can prevent otherwise healthy plants from setting fruit.

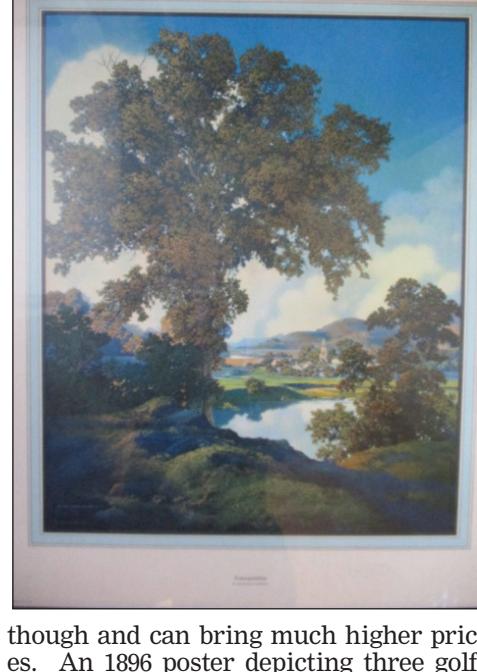
When daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees, blossom drop, and poor fruit development can occur. Combine this with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the pollen is too sticky and doesn't move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollination the flowers won't be fertilized and fruit will not develop.

Cool weather can also hinder fruiting. Night temperatures below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees reduce the amount and viability of pollen the plant produces.

The simplest solution is to wait for the temperatures and humidity levels to return to those tomatoes need for pollination and fruit formation to occur. Once this happens, the plants will begin producing fruit.

When hot weather arrives, make sure the plants receive ample moisture. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter to keep roots cool and moist. Consider providing a bit of cool afternoon shade during hot spells.

Some gardeners enlist the help of blossom set hormone spray when conditions are not favorable for pollination and fruit formation. These hormones won't increase productivity but may help plants set fruit when temperatures are not ideal. These products are most effective when temperatures drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. They are less effective at initiating fruit set when temperatures rise over 80 degrees.



though and can bring much higher prices. An 1896 poster depicting three golfers for Harper's Weekly magazine sold for \$1,600 in 2016. A 1934 Mazda Edison 1934 calendar with a Maxfield Parrish "Moonlight" print and a 1922 calendar with an "Egypt" print each brought \$1,600 in 2013. A Ferry's Seed advertising print with Parrish's depiction of "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" went for \$2,000 in 2013. Larger advertising pieces can bring significantly more. A GE Edison Mazda store display sold for \$5,000 earlier this year. A rare Fisk Tires poster fared even better, selling for \$5,500 in 2012.

When Parrish's original paintings turn up at auction, prices can go through the roof. His "Autumn Woods" panel on wood went for \$300,000 in 2016. "The Knave" oil on board sold for \$600,000 in 2017. An oil on canvas of "Jason and His Teacher" brought \$850,000 in 2015. After selling that "Parrish blue" painting, the consignor could have painted the town red.

We will be auctioning the largest collection of Maxfield Parrish prints

that we have ever handled in our upcoming Warren, RI online estate auction. We are also planning other sales during the summer and fall. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for updates.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula
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Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Healthy plants, but no tomatoes?

Don't let cooler summer temperatures greatly reduce your tomato harvest. Consider pinching off the growing tips of indeterminate tomatoes a month before the first killing frost. This redirects the plant's energy into ripening the existing fruit instead of producing more flowers and tomatoes that won't have time to mature.

When frost is in the forecast, harvest green tomatoes to finish ripening indoors.

Pick any tomatoes that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors. Harvest tomatoes when the blossom end turns a greenish white or starts to color up. Store the tomatoes in a cool 60 to 65-degree location to extend their storage life. And don't let those green tomatoes go to waste. Fry them or use them in salsa and relish. You'll find lots of delicious green tomato recipes online or from friends.

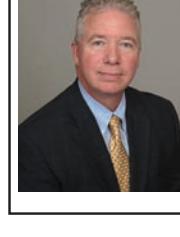
Extend the growing and harvesting season with the help of floating row covers or other season extending strategies. These products protect plants from cold temperatures, allowing you to harvest weeks after the first fall frost.

If poor fruiting is a yearly problem in your garden, look for tomato varieties better suited to your growing conditions. Next season look for recommendations from your local University extension service. They can help you select the best heat or cold tolerant varieties and those that best fit your gardening style and cooking needs.

With the proper selection and care you will enjoy an abundant harvest in spite of less-than-ideal weather conditions.

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.

Create strategies
to help achieve
your financial
goals



FINANCIAL

FOCUS

DENNIS
ANTONOPoulos

Like most people, you probably have many financial goals: a comfortable retirement, long vacations, college for your children or grandchildren, the ability to leave something behind for the next generation, and so on. To achieve these various goals, you may have to follow different investment strategies – and you might have to make some tradeoffs along the way.

To pursue this multi-goal/multi-strategy approach, try to follow a clear course of action, including these steps:

Define your goals – and invest appropriately. You will need to identify each goal and ask some questions: How much time will you have to achieve this goal? How much return will you need from your investments and how much risk are you willing to take?

With a longer-term goal, such as retirement, you may be able to invest more heavily in growth-oriented vehicles with higher expected returns. Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate, and they carry more risk than more conservative investments. However, your long-term horizon allows time to recover from short-term dips. But for a shorter-term goal, such as an upcoming vacation, your investments don't have the same time to bounce back from large drops in value, so you might follow a more conservative strategy by investing in instruments that preserve principal, even though growth may be minimal.

Know what you've invested for each goal. Once you know what type of strategy you should follow to achieve each of your goals, you'll need to enact that strategy. How? By matching specific investment accounts with the appropriate goals. You should know why you own all your investments. Ask yourself these questions: What goal will this investment help me achieve? How much do I have allocated toward a specific goal? If I have an IRA, a 401(k) and another account devoted to achieving the same goal, are they all working together effectively? The connections between your different investment accounts and your goals should be consistently clear to you.

Understand trade-offs. Your various investment goals may be distinct, but they don't exist in isolation. In fact, your strategy for achieving one goal may affect your ability to work toward another. For example, would significant investments in your child's education change your funding for retirement? If you decide to buy a vacation home when you retire, will that alter the legacy you'll be able to leave to your family? Given limited financial resources, you may have to prioritize some goals and make some trade-offs in your investment moves.

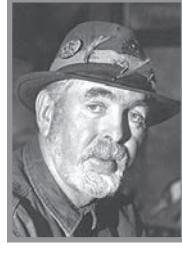
Track your progress. Each of your strategies is designed to achieve a particular goal, so you need to monitor the performance of the investments within that strategy to help ensure you're making progress. If it seems that you're lagging, you may need to explore ways to get back on track.

To manage these tasks successfully, you may want to work with a financial professional – someone who can look at your situation objectively, help you identify and quantify your goals, and suggest strategies designed to help you achieve them.

Trying to achieve multiple financial goals can seem like a daunting task, but by saving and investing consistently through your working years, following a clear strategy, being willing to prioritize and accept trade-offs and getting the help you need, you can help yourself move forward.

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.

On the doorstep of deer season



THE GREAT
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from Cabela's, and it has held up very good over the years. The net had allowed this writer to catch Mummies, sandeels and silversides for live bait. Unfortunately, bait shops cannot sell the above-mentioned baits, even though they have a license to sell shiners.

The live bait is placed in my live well on the boat, which keeps the bait lively and fresh. Placing a mummy on the hook of a fluke rig with a spinner can prove to be deadly when trying to catch bottom fish like fluke and seabass! This past week, I tried jigging with a six-ounce jig with a single hook. The hook normally has some red or green bucktail attached to it, but was not attached to this particular jig. Placing a piece of squid and a live mummy on the hook, and dropping it to the bottom was the right combination last week for catching fish.

Keeping you fresh bait in a cooler away from the hot sun needs to be practiced on any fishing trip. Too often, I have watched anglers cut up bait and leave it in the hot sun. You would not do it to your steak,

so why would you do it to the bait that you are fishing with. Another mistake many anglers do while fishing is to fish with the same piece of bait for an hour or two. Bait gets washed out, and although it may look good to you, it does not look good to the fish, and has very little scent. Fishing more than

five minutes without a bite should have the angler reeling in to change the bait.

This week's picture shows a 450-pound bluefin tuna taken aboard the charter boat Fireescape Charters out of Plymouth last week. The fish is normally sold to the Japanese for good money, but tuna prices are down, so the Captain cut it up for his customers. The Charter boats normally sell the fish, and give the clients a free fishing trip.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold a double event this Sunday, Aug. 2 at their club grounds off of West Street. A 3-D archery shoot will start at 7 a.m. It is a fun shoot and the public is invited to attend. A small fee will be charged for participation in the archery shoot. Come and enjoy the great outdoors. The club owns more than 100 acres of open space that will be open for the one-day event. The archery shoot will have a state-of-the-art course set up using life size targets of deer, moose, elk, rabbits, turkeys, etc.! The archery course is rated as one of the best in the state.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will also hold an old fashioned Chicken BBQ this Sunday, Aug. 2, with serving scheduled to start at 2 p.m. at the club grounds off of West Street. The chickens will be barbecued over hot coals and seasoned & cooked to perfection by members of the club. Tickets are



\$10 each. There is a limited amount of tickets available at the club, the day of the event. Social distancing and wearing of masks are recommended. The Pavilion has been washed

and sanitized for the event. Come and enjoy the day with friends and family. BYOB!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

A Mixed Bag of Tips Learning to say goodbye



TAKE
THE
HINT
—
KAREN
TRAINOR

Here's a believe it or not cocktail tip: If your alcoholic drink is too strong and there's no room in the glass for any more mixer, you can float one or two thin slices of cucumber on the surface. The cucumber will help to absorb some of the harsh taste. Floating long slivers of cucumber in a punch bowl will mellow punch in the same way.

To keep the crazy glue top from gluing itself forever shut, put a liberal coating of petroleum jelly on the threads of the screw cap.

Or, if you have a refrigerator door gasket that doesn't quite seal, a coat of petroleum jelly can often coax it to shut tight.

And, coat those stubborn vacuum cleaner wand attachments with petroleum jelly for quick and easy removal.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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Sometimes I end up with "stray hints" that have nowhere to go. There wasn't space enough for them in a column; perhaps they don't fit into a topic; or maybe they are old hints I think bear repeating. Every once in a while enough have accumulated to make up a column. With this in mind the following "mixed bag" of tips are offered. Read on for some common sense ideas that really do help reduce some of the little everyday hassles in life!

Whipping up a rich dessert and you're out of heavy cream? Save yourself a trip to the store. Light cream will whip up perfectly with the addition of an egg white or two.

Here's a refreshing tea you can flavor with fresh garden mint!

Lime Mint Iced Tea:

To do: Mix four (regular Lipton type) tea bags, one quarter cup sugar and about a cup and a half of fresh mint leaves in a quart of boiling water. Allow to steep for 15 minutes. Strain out tea bags and leaves. Chill and add a quarter cup of lime juice. Serves 4.

Dust Bunnies run for their lives when you make your own dusting oil that rivals commercial brands. Just mix three parts light mineral oil with one part corn oil. Then add a drop of lemon or clove oil for a pleasant scent. Put this on your dust mop or dust rag and store in a plastic bag. When the mop or rag becomes dirty, simply wash in warm water and reapply.

Did you ever notice the underside of a doormat always collects dirt? To make clean-up easier, fold a few newspapers to form a pad and place it under the mat to catch the dirt.

DIY tip: One of the secrets to getting a strong glue joint is to spread the glue evenly before joining surfaces. Application sticks don't always do the trick, but if you peel away the foam on the outside of disposable paint brush you'll find inside the perfect plastic glue spreader. And best of all, it's washable and reusable!

Here's another workshop tip: Trying to remove nails from a sheetrock wall can cause damage to the wall surface. To prevent it, just slip a wide putty knife behind the hammer before you start pulling!

Want to duplicate the fluffy omelets you find in the best restaurants? Simply add a pinch of powdered sugar or cornstarch to the egg mix before cooking.

To grate mozzarella and other soft cheeses without making a melted mess, just pop the cheese in the freezer for 20 minutes before grating to firm it up.

If your cookie recipe calls for raisins, you can plump them up (and boost the flavor) by rinsing them in a colander. Then hold them over boiling water for about five minutes.

You have a recipe for cake flour, but you only have all purpose flour on hand? Take your all purpose flour and sift it about five times - now you have cake flour!

Arlene and I built our dream home twenty-six years ago. We put every bit of emotion and money into our dream. We even gave it a name, FoxMoore Farm. We finished raising our kids and enjoyed twenty-five Thanksgiving's and Christmas's in this home that is way too big and sits on forty acres. Our youthful enthusiasm took over. Back in my entrepreneur/CEO days, I definitely lived by the saying, "Go big or go home!" Yeah ... we over did it.

It's been for sale for over five years and we were surprised to get an offer yesterday. Our home has been sold and we have fifty-five days to figure out what to do. Selling a home this large wasn't easy, and quite frankly, the investment was a financial disaster, but we enjoyed every minute of the time we lived here.

It's an odd and unsettling feeling. This is the longest I've ever lived in one place. Our kids are now adults. They are grown and gone. I'm fighting a life-threatening illness. The vastness of the acreage has become a burden, so this is the best news we could have received ... yet there is also a sadness hovering over us. The home we dreamt of, designed, and built will be home to someone new. I realize that a building is only a home when filled with the love and joy of a family. Our family has moved on, so it's time we do the same.

Like I said, our kids are grown, and my grandkids are in California. There was no reason for Arlene and me to hold on to this building with all the expense and work that accompanies it. Common sense is clear. It's time to move on, but the emotion blurs the vision. Our home will soon belong to others we don't know. Strangers will walk the halls and enjoy the rooms we built. There is a sadness I am unable to shake. Time stands still for none of us. Life changes and we must adjust with optimism.

Moving on is part of life. We are say-

ing farewell to this beautiful place. I'm optimistic about our future and know it's in our best interest to downsize ... but saying goodbye is never easy.

Optimism will carry us through this transition.

So, we are off on a journey. The next phase of our lives is before us and I'm positively anticipating happiness and joy. To look forward to anything else is a waste of time. Instead, we choose to look at it as a new adventure ... an opportunity for exciting change and exploring new ways to live and how to reinvent our lives. The anticipation is a fun-filled life with less pressure.

Sure, as I said, the sadness of leaving a place where our kids were raised and our grandchildren love to visit is hard ... it's natural. We can dwell on that and be sad or we can focus on the stimulating opportunity ahead and find happiness and joy. Like almost everything in life, it is a choice. We choose the optimism of opportunity.

When change comes into your life, and it will, how will you choose to respond? Will you resist? Will you be angry or sad? Will you let the change negatively dominate your life, or will you choose the optimism of the opportunity and look at it as an exciting new journey? An optimistic life is a life filled with hope and happiness. The optimist always believes the best is yet to come. With that belief, the optimistic mind goes to work to make it so.

We are enthusiastically embarking on our journey! It's a choice we make, and we will always choose optimism.

Will you join us?

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.

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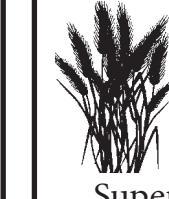
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The importance of safety when swimming in backyard pools

Backyard pools provide families with ample opportunities for recreation. It's easy to be distracted by all the fun when swimming in a backyard pool, but it is crucial that homeowners take steps to ensure everyone is safe when spending time in the pool.

ESTABLISH A BARRIER

The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death in children between the ages of one and four in the United States. Pools attract curious children, so maintaining a barrier between the home and the pool is essential. Many municipalities require some sort of fencing around pools or ladders that self-latch or can be closed off to climbing.

Locks and alarms on windows and doors that face or provide access to the backyard also can serve as barriers.

KEEP PLAY UNDER CONTROL

Children and even adults may be swept up in the fun and engage in potentially dangerous behaviors. Pool users should not be allowed to run around the perimeter of an inground pool, as the cement can get slippery when wet and lead to falls that can cause injuries.

Exercise caution when using diving boards or diving into pools. It's easy for divers to hit their heads when diving off a board into a pool due to close proximity of the transition wall in the deep end of the pool or by diving into shallow water. The Red Cross recommends a water depth of 11.5 feet for safe diving and the transition wall should be at least 16.5 feet from the tip of the diving board. However, the standard depth for many pools is 7.5 feet of water and a slope beginning seven feet from the board.



EXERCISE CAUTION WITH INFLATABLES

The Good Housekeeping Research Institute found that inflatable pool toys are especially dangerous. Such toys can flip easily, putting children at risk for injury (from striking

the sides of the pool) or drowning (especially if the children were ejected into deep water). Inflatables also can prevent access to the surface of the water for submerged swimmers.

CHOOSE A

BACKYARD LIFEGUARD

At least one person should be designated as backyard lifeguard when the pool is in use. This person should always direct his or her focus on the pool, counting swimmers and keep-

ing track of who enters and leaves the pool. Safe Kids Worldwide suggests rotating water watchers every 15 minutes.

Pools are fun places to spend summer afternoons, especially when every step is taken to ensure the safety of swimmers.

Kid-friendly staycation ideas



Adults may see staycations as great opportunities to catch up on summer reading and finish projects around the house. Children, however, may not always approach time off at home with that same enthusiasm.

Parents confronted with the challenge of keeping kids happy and engaged during staycations can try these kid-friendly ideas to ensure everyone enjoys their time off, even if the bulk of it is spent at home.

- Hit the carnival circuit. Traveling carnivals are a staple of summer in many small communities. These special events feature rides, games and, of course, food. Families can make a night of it at a nearby carnival (one is no doubt within driving distance on just about any night in July and August). Budget-conscious staycationers can attend carnivals on bracelet nights, when both adults and kids can typically enjoy endless rides for one set price as opposed to having to purchase tickets for each individual ride.

- Find a place to swim. Whether it's a nearby lake or a day at the ocean, a weekday afternoon spent

swimming is a great way to remind the family that a staycation is still a vacation. If swimming in a lake or in the ocean is not possible and you don't have the luxury of a backyard pool, purchase an inflatable pool (or two) that the whole family can enjoy.

- Embrace your inner artists. Parents can visit a local arts and crafts store and spend a day painting or making projects with their children. Choose a theme, like making jewelry or painting a family portrait, and then exchange your masterpieces or create a family art exhibit when the session is over.

- Go fishing. Fishing can be a fun activity for the whole family and a great way to get out of the house without breaking the bank. Create a competition to see who can catch the most and/or the biggest fish. If you catch fish that you're allowed to take home, involve the whole family in making a delicious fish dinner that night.

Staycations can be fun for the whole family, especially when parents take time to organize a host of kid-friendly activities.

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Light Equipment Operator (LEO):

Town of Spencer seeks applicants to fill the Light Equipment Operator position in the Highway Department. This position is responsible for the operation of light equipment, snowplows, motorized and non-motorized hand tools. The work involves repair and maintenance of highway infrastructure including but not limited to roads, sidewalks, stormwater systems and street signs, vegetation control, snow plowing and sanding, maintenance of parks, cemeteries, and grounds. This highly responsible position is subject to emergency call-ins to respond to emergencies. High School diploma or GED plus a Mass CDL Class B are required, additional license and certifications beneficial. The willingness to be trained and increase skills and licensing is required to succeed in this position. Pay for this position ranges from \$20.95/hr. to \$25.03/hr. and includes a generous benefits package including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

Submit resume and standard Town application available at www.spencerma.gov to Town of Spencer, Town Administrator's Office, 157 Main Street, Spencer MA 01562.

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Laborer, Water Department:
Town of Spencer Water Department seeks applicants to fill the position of Laborer. This position will work with Water Operators in the daily maintenance of the water supply, treatment, and distribution systems. The ideal candidate will have a High School diploma from a vocational school, have strong math and science skills, and be willing to continue their education in the water industry including obtaining professional licensing as a Water Treatment and Water Distribution Operator. Experience with operating lawn care equipment and hand power tools beneficial. The candidate will be subject to emergency call-ins for water main breaks. This entry level position fits into the succession plan for the department. Pay for this position ranges from \$19.41/hr. to \$23.16/hr. and includes a generous benefits package including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

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Mechanic / Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO):

The Town of Spencer seeks qualified applicants to fill the HEO/Mechanic position in the Highway Department. This position is responsible for the repair, retrofit and service of Highway Equipment and Vehicles, including welding and fabricating steel components. The position also is responsible for operating of heavy and light equipment, plowing and salting, repairing and maintaining stormwater systems, repairing streets and sidewalks, debris removal and other tasks assigned by the Foreman or Superintendent. The position is expected to perform skilled labor duties, be able to lead the repair activities and be the OSHA Competent Person on site. This highly responsible position is subject to emergency call-ins to respond to emergencies. High School diploma or GED, plus five years of related experience in operating heavy equipment, a Mass CDL Class B, and Hoisting 2A are required, additional license and certifications beneficial. Base pay for this position ranges from \$23.12 to \$28.49 and includes a generous benefits package, including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

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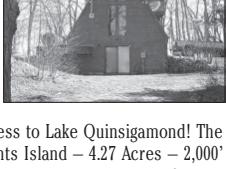
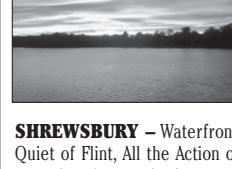


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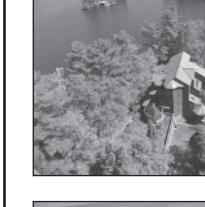
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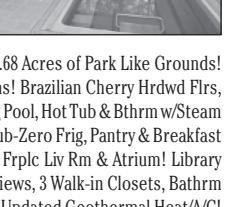
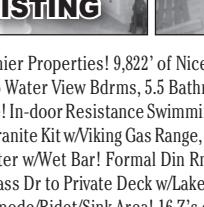
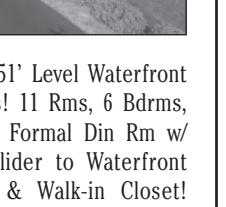
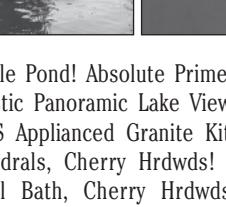
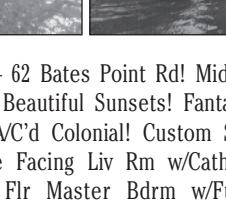
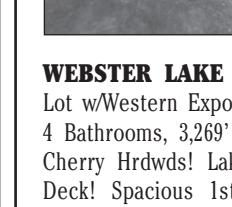
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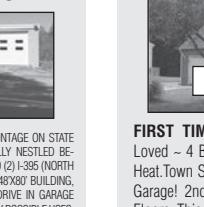
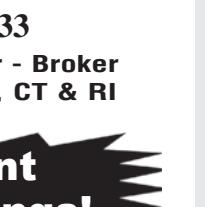
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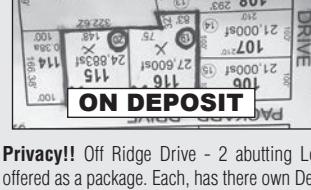
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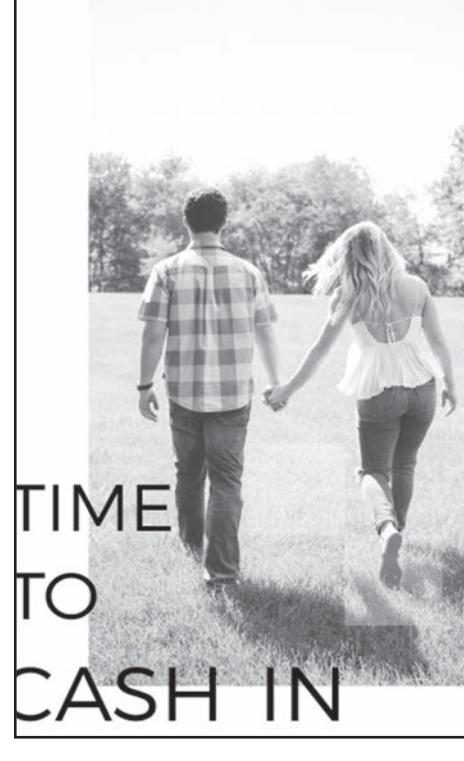
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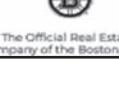
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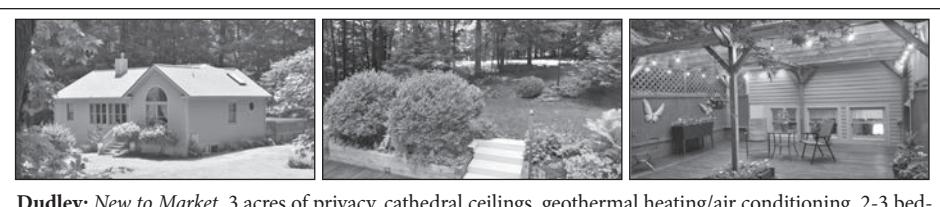
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 8/1/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$330 off each window and \$725 off each patio/entry door and 25 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio/entry doors between 7/5/2020 and 8/1/2020. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

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