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Friday, April 16, 2021

For Painless

Tantasqua selects next superintendent

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE - Last week, the Tantasqua/ Union 61 School Committee voted unanimously to hire Business Manager Deborah Boyd to take over the district helm when Superintendent Erin Nosek retires in January 2022.

As they've done for three of the four most recent searches, this process was an entirely-internal one, not advertised to the wider world.

Chair Mike Valanzola said consultant Glenn Koocher of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees advised the committee start internally back in December, in part to "spare our

Hitchcock Academy opens Farmer's Market

BRIMFIELD — Once again, Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield is proud to be the site of the area's earliest Farmer's Market on April 17. Located in the Hitchcock parking lot at the corner of Brookfield Road and North Main Street in downtown Brimfield, the market is open every Saturday through Oct. 30 (except for Flea Market weeks) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. While some customers might want to arrive early for the best selection, the 2 p.m. closing means weekday early risers won't miss anything if they sleep in.

For 26 weeks, the Farmer's Market brings the community the finest in home made goods, locally grown, vegetable and flowering plants, produce, meat, baked goods, maple products, ice cream, herbs, soaps, salts, washes, balms, and more from trusted local vendors. Two of the vendors, Flourish Farm and Hunt Road Berry Farm, are set up to process SNAP and Healthy Incentives Program benefits, adding even more incentive to shop

The Farmer's Market truly functions as a community event, providing an opportunity to become familiar with native goods and to interact with the producers of these goods. Dollars spent at the Farmer's Market go right back into the local economy and add to the regional wealth, while simultaneously providing the consumer with ready access to a healthier diet. Cindy Skowyra, Hitchcock Academy's Executive Director, points out

Turn To FARMER'S MARKET, page A10

communities the cost of an external search that, in his opinion, would not yield fruitful results.' He "discouraged an external search given the intricacies of the Tantasqua/Union 61 District and the shallow pool of candidates that were currently available," Valanzola added.

Before starting Boyd's finalist interview, the chair spent the first several minutes of the April 6 meeting addressing concerns that have been

Turn To **SUPERINTENDENT**, page **A10**



Courtesv

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF LIFE

Grateful transplant recipients gathered with first responders and town officials on the common in Sturbridge last Friday to raise a Donate Life flag honoring organ, eye and tissue donors.

Legislators tour home affected by pyrrhotite issue

(MA-01) joined state Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) poured with the defective material. and State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-East Longmeadow), Neal, Chairman of the House Committee on on Tuesday in Wales for a tour of two area homes where the foundation is crumbling due to the presence of pyrrhotite in the concrete aggregate. Pyrrhotite is a rare iron-sulfide mineral that expands, deteriorates, and cracks when exposed to water and oxygen until it inevitably fails. It is estimated that as many as 1500 homes or more in

WALES — U.S Congressman Richard E. Neal Massachusetts may have had their foundations

Ways and Means, had this to say about the site visits Tuesday.

"Tens of thousands of homeowners in Connecticut and Massachusetts have crumbling foundations through no fault of their own," said Neal. "I am thankful to Sen. Gobi and Rep. Ashe for their leadership on the state level, and I continue to work with my colleagues on the federal level to provide relief to those who have compromised foundations. Last year in the House, we were able to pass two very important provisions in H.R. 2 that would provide relief through Community Development Block Grant funding and a federal casualty loss tax deduction. While that legislation was stalled in the Senate, my colleagues in Connecticut - Congressman Joe Courtney and Congressman John Larson - and I continue to be supportive of a fix and we are working together to ensure it is ready for inclusion in upcoming legislation.'

Gobi and Ashe served as co-chairs on the legislative Special Commission assigned to study the issue last session.

Gobi had this to say on the visit and legislation filed: "I thank the homeowners who were so willing to share their story with us and to allow us to see the damage to their foundations. We know that State and Federal assistance is needed and having Congressman Neal join us and knowing his work on the issue and continuing support is so necessary and appreciated."

"To have Chairman Neal with us today as we visited the Hamer's and the Milanese's in Wales, speaks volumes as to the depth of the issue with crumbling foundations in western and central Massachusetts," commented Ashe. "Working in unison with Chairman Neal, Senator Gobi, myself and all of the local communities involved is paramount in educating residents and assisting those in need. There is a long road ahead, but we're making progress as we continue to learn from our neighbors in Connecticut and as more homeowners here come forward.'

The visit comes in the wake of Senator Gobi filing omnibus legislation aimed at addressing the issue in Massachusetts this session. The bill filed by the Senator, SD. 1688, An Act Relative to Crumbling Concrete Foundations, targets a number of the primary concerns raised by the Special Commission. These include establishing tax abatements for affected homeowners, requiring the disclosure of foundation repairs for those looking to sell their home, and creating new standards for quarry operators and concrete producers. The pyrrhotite issue has been studied extensively and addressed by the Connecticut legislature, which moved to develop a captive insurance company funded by bonding and a surcharge on homeowners' insurance policies in order to help the thousands of residents that have been affected. In Massachusetts the full scope of this issue is still unknown.

Old Sturbridge Village gift shops reimagined under new leadership



Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has announced a new Director of Retail Operations and Gift Shops, Ellen Taviano, to oversee the Village's retail division.

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has announced a new Director of Retail Operations and Gift Shops, Ellen Taviano, to oversee the Village's retail division. With a focus on elevating and enhancing the visitor experience, Old Sturbridge Village has recently taken back management over their retail operations after outsourcing the division for many years.

Ellen Taviano has an accomplished retail career spanning over thirty-five years. Having graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in Textile Marketing, Taviano started her retail career at Bloomingdale's in Manhattan. She went on to work for Woodward & Lothrop, Inc., John Wannamakers, and most recently Winterthur Museum in Delaware, where

she served as General Manager of Retail and Licensed Products for over twenty-four years. At Winterthur, Ellen managed two stores consisting of more than 4,000 square feet of retail space, launched an online store that yielded more than \$150,000 in annual revenue, and is credited with product exclusivity and excellence in customer service.

"I see a tremendous amount of opportunity for the retail division and gift shops of Old Sturbridge Village," said President and CEO, Jim Donahue. "I believe Ellen Taviano brings the perfect mix of experience, passion, and drive to the position and will reimagine how we carry out retail to further

Turn To OSV GIFT SHOP, page A10

Turn To **PYRRHOTITE**, page **A10**

Nursing students give public COVID-19 vaccines

SOUTHBRIDGE — A group of six Bay Path Practical Nursing students were assigned to Harrington Hospital for their Medical- Surgical nursing rotation and with their Clinical Facilitator, Professor Cheryl Cahill's diligent efforts ended up lending a helping hand administering COVID-19 vaccines at the vaccine clinic at the Armory (Southbridge Community Center).

Two practical nursing students stand out because they are not a part of the original six assigned but rather, they volunteered! Brianna Cloutier of Charlton and Elizabeth Larson of Webster are heroes in scrubs!

"I am honored to be a part of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and assist at a vaccine clinic," practical nursing student and Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 2017 alumna Brianna Cloutier said.

They were short vaccinators, so I volunteered on the weekend," practical nursing student and certified medical assistant for Harrington Physician Services Cardiology employee Elizabeth Larson said.

The COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the Armory gives the nursing students the opportunity to work hand in hand with medical professionals. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty Cheryl Cahill, MSN, RN supervises



Brianna Cloutier and Elizabeth Larson.

her clinical group at the Armory on Wednesdays.

"The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy prides itself in being a part

of the Bay Path community outside of the Charlton campus so having the practical nursing students be a part the community directly is wonderful for our practical nursing students and this is something they will definitely remember their whole career," said Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director.

"We recognize service learning and emphasize its importance, for practical nursing students to get involved outside the classroom to better prepare themselves for their healthcare careers," added Bolandrina.

The practical nursing students assist the healthcare team, assess, give out COVD-19 vaccines, monitor for untoward reactions, and completing tasks efficiently.

"This has been a great opportunity to gain experience in administering vaccinations while working with many different patients," said

"It is an honor to be a part of a process that will protect our community during this global pandemic," Cloutier added.

Cloutier is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps, volunteering her time to those in need. She is the PN Class of 2021 Liaison on diversity and inclusion project, spearheading the Walmart Giving Grant.

"I was surprised to see Director Bolandrina on a Saturday, but I am glad she received her vaccine. We're putting shots in people's arms this is the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic so it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Larson said.

She recognizes that even as nursing students they are vitally needed.

Larson in an officer of the UNCEF Club and is the PN Class of 2021 Commencement Liaison assisting with planning, arrangements, and details of the upcoming graduation and pinning ceremony scheduled for June 25.

The training for the future nursing workforce in the Bay Path community and across the region allows volunteers such as Cloutier and Larson to step up, respond to emergencies, and continue being heroes in scrubs!

DA Early to host award-winning author on Opioid Epidemic

WORCESTER - Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. will be hosting a virtual event on April 15 with award-winning author Sam Quinones to discuss the opioid

epidemic. Mr. Quinones will discuss the current state of the opioid epidemic, including the illicit drug market, the lawsuits against the pharmaceutical companies, and the stigma that still persists around the disease of addiction.

"Sam is a national expert on opioids and addiction and this discussion will provide invaluable insight on the current state of affairs and what we can all be doing to help those struggling with substance use disorder," Mr. Early said.

The author previously visited Worcester County in 2017 at the invitation of Mr. Early to discuss his book, "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic, which detailed the rise of the opioid epidemic in America. This talk will focus on his research beyond "Dreamland," which was published

The event on April 15, which will feature a discussion between Mr. Early and Mr. Quinones, will be held virtually on Zoom and is open to the public. The talk begins at 1 p.m. and will include a public question period. For registration information, contact Elisabeth.Haddad@ mass.gov.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the continued need to work on the opioid epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control reported 81,000 overdose deaths in a 12-month period ending May 2020, the largest in a year-long period ever recorded. Locally, the most-recent numbers from Massachusetts show 2,020 overdose deaths statewide in 2019, including 267 in Worcester County.

Mr. Early has been passionately committed to addressing the opioid epidemic. In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which is now more than 600 members strong. Since then, he's obtained multiple federal and state grants to work with partners across the county and support local interventions for those suffering from substance use disorder. He's funded Narcan for first responders, prescription drop boxes in local police departments, school prevention programs to teach students the dangers of drugs, and expanded drug diversion programs in county courts. Last year, Mr. Early's office purchased and launched the use of Critical Incident Management Systems (CIMS) software to help police track overdose incidents and get victims into treatment.

TCA students inducted into National Junior Honor Society



Pictured: Elena Jerez, 8th grade; Apollo Logan, 6th grade; Ava Simon, 8th grade; Iban Pelaez, 6th grade; Yashvi Swadia, 6th grade; Melany Ngo, 6th grade; Colin Ladd, 7th grade; Michael Gasperini, 6th grade; Amari Pereira, 7th grade; Nico Yacavace, 6th grade; Anika Ferrantino, 7th grade (not in photo).

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy's National Junior Honor Society held its "Tapping Ceremony" on Friday, April 9 at St. Mary's Church in Southbridge to induct 11 new mem-

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NJHS students maintain a high standard of loyalty, scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, character, and faith as noted and represented by the "pillars".

The purpose of our National Junior Honor Society is to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, citizenship, and to encourage the development of character.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Principal, Josie Citta, speaking eloquently about these students, their achievements, and the expectations for their future. Fr. Ken Cardinale led with prayer, Co-Advisors; Heidi Weber, 6th Grade Teacher & Colleen Casey eighth grade teacher, lead the group for this

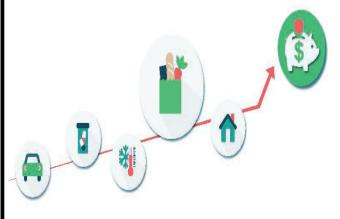
event. We also had the privilege of Mrs. Nicole Ladd (Colin's mom) singing a cappella to enhance the experience for the students.

NJHS members are active and involved in our school in many ways. Just one of the ongoing projects that all can view when driving by TCA is the school's Peace Pole and Peace Garden. This was made possible by members of NJHS at TCA, raising the funds and creating this meaningful focus on school grounds. This area is updated annually and maintained by the NJHS. The Peace Pole is inscribed "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in eight languages that celebrate eight of the many cultures represented in our school. We are very proud of the accomplishments of these dedicated students.

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Nichols College names Bryant University provost as president

DUDLEY — Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, acclaimed international law and national security expert with experience in academics, law, and government service, has been named the eighth president of Nichols College. He succeeds Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D., who will retire at the end of this academic year following a decade at the helm of Nichols.

Sulmasy comes to Nichols with 24 years in higher education, most recently as provost and chief academic officer of Bryant University. He will begin his tenure as Nichols president on July 1.

"President-elect Sulmasy brings a distinguished record of administrative leadership and academic achievement to Nichols. He is uniquely qualified to build on the success Nichols has experienced under President Engelkemeyer's leadership and drive us further toward a position of greater regional and national prominence," said John H. Davis '72, chair of the Nichols College Board of Trustees.

'I am honored to join the Nichols College community as its eighth president," said Sulmasy. "The Nichols reputation of offering a dynamic and results-oriented business and leadership education has grown measurably stronger under the leadership of President Engelkemeyer and is perfectly positioned to continue its trajectory. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff to expand opportunities for Nichols students to learn, lead, and succeed... Discere, Duces, Stabit!'

The appointment follows a sixmonth national search. Davis thanked the Presidential Search Committee, led by Trustee Randy Becker '83 MBA '96, for its thorough and collaborative work.

"The search for a new president of Nichols College drew an impressive pool of accomplished candidates, and the Committee worked tirelessly and efficiently to narrow the field, conduct interviews, and recommend the best candidate to the Board of Trustees," he said.

Sulmasy has served as the number two official of Bryant University since 2015, with primary responsibility for managing undergraduate and graduate academic programs, curriculum, and chairing the Academic Review Board. He oversees more than 1,100 faculty and staff members and an operating budget of \$144 million. During his tenure, he initiated and implemented several academic programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Data Science, a Digital Marketing Program, a fully accredited Physician Assistant Program, a Graduate Certificate in Innovative Health Care Leadership and an online MBA.

He also successfully directed Bryant's recent reaccreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education, and 2019 reaccreditation by AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.



Glenn Sulmasy

Sulmasy has been a law professor at the U.S. Naval War College and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he led the Department of Humanities, and additionally was a lecturer at the UConn School of Law, Roger Williams Law School, UC Berkley School of Law, and Harvard University. He is a visiting fellow at George Mason University School of Law.

In addition to lecturing exten-

sively on the law of armed conflict, international law, and national security matters, he is widely published on national security matters, and serves as a subject matter expert/commentator. He has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, on CBS News Radio, National Public Radio, CNN International, US News & World Report, the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, Al-Jazeera America, MSNBC, Fox News, and numerous other national media outlets. He is the author of "The National Security Court System - A Natural Evolution of Justice in an Age of Terror" (2009) and co-editor of "International Law Challenges - Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism" (2005).

Sulmasy was educated at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the University of Baltimore School of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

He and his wife, Marla, have seven children and reside in Old Lyme,

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's profession-

Register now for spring story times at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — The Children's Room at Joshua Hyde Library is currently registering for Spring Story Time. Programs meet the week of April 20 through the week of May 24.

Story Times will meet Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m., weather permitting. All ages are welcome with caregiver. COVID protocols in place: face masks and physical distancing enforced. Please register by calling 508-347-2512. You may also register at the library.

We strive to support early literacy development that will lead to a life-long love of reading. This development begins at birth through everyday interactions including sharing books, singing songs and creative activities. Join us for fun and meaningful story times that will assist you in preparing your child for successful school years and beyond! Visit us at 306 Main St. in Sturbridge. The Children's Room is currently available for family visits by appointment only.

Local lawmakers praise Biden's Jobs Plan

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Lawmakers representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in Washington are praising President Joe Biden's American Jobs Plan revealed at the

The plan prioritizes several initiatation infrastructure like roads and bridges, improving access to drinking water, renewing electrical grids and increasing access to high-speed broadband, modernizing schools, hospitals, federal buildings, homes and commercial facilities, revitalizing manufacturing, and focusing on creating quality jobs supporting safe and healthy workplaces while preserving American workers' choice to organize. The \$2.25 trillion plan received compliments from both Sen. Edward Markey and Massachusetts 1st Congressional District Rep. Richard Neal who touted the president's plan as a powerful step forward living up to the President's campaign promises.

"Our country needs a roadmap for recovery that addresses the intersecting crises we face -- climate change, a public health pandemic, racial injustice, and economic inequality," Markey said in a statement. "President Biden put forward a plan that makes important investments in our nation's infrastructure, creates millions of jobs, and combats our climate crisis. The final package that Congress must pass in the coming months must be bold and transformational. I will be pushing for legislation that centers justice and repairs harms to communities, creates good-paying union jobs as part of a clean energy economy, and most critically, enacts change with the speed and urgency demanded by the scope of the crises we face. I look forward to working with the Biden

administration and my colleagues to pass that package."

Congressman Richard Neal, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, also complimented the plan saying he looks forward to addressing the plan in the House.

"The President's plan recognizes that some things are not negotives including focusing on transportiable—Americans need access to clean drinking water; underserved communities need long overdue access to broadband; and we must act aggressively on countering the effects of climate change. Most of all, Americans need to be able to count on the resiliency of our infrastructure to keep us competitive on the global stage and to keep our economy roaring forward in the better days that lie ahead," Congressman Neal said. "I'm hopeful that Congress can once again come together, build on the success of the American Rescue Plan, and make President Biden's infrastructure package law. We cannot miss this chance to level the playing field for communities that have been left behind and spread opportunity for all Americans. The Ways and Means Committee welcomes this ambitious proposal and looks forward to working with the

Biden Administration on crafting legislation that can garner wide support and deliver for the American people.

On April 7, President Biden himself touted the plan as the "single largest investment in American jobs since World War II" and said of his administration's plan that it "puts millions of Americans to work to fix what's broken in our country: tens of thousands of miles of roads and highways, thousands of bridges in desperate need of repair. But it also is a blueprint for infrastructure needed for tomorrow — not just yesterday; tomorrow — for American jobs, for American competitiveness."



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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Bay Path alum named 2021 MAIC Champion Awardee

CHARLTON — Heidi Bedard, LPN of Brookfield, a graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, class of 2014 was named the 2021 Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference (MAIC) Champion Awardee. The announcement was made by the MAIC planning commit-

Each year, the MAIC planning com $mittee\,selects\,the\,Adult\,Immunization$ Champion Award winner based on a nomination and review process. The review committee looks for nominees who have shown leadership, innovation, collaboration, advocacy, and initiative in adult immunization. The review committee was pleased to announce Heidi Bedard, LPN as the 2021 MAIC Champion Awardee and her achievement will be recognized during the 26th Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference on Tuesday, April 13. Bedard is the Clinical Coordinator of Vaccine Management at the Family Health Center of Worcester (FHCW). She is described by her colleagues as a "tireless champion of immuni-

care at the FHCW." Bedard us responsible for many initiatives encouraging adult immunizations. Bedard's meticulous planning resulted in FHCW's provision of over 3,425 flu vaccines to low-income, culturally diverse patients in need.

zations for the patients who receive



Heidi Bedard

Her efforts almost tripled last year's adult flu vaccination count of 1,250. Bedard and her team accomplished this through the establishment of a walk-in, six-day a week community-based flu clinic and engaging in community outreach efforts. Further, Bedard initiated efforts to decrease duplicate patient records for FHCW in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). Since March 2020, Bedard has decreased the duplicate patient records in the MIIS for FHCW from more than 15,000 records to zero records. She continues to innovate and has implemented a booster vaccination catch-up program for adults (18-35). The review committee acknowledges that "given the increased urgency of access to the flu vaccine this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the logistical barriers the pandemic presented, Heidi's accomplishments ae truly astounding."

Bedard is a Certified Coordinator for Vaccine Management and is ACLS and BLS Certified (American Heart Association). She graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2014 and was one of the class representatives. Most recently, she spearheaded her team goals "scrubbed out" in Winter Walk Worcester to support Worcester Health Care for the Homeless, a pro-

16 19

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who manufactures
- Science degree
- 9. Database management system 44. Fishes
- Inventor Musk
- 15. Welsh valley
- 16. Round Dutch cheese 17. Saying
- 18. Comedian and TV host 19. Uppermost portions of brain
- 21. City in Transylvania
- 22. Where astronauts go
- 23. Men's hairstyle
- 24. Indicates position
- 25. One point east of due south
- 28. Businessmen may have one 29. Grass part
- 31. Running back Gurley 33. Unwavering
- 36. Options
- 38. Annoy
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Millisecond
- 2. Acts as military assistant
- 3. Knot in a tree 4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
- 5. The Ocean State 6. Point the finger at
- 7. Parts in a machine
- 8. Midway between northeast and east
- 9. Portray precisely 10. Blister
- 11. Mental illness
- 12. Nose of an animal
- 14. What students receive
- 17. Semitic peoples
- 20. Beats per minute 21. Family of drugs
- 23. Atrocious
- 25. Type of microscope (abbr.) 26. __ or bust

В

27. Icelandic poems

63. Dried-up 64. Finger millet 65. Allan Poe 66. German river

56. Predisposition

62. Swiss river

67. Brew

39. Greek mountain

46. Potentially a criminal (slang)

52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ

54. Central Chinese province

61. One-time Kentucky Rep.

60. A notice of someone's death

49. The Constitution State

41. Pastas

45. Wrap

48. Seize

51. Upset

29. A citizen of Pakistan

68. Kenyan river

- 30. Very pale 32. Metric linear unit
- 34. Sea eagle 35. Biblical judge of Israel
- 37. Isaac's mother (Bib.) 40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 42. Cool!
- 43. Large hotel room
- 47. Type of boat (abbr.) 49. Picked
- 50. Type of hookah 52. Attack
- 53. Directs
- 55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
- 56. Finished negotiation
- 57. Heroic tale
- 58. Middle Eastern country 59. Protein-rich liquids
- 61. Malaysian Isthmus
- 65. Spielberg's alien

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QCC announces Commencement ceremony plans

WORCESTER

Quinsigamond Community College has announced its May 21, 2021 Commencement Ceremony will be held virtu-

"The College came to this difficult decision after a review of current public health advice and the many unknown factors of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic's course over the next months. Our first and foremost commitment is to the safety of our faculty, staff, students and their families," said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "While we are encouraged by the rollout of vaccines; many are still waiting to be vaccinated and current safety protocols preclude us from holding an in-person ceremony."

QCC's featured virtual commencement speaker will be

Dr.Rockeymoore-Cummings has championed social justice causes in areas that include health equity, protection of social entitlement programs, income security, diversity and inclusion, and civil rights. Her career has spanned over 22 years of service in the United States Congress, the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and the nonprofit sector. Most recently, Dr. Rockeymoore-Cummings toured the country championing her late husband, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings' autobiography, "We're Better than This: My Fight for the Future of Our Democracy.'

'We are honored to have such an esteemed and relevant speaker as Dr. Rockeymoore-Cummings at our commenceceremony, ar and elected official, Maya Pedraja said. "She brings a

Rockeymoore-Cummings, focus on the impact of public policy on people of color, vulnerable populations, and marginalized communities, and works with others on ways to dismantle systemic inequalities found in our society, in order for all people to succeed and thrive.'

The College is offering free caps, gowns and tassels to all QCC August 2020, December 2020, and May 2021 graduates for this year's commence-

"I look forward to welcoming the Class of 2021 into the esteemed group of QCC alumni who have done so much for our community," President Pedraja added. To learn more visit www.

QCC.edu/commencement-2021.

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Worcester native commits \$100,000 to fund scholarships for Becker transfer students

DUDLEY — Worcester native and Nichols College alumnus Robert Kuppenheimer has committed \$100,000 to support scholarships for Becker College students who transfer to Nichols College for the fall 2021 semester. Awards of \$2,000 for commuters and \$4,000 for resident students will be made available.

We are exceedingly grateful to Mr. Kuppenheimer for honoring his Worcester roots with this generous gesture," said Bill Boffi, vice president for enrollment at Nichols College. "This scholarship underscores our commitment to Becker students and our efforts to help them find a home at Nichols and a degree program with great value.'

Kuppenheimer, who currently resides in California, is a 1969 graduate of Nichols and a long-time trustee and major benefactor. He is a retired vice president at Nuveen Investments.

"Over the years and across the miles, I have remained close to Worcester, with frequent visits to family, and will always consider it home," said Kuppenheimer. "The same goes for Nichols. And with this scholarship, I hope to introduce Becker students to the educational opportunities and supportive community at Nichols so that they, too, may find success and a new home on the Hill.'

Nichols has partnered with Becker College to develop academic pathways for students to continue their education with minimal disruptions. In addition to the scholarships, which are renewable for subsequent years, Nichols has offered to take up to 90 transfer credits from Becker students, give them a free summer course, and match the \$500 nonrefundable deposit when students commit by April 30.

Other incentives are available.

For more information, visit nichols. edu/beckercollege or call 508-213-2428.

About Nichols College

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thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

Girl Scouts offer 'Intro to Outdoor Skills' event

WORCESTER — Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) invites girls and their guardian to an Intro to Outdoor Skills event Saturday, May 1 from 11 a.m.-noon at the Charlton Arts and Activities Center for girls currently in Pre-K and Kindergarten who are not yet Girl Scout members. Girls will earn their first Girl Scout patch while learning basic campfire building techniques, first aid, and jackknife safe-

ty. Sign up is at http://bit.ly/GSoutdoor. Space is limited. All COVID safety precautions will be followed. This is an outdoor event, dress accordingly.

RSVP and register at: http://bit.ly/ GSoutdoor

For more information, contact **GSCWM** Recruitment Manager Tammy Gilpatrick at tgillpatrick@gscwm.org or



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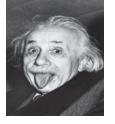
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Local firefighters improve opiate response role

 ${\tt BRIMFIELD}-{\tt Starting}$ this month, Brimfield firefighters will be carrying a new potentially life-saving drug with them as they respond to calls in town. The department recently added the medication Narcan to its response kits in an effort to enhance their abilities to treat medical emergencies. The drug is used to reverse opiate overdoses and was initiated in conjunction with a statewide effort to reduce opiate deaths.

Over the last few years, the state has encouraged the wider distribution of Narcan to public safety agencies including police and fire departments. The Brimfield Fire Department responds to medical calls in town along with Action Ambulance service and provides care at the first responder level.

"While we don't have a large number of opiate overdoses, we have had several calls where Narcan has been used in the last year," said Fire Chief Don Contois in explaining the decision to include the drug in its first responder role.

Before the medication was added to fire trucks, only the responding ambulance would carry Narcan. Contois notes that the medication reverses the effects of an opiate overdose which may include a patient who is not breathing.



Courtesv

Open Sky Community Services appoints new Director of Outpatient Services

WORCESTER—Open Sky Community Services has announced the appointment of Eric Roldan, LICSW as the Director of Outpatient Services, part of the organization's Behavioral Health Services Division. Roldan, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, brings experience in both community mental health and substance abuse settings to his new role. He will be responsible for oversight of The Bridge Counseling Center.

Roldan, who began his career in human services over a decade ago, graduated with a Master of Social Work from Springfield College in 2012. Most recently, Roldan served as a Clinical Program Director for Spectrum Health Systems.

"I am excited to join Open Sky and particularly look forward to the opportunity to lead the outpatient team in the delivery of culturally competent and evidenced-based practices to underserved populations of our community," he said.

In discussing Roldan's appointment, Karen Duby, Vice President of Behavioral Health for Open Sky, explained "Eric brings a wealth of clinical knowledge and understanding of our local community to this position, which will help our outpatient services to grow to meet the ever-changing needs of the region."

For more information about Open Sky Community Services, please contact Lorie Martiska, lorie.martiska@openskycs.org.

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services, Inc. offers a wide range of services for adults,



Courtesy

Eric Roldan

adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky, which was formed through the affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. has more than 1,200 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83 million with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

Brimfield Fire Department with Narcan. Pictured, left to right: Deputy Chief Jim Donovan and Fire Chief Don Contois.

The sooner we can get the medication administered and ventilate a person the better the outcome is for the patient," he noted.

In 2020, the state reported more than 2,000 opiate overdose deaths, a number that has been fairly constant over the last few years. According to a statewide database, Narcan was administered by EMS crews five times in Brimfield in 2020. The increasing prevalence of

stronger opiates such as Fentanyl and other synthetic medications has compounded the problem for first responders.

The fire departments Narcan program was developed together with Baystate Medical Center's EMS division and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Doses of the medication, which are carried on all of the fire department's first line response trucks, were purchased at a steep discount through a state bid project. Last month all members of the department underwent training in the identification and treatment of opiate overdose

But giving the medication is only one goal of the project - getting those with substance abuse issues to recovery programs is the end point.

"Once someone is awake and stable, we work to encourage them to go to the hospital where they can get more care," he said.

Responders are trained to work with law enforcement and other providers to ensure that patients who get Narcan also get the opportunity to participate in treatment pro-

"Substance abuse crosses all demographics," said Deputy Chief Jim Donovan, who helped develop the program for the fire department. "We see overdoses in every age group and part of town -often some-body's parent or child". Emergency administration of Narcan is just one prong of the program which also recognizes that removing the stigma regarding substance abuse allows patients better access to care."

"Just having Narcan more accessible in an emergency is one step in making our community safer and healthier," said Donovan.

The fire department encourages any individuals or family members who need resources regarding substance abuse, visit www.mass.gov/ opioid-overdose-prevention-information for more information.

Tri-Valley, Inc. celebrates Boost Your Budget Week

REGION — Tri-Valley, Inc. is committed to empowering all older adults in South Central Massachusetts to on Aging (NCOA) to celebrate Boost Your Budget Week.

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Please call Tri-Valley, Inc. at 508-949-6640 for more information, or take a few moments this week to get a free online confidential checkup through NCOA at BenefitsCheckUp. org or BuscaBeneficios.org.

About NCOA

The National Council on Aging (NCOA)is the national voice for age well. On April 12-16, we are part-nering with the National Council believe that how we age should not be determined by gender, color, sexuality, income, or zip code. Working with thousands of national and local partners, we provide resources, tools, best practices, and advocacy to ensure every person can age with health and financial security.

About Tri-Valley, Inc.

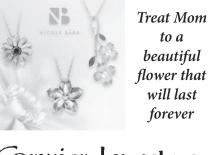
Tri-Valley is a private, non-profit agency. The agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from the Federal government, under the Older American's Act, processed through the Central Mass Agency on Aging. Funds are also received from other public and private sources. For more information about services or volunteer opportunities, please call Tri-Valley at 508-949-6640.





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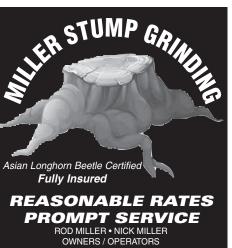
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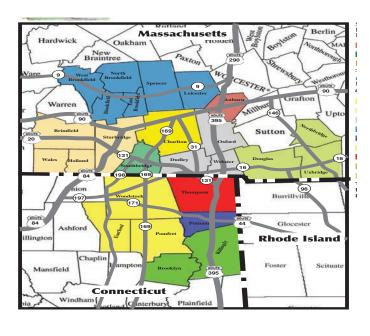


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EDITORIAL

A Revolutionary legacy

April 19, 1775, next week, 246 years ago, was the start of the Revolutionary War after the battles of Lexington and Concord. The big debate still remains as to whether or not 'The Shot Heard Round' the World' took place in Concord,

or in neighboring Lexington.

This time in our history, while brutal and necessary brings with it much intrigue for many. The tenacity and bravery of those who fought for our independence is beyond admirable. The events that took place during the Revolutionary War, read like a novel in modern times and have been brought to life through such works as Howard Fast's "April Morning," where we need to be reminded that this story is not fiction.

On that spring morning, more than 700 British soldiers who were given a secret tip on the whereabouts of colonial military supplies in Concord, marched towards town to confiscate the lot. The Patriots who had developed a topnotch intelligence network, largely the work of George Washington's Culper Ring, and the Sons of Liberty, had received notice weeks in advance and were able to move the supplies to safety.

Paul Revere and William Dawes had plans to ride ahead of the British troops to warn other Patriots. Knowing the task was risky, Revere secured the help of about 30 other men to make sure word reached Lexington and Concord if the two were captured. Revere told militia leaders to look at the steeple of the Old North Church each night for a signal. One lit lantern meant the Regulars would come by land through the Boston Neck. Two lanterns meant the British would come via the Charles river on row boats into Cambridge, "One if by land, two if by sea." The night before the famous battle, Dr. Joseph

Warren sent Dawes to Lexington where he was joined with Revere to warn Sam Adams and

John Hancock that the British were coming.
It was midnight in Lexington when Revere and Dawes were joined by a third rider, Dr.Samuel Prescott. Prescott had been courting a woman in Lexington and met Dawes and Revere by chance. Because he believed in the cause, Prescott joined the men. The three riders were stopped by a British patrol not long after Dawes was able to escape by reversing his direction. Prescott jumped a stone wall and fled using a short cut only locals knew about. The doctor was the only rider to reach Concord. Revere who was now captured, was surrounded by six Regulars and was searched and interrogated. "An officer clapped his pistol to my head, called me by name and told me he was going to ask me some questions, and if I did not give him true answers, he would blow my brains out." Revere wrote in his diary. The Regulars were spooked by the sound of gunfire in the distance, and let Revere go after asking him for an alternative route to town. Revere made his way back to Lexington where he regrouped with Hancock and Adams, who planned an escape to Woburn.

Throughout the night, the Rebels' gathered to intercept the British. When the red coats were seen marching onto the Lexington green, the local minutemen knew they were outnumbered. Out of the dawn a shot was fired, and no one knows to this day which side was responsible for it. After the scuttle on the green, eight minn and one British sol There were accusations from both sides laying blame on one another.

William Sutherland, a British soldier, is on record saying, "I heard Major Pitcairn's voice call out. 'Soldiers, don't fire, keep your ranks, form and surround them.' Instantly some of the villains who got over the hedge fired at us which our men for the first time returned.

Sylvanus Wood, a minute man had recalled something different: "He swung his sword, and said, 'Lay down your arms, you damned rebels, or you are all dead men - fire!' Some guns were fired by the British at us from the first platoon. but no person was killed or hurt, being probably charged only with gunpowder. The company immediately dispersed; and while the company was dispersing and leaping over the wall, the second platoon of the British fired, and killed some of our men. There was not a gun fired by any of Captain Parker's company, within my knowledge

While the British soldiers continued to search for supplies, the colonial militia was able to regroup in Concord where they later met the red coats at the North Bridge. The British were outnumbered this time and retreated to South Boston after losing several soldiers

Some say the Shot Heard Round the World happened on the bridge in Concord, while residents in Lexington have long said the first shot to kick off the revolution took place on their

The phrase 'Shot Heard Round the World' was coined by author Ralph Waldo Emerson 62 years after the battle. His poem titled "Concord Hymn" was about the Battle of Concord

By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfurled, Here once the embattled farmers stood,

And fired the shot heard 'round the world Some historians say that because the Battle of Concord was the first real American victory in the Revolutionary War, that shot, should be considered the one heard 'round the world'. Other historians say that because the first shot took place in Lexington, that should be the famous

In his diary, Paul Revere wrote about the battle, "I heard the report, turned my head, and saw the smoke in front of the British troops, they immediately gave a great shout, ran a few paces and then the whole fired. I could first distinguish irregular firing, which I suppose was the advance guard, and then platoons. At the time I could not see our Militia, for they were covered

'shot heard 'round the world.'

from me, by a house at the bottom of the street. In Concord, British Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith in a report to General Thomas Gage said that the British were the first to fire in Concord, stating "While at Concord we saw vast numbers assembling in many parts; at one of the bridges they marched down, with a very considerable body, on the light infantry posted there. On their coming pretty near, one of our men fired on them, which they returned."

The debate has continued between the towns of Concord and Lexington, as to which is the birth place of American Liberty. Even though the first shots took place in Lexington, Emerson's 'Shot' was fired in Concord.

In 1875, President Ulysses S. Grant wanted to forgo attending the centennial to avoid conflict between the two towns. In 1894, the Lexington Historical Society sought to name April 19, Lexington Day' to the outright objections of Concord citizens. To ease both towns, a compromise was made where April 19 is now referred to as Patriot's Day.

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Words of thanks

To the Editor:

Greetings, Sturbridge residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to all the volunteers of the COA Steering/Study Committees that were formed in January 2015. These individuals donated hours of time and energy to determine if the present Senior Center facility is adequate enough to serve the needs of the ever-growing Senior community. These individuals donated hours of time and energy to determine if the present Senior Center Facility is adequate enough to serve the needs of the ever-growing Senior Community. The Committee also researched the renovation of the current facility, or the construction of a new facil-

We were warned from the very start that this mission would have to endure many difficulties moving forward and indeed

there was. The committee had weathered numerous setbacks, miscommunications, deadlines, and frustration with "Policy and Procedures" of town government. Thru it all there was never any thought of giving up on our seniors. On Jan. 21, six years to the month, the study committee made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that a new facility would best fit the growing needed of the senior community. The committee's work has ended, it is now up to our Town Leaders to act on the committee's recommendation. It was an honor to be part of these dedicated committee members. Above all, I want to thank all of our senior citizens that endured sacrifices of their own

to make Sturbridge a great place to live.

Respectfully,

Ken White Sturbridge

Best Times to Bag a Bargain

It's obvious that some people are better shoppers than others. But the best bargain hunters are not necessarily those who have a knack for a good deal. It may be that, like any good investor, savvy shoppers know when to take action. Traditionally

certain times of year are better than others to save money on particular purchases with both in store and online purchases. This week's column will review some classic calendar sales throughout the year.

Groceries

Everyone has to buy groceries, but savvy shoppers know when to buy and save money all year long! Throughout the year grocery stores hold sales on specific department or aisle items, such as specials on frozen foods or soft drinks. Here are some guidelines:

Dairy: June is National Dairy Month, so look for exceptional sales on milk, cheese, ice cream and specialty dairy foods during June.

Frozen Food: Many supermarkets celebrate Frozen Food Month in March with rock bottom prices on a wide variety of frozen goods.

Canned Goods: February has been deemed National Canned Foods Month. Canned goods typically go on sale in January and February. Since canned foods can be kept for a long period of time, it pays to stock up for the whole year on drastically reduced items.

Snacks: Late August, when kids are gearing up to go back to school, is an ideal time to stockpile snack foods and drink boxes. Lunch box fillers are at their lowest prices at this time.

Condiments: As cookout season kicks off in June, the prices of mustard, relish, ketchup, barbecue sauce, pickles and other condiments drop in price. Smart shoppers buy enough to last throughout the warm weather season.

Soft Drinks: There's no better time to stock up on soda than around the holidays. Typically six and 12 packs will be on sale during warm weather holidays like Memorial Day and 4th of July; while two liter bottles are often on special during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Baking Products: Baking supplies such as flour and sugar, as well as cake and bread mixes, pie crusts, pudding mix, etc. are marked down in time for holiday baking. Look for sales on these items, from November through December.

Gas

With gas prices fluctuating on a daily basis, getting a buying edge can be a challenge. Consumer watchdogs offer the following money saving advice: Time your trip based on whether prices are rising or falling, and purchase gas during the early morning or late evening on a

The reason is gas stations typically change their prices between 10 a.m. and noon. So it makes sense to buy early in the morning to take advantage of lower prices when gas is on the rise. If gas prices are coming down, wait until later in the day.

Cars and Trucks

There is much debate on when is the best time to snag a bargain on the car lot. Here is some advice on timing the best deals: Consumer pundits tout weekday mornings in September as the prime bargain time. They say since the next year's models are in, car dealers are in a rush to move out the current year's stock.

Others say springtime can yield the best price all year, since spring is typically a slow season for dealerships. And some penny pinchers swear shopping for a car on a rainy day can cut the price down to size. Still others claim the end of any month or the end of a yearly quarter is best, since salespeople are desperate to make quotas. Using all this information, it appears the optimum time to drive away with the best price would be a rainy weekday morning at the end of March or September.

Electronics

Black Friday and back TAKE

THE HINT KAREN TRAINOR

to school season are the best times to snag a deal on computers and electronics. Also some computer review sites claim you can snap up a super bargain on computers and electronics if you buy just after a new model is

introduced (some in January). They say prices will immediately drop on the previously best-selling model as a new one takes its place.

Heads Up on Monthly Sales Want to pocket savings the whole year long? Here is a list of months, with items that are typically offered at a discount during those times.

January: Canned goods, white goods (towels, sheets, linens), appliances, Christmas items, costume jewelry, indoor plants, carpeting, shoes, furniture, toys, storewide pre-inventory sales.

February: Presidents' Day Sales on big ticket items such as cars, trucks and furniture. Also save on sports equipment, electronics, housewares, mens clothing, canned goods. Valentine Day specials.

March: Luggage, shoes, coats, shoes, appliances, pre season garden supplies, spring bulbs.

April: Paint, wallpaper, home decor, dresses, suits, garden adornments and tools. Sales on Easter holiday foods such as ham, pies, eggs, candy, etc.

May: Fabrics, outdoor furniture, tires and auto accessories, electronics, summer sport equipment, perfume, pocketbooks. Mother's Day specials.

June: Air conditioners, outdoor furniture, building materials, flooring, shoes,

tools, Father's Day sales. July: Clearance summer clothing, luggage, furniture, electronics, 4th of July specials.

August: Paper goods and other back to school sales, swimwear, school clothes. electronic gadgets, bicycles, fans, clearance air conditioners, clearance summer merchandise, including grills and pool

supplies. September: Clearance garden goods, school supplies, hardware, outgoing model vehicles, china, fall fashions, fab-

October: Major appliances, fishing/ sports merchandise, furniture, clearance fall clothing, coats. Check out Columbus Day sales.

November: Blankets, used cars, men's suits and coats, shoes, winter clothing, Thanksgiving food sales, turkey, feast fixings. Look for day after Thanksgiving sales, held to jump start the holiday shopping rush.

December: After Christmas sales on most items. Stock up on wrapping paper, tape, gift bags, gift sets, ornaments, and holiday decor items.

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

Please note the contest had been suspended due to COVID restrictions. It is expected to start up again in June. All entries have been collected and will be entered into an upcoming drawing.

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

Set milestones on road to financial security



FINANCIAL Focus

JEFF BURDICK

The road to financial security, like many long journeys toward important goals, can be filled with ups and downs. The financial markets can be volatile, shaking up your short-term investment results, and illness or downsizing may temporarily disrupt your career - and your earnings. In fact, just 46 percent of adults feel financially stable, according to a survey by Morning Consult and Edward Jones. Still, there's much you can do to gain stability - and you can chart your progress by marking three important milestones:

• Building a foundation – You need to base your financial stability on a strong foundation, which means you must start accumulating the necessary resources. Start by creating an emergency fund, which can help you deal with unexpected costs, such as an expensive car repair, without taking on additional debt. Try to put away anywhere from about \$500 to one month's worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account one that's separate from an account you use for your everyday spending. Later on, you'll want to expand this emergency fund, but, for now, even this amount can

You can also take other steps to build your financial foundation. Try to put in enough to your health savings account (HSA) and your 401(k) to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. And if you can, pay down high-interest, nondeductible debts.

• Gaining stability - Continue to build on the momentum from the "foundation" milestone by ramping up your sayings and investments. For starters, build your emergency fund so it contains one and a half to two months' worth of living expenses. Also, set a goal to save perhaps 10 to 15 percent of your gross income, including employer matches, in your 401(k) or similar retirement account. If you can't reach this level yet, do the best you can now and increase your contributions over time, as your salary goes up. If the monthly debt payments are straining your budget, consider paying them down even if they have lower interest rates.

Reaching independence - The final milestone toward achieving financial stability is marked by a feeling of independence - knowing you are taking the steps necessary, and putting a strategy in place, to allow you to reach your finan-

Work to build a full three to six months' worth of expenses in your emergency fund, which will offer even greater protection against being forced to tap into long-term investments, such as your IRA and 401(k), to pay for unanticipated expenses. Plus, having a sizable emergency fund gives you room to consider making moves such as taking a sabbatical, switching careers or taking time off to care for a loved one

And, while you're still working, save enough for the type of retirement lifestyle you desire. Even though your debt may be manageable at this point, it may still be source of stress. If so, continue paving it down. The less you owe, the more you can put away for retirement. Achieving these milestones can help you gain the financial stability and flexibility to live life on your terms.

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.



Pass the crossbow bill



THE GREAT **OUTDOORS** RALPH TRUE

Sportsmen are eager to find out the results of the recent meetings that were held with Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife on the proposed license and permit increases. Many sportsmen expressed their concern over the large increases that are being proposed for the 2022 season.

The Worcester County League of Sportsmen are planning to hire a lobbyist to help sportsmen have a better voice when it comes to passing new regulations on fishing and hunting issues. We have gone that route before. You may as well throw the money down the toilet. Unfortunately, they feel as though the legislators they voted into office are not representing their interest. Getting the Crossbow bill passed has failed numerous times, along with the Sunday hunting bill, and they are becoming frustrated! The Worcester County League is planning to donate the first \$5,000 to the fund, and are asking sportsmen's clubs to also donate monies the fund. They hope to raise \$65,000 or more. which is needed to hire a lobbyist.

This past week, this writer and many other sportsmen watched "Chronicle," which is a daily evening show, watched by thousands of residents of Massachusetts! Myself and many other sportsmen were shocked to watch Joe Judd, a long tome friend of sportsmen, talk against opening Sunday hunting in Massachusetts. Joe is a representative of a top manufacture of wildlife calls, and has done a great job representing them. Joe has a right to his opinion, but



This week's picture shows Andrea Henchey and her son Logan with a couple of rainbow trout he caught last week at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club derby.

unfortunately, "Chronicle" did not get it right at the end of the program. Sportsmen are not trying to open up



Courtesy

Taylor Burke with his catch of trout at the

the entire state to Sunday hunting, and are only interested in Sunday hunting for bow season.

They are trying to open private properties like Rod & Gun Clubs,



Taylor Burke with his trout at Uxbridge last

and land purchased by sportsmen's monies to Sunday Hunting. It has nothing to do with private properties owned by private landowners.

Turn To TRUE, page A12

Cool and refreshing – cucumbers



Moments MELINDA MYERS

GARDEN

refreshing twist to your meals, beverages, appetizers, and snacks with cucumbers. These popular vegetables are grown worldwide, adding

Add a cool anti-inflammatory vitamin K, vitamins C, B-5 and more to your meals. Take it a step further by using your own fresh-from-the-

garden

Grow cucumbers sprawled on the ground or in a container on your patio, balcony, or deck. Save space and train them up a decorative support. They make great vertical accents in containers as well as edible and ornamental gardens. Going vertical not only saves space, it

improves produc-



After the first flush of flowers, male and female flowers will appear for

bees to pollinate and cucumbers to develop. tivity by reducing cucurbitacin that

disease problems while also making harvesting easier.

You will find a wide variety cucumbers available from seed company catalogs and on the seed racks of your favorite garden center. Check with your local Extension service website for their

recommendations for your location. Select the best cucumber for your garden space, meals, and snacks. Bush types like Salad bush produce eight-inch slicing cucumbers on a small plant. Spacemaster is a compact plant, spreading 24 inches and suitable containers and hanging baskets. All-America Selections winner Saladmore Bush is another semibush plant that starts producing cucumbers in 55 days from plant-

ing. Green Light is a 2020 All-America Selections winmuch larger. They have been bred to contain little or no

causes bitterness and the tendency to burp when consumed.

Wait for the soil to warm and danger of frost to pass for planting seeds one half to one inch deep in properly prepared soil. Plant several cucumber seeds in a large container or in rows or hills in the garden. Space seeds 12 inches apart in rows 36 inches apart. Or plant several in hills (small mounds of soil) spaced 36 inches

apart. Water oughly and often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Apply a one- to two-inch layer of shredded leaves. evergreen needles, or other organic matter over the soil surface to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and reduce the risk of soil borne diseases.

Watch for the first flush of flowers in 50 to 70 days after planting. The first set of flowers are all male flowers, so no fruit can form. Soon male and female flowers will appear for bees to pollinate and fruit to devel-

Harvest your cucumbers based

on how you plan to use them. Pick when one and a half to two and a half inches long for making sweet pickles and three to four inches for dills. Harvest slicing cucumbers when the fruit is firm, green, crisp and six to eight inches long. Burpless-type cucumbers will maintain their flavor at even larger sizes. Check the seed packet for harvesting directions.

With proper selection, planting and care you will be rewarded with an abun dant harvest. So be prepared to enjoy, preserve, and share your homegrown fresh cucumbers.

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

Little boy, scared.



believing

true or not?

Second

labeled

recruiting station

and into a life

and death strug-

gle against the

Fascism of Hitler

and Mussolini, and

the treachery of

imperialist Japan.

Were they perfect?

Of course not. We

are all flawed, but

they answered the

call and saved the

free world as we

from an early age

that I stand up

straight, respect the flag and fight

for what's right.

He also told me

never to be afraid

to defend myself.

He'd say, "Never

start the fight but never run away

and swing as hard

as you can to win

it." My dad wasn't

encouraging me to

up

myself.

four-hour

starring

life for his cause. The impact of "The

As such, my

expected

know it.

Dad

"The

Positively SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

Alamo" shaped my Are there some things in life worth life. Later, Errol Flynn as George in... Armstrong Custer whether they are in the highly fictionalized "They Died with Their Boots On," and others ... all epic Like most of my generation, I was raised by veteran of the struggles of fight-World ing with courage on both sides of the War. Tom Brokaw battle. I absorbed them Greatest these stories and Generation" and they've become as I've mentioned part of my DNA, understanding before, I agree. At a moment's notice, they are more ficthey left their tion than fact. The homes for the local point is they are

stories of persever-

ance and courage.

In my teens I became almost obsessed with learning of heroic acts of bravery insuragainst mountable odds. A common prayer was "Dear God, when I grow up let me fight in 'the battle for my life' and overcome." Be careful what you wish for. Yesterday, that prayer came to mind with regret as the impact of my chemo ravaged my body and mind and I felt as though my prayer had unfortunately come true, as I am fighting for my life. My enemy, as most of you know is stage 4 gastric cancer.

fight but to stand Fatigue make cowards of and defend us all and yester-The first movie day morning was my moment in I ever viewed in a theater wasn't the darkness. For a Disney cartoon. those of you who follow me on social My dad took me media, I'm sorry if to see an almost I alarmed you with epic John my posts. I awoke Wayne. I sat as a yesterday mornfive-year-old, riving as a frightened eted to the screen, little boy, clinging as I watched Davy to my store-bought-Crockett fighting faux-fur coonskin cap wishing I were like a tiger against overwhelming as brave as Davy... odds, giving his but was not.

Today is different. My Crockett

cap is firmly upon ferent hero's, they my head. The frightened little bov cowering yesterday in a cancer-ridden sixtysix-year-old body, today feels strong, confident, and unafraid. I believe I can and will beat this cancer. I'm enthused by the challenge and the

fight is back on. Where does this fight come from? The books, stories and movies of my youth that encourage me still, play in my head. Heroic speeches ring in my ears. The belief that there are things worth fighting for... especially your life, against an indiscriminate, unfair disease. I know someday, somewhere, someone is going to beat this cancer. Why not here and now? Why not me?

There is a song I played for my kids; it's titled "Give it all you've It began with the lyrics ... "Hero's come in all shapes and sizes, different colors too. Yes, it's true, yes, you know it's true. But a fact of all difgive it their best shot. Every time win or not, they give it all they've got." I think it encouraged them, as it still does me. I sing this song in my head in my weakest moments.

The examples, stories or fables of others inspire us. They give us courage and often the ability to fight when we'd rather run. They strengthen us to stand back up when we get knocked down. And I wonder... why is there a move to remove and tear down our traditional heroes at a time they are needed most? (A subject for another time) Scan the records of history and show me anything positive that has ever begun by banning books, erasing history, or trying to change culture

by force. Let me leave you with this little speech from a fun movie and is delivered by Robert Duvall "Secondhand in

"Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things that a man needs to believe in the most. That people are basically good. That honor, courage and virtues mean everything. That power and money, money and power mean nothing; that Good always triumphs over Evil; and I want you to remember this: That Love, true Love never dies. Doesn't matter if any of this is true or not. You see a man should believe in these things because these are the things worth believing in.'

I always look for and believe the best.

What do look for and believe?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including award-winning, critically acclaimea, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.gary-

ner that produces an abundance of great tasting mini cucumbers. Grow to the other extreme with burpless-type cucumbers that can be harvested when

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BITUARIE

Michael C. Miller, 51

PUTNAM, CT - Michael C. Miller, 51, passed away on Wednesday March 17, 2021 while at the Day-Hospital Kimball Putnam after a brief ill-

Michael was born in Worcester, MA on July 4, 1969; he greatly enjoyed taking trips to Cape Cod and Jamestown, RI. Michael was an excellent cook; he also enjoyed going camping and riding ATV's.

Michael is survived by his longtime companion Gary Schings; his father Robert Miller of Worcester, MA; his mother Maureen (Moynagh)



Scism of Copake, NY; his sister Michele Jones and her longtime companion Richard Taylor of Sturbridge; his nephew Joshua Jones of Sturbridge. Michael also leaves many dear friends.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home. A guest book is avail-

able at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences, share fond memories, or light a candle in remembrance of



TRUE

continued from page A8

The crossbow bill is a no brainer. Allowing any responsible licensed hunter to own and use a crossbow for hunting is law in most states. It would also help sporting goods shops with increased revenue, as sales would help the few remaining shops stay in business. Most of all, it would help decrease lost deer because of a bad shot.

Crossbows are a great tool to keep wildlife under control, where high deer populations in rural areas of the state are otherwise not manageable. Lyme disease is almost an epidemic in many areas of the state, and deer are responsible. Keeping our deer herd healthy as it is today needs professional management, and crossbows are a great tool to help keep it that way. We owe it to the residents of Massachusetts to keep them safe from Lyme disease, as well as keeping our wildlife healthy. Set politics aside and pass these two bills now!

This past weekend was a perfect

time to get outdoors and enjoy the weather and to do a little fishing. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club held their annual trout fishing derby this past Saturday, and it was attended by a more than 50 members and family. The Dean family was in attendance with three generations of their family in enjoying some great fishing including young Aaron Dean. This week's pictures show some of the young anglers that participated in the annual trout derby. Although the derby was for adult anglers, the youngsters are never left out! A kid's derby is still planned for May 8.

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club will hold their annual fishing derby this Saturday, April 17, starting at 8 a.m. Breakfast will also be served starting at 7 a.m.! The club also holds trap shooting every Saturday, which is open to the public. Check it out.

Do not forget the Louisa trout derby this Saturday, which is free to all children. This week's poster

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep them

tells it all.

Rods Bending.



FARMERS MARKET

continued from page **A1**

that, "the Farmer's Market also provides a consistent source of high quality goods. Week after week you greet the same vendors."

While many people have received Covid-19 vaccines, entry into the Hitchcock Farmer's Market will require a mask. Patrons are also asked to follow current social distancing protocols. Nothing enhances the flavor of food like freshness, and nothing beats a local Farmer's Market for freshness.

On April 24 at 9 a.m., just across the street from the Farmer's Market, Hitchcock Academy invites community members to participate in its effort to fix up its tennis and basketball courts. Spearheaded by Ken Hawk of Hawk's Lawncare and Landscaping, clean up projects will include cutting brush and a few small trees, raking leaves and general clean up. According to Skowyra, who honed her tennis skills on the HFA courts, a clean up project has always been a primary goal. When Hawk floated the idea of a community project on a local Facebook website, the response was immediate and it was encouraging, with many people offering to volunteer their time and talents. Anyone who is in narti information about the project in the Events Section of hitchcockacademy.org. While registration is not required Skowyra says it is helpful for planning purposes. Drinks and snacks will be provided along with lots of encouragement and enthusiasm. Rain date for the clean up project is Sunday, April 25 at Noon. Hitchcock Academy rounds out its April offerings with an online seasonal look at the night sky. Astronomy, which features planetarium software takes place on April 19 and on April 29 Fencing with instructor Andrew Bloch returns.

People thinking ahead to summer gardens need to circle May 22 on their calendars. Hitchcock will hold its second annual Plant Sale Fundraiser in its parking lot on May 22. All types of annual, perennial, vegetable and hanging plants will be on sale in time for Memorial Day planting. Anyone, thinning their gardens and finding themselves with an excess of plants are welcome to donate that excess to this fundraiser.

Hitchcock Academy also looks to a busy June with the 11th annual Town Wide Tag Sale scheduled for June 5 and the first annual Golf Tournament on tap for June 26. The Golf Tournament will be held at the Heritage Country Club in Charlton. Skowyra says that sponsorship opportunities are available for this event For more information tact execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org.

SUPERINTENDENT

continued from page A1

raised about transparency, Open Meeting Law, and public participation in the process. He noted the legal responsibility to do it belongs "to the School Committee alone," and that the elected members are the public's voice in the process. He said the board "conducted a fair, transparent interview process that has complied with Open Metting Law and Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order as outlined in Mass General Law Chap 71, Sec. 59.'

Over the next hour, Boyd volleyed numerous questions from various committee members, many of them hard to hear/identify on video due to lack of microphones, so the chair summarized most of them. For Boyd, her chief selling point is the fact she's been in the district 20 years, and has developed relationships with the long list of various players in local budgeting.

"no other district in the state is made up like this, or even close. It is extremely complex," Boyd said. Until you've lived in this district and worked through the complexities, you just don't understand it. Even the Department of Ed doesn't get us.'

As an example, she noted that kids technically switch school districts when they move between Grades 6 and 7.

Boyd said she sees a key issue being the ongoing "stress level and anxiety" students and staff have about returning to school in a time of Covid. While academics are important, she sees a need to focus on mental health support and rebuild the social-emotional learning aspects of school. Under Covid, she noted, people are being discouraged from doing one of the first things kids learn in kindergarten - sharing and "they need a break, rightfully so." Even so, so many kids have fallen behind she's planning summer, evening and vacation programs to help them catch up.

Valanzola raised a concern he said he's heard from various people – the fact Boyd "has never been in the classroom." She denied that, said that while she has not taught, she's in classrooms frequently doing instructional rounds, by which administrators and other teachers get to see what their colleagues use for tools and practices, and how the kids react to them.

Regarding her first priority and biggest challenge, Boyd said she's "excited to start working on the next strategic plan." The district's most recent one expired last year. Fiscally, she sees a challenge likely to come in about two years, when federal Covid grants dry up; she noted they have to be very careful to avoid "building too many cliffs we cannot support" with staff and programs funded by that money.

After she left the room, the committee's debate was almost entirely praise for Boyd. One member, for example, described her as "a highly effective communicator" and thanked her for her "brutal hones-

Bill Haggerty said he's "always found her to be extremely committed, resourceful and a person who studies hard... She's going to get the job done." As an example of the latter, he pointed to her negotiation of the agreement with teachers regarding how school would resume last fall. Although he has also heard complaints that she lacks an education background, he noted "the [educational] leaders of our schools are the principals," while the superintendent "provides the support for

When they took the vote, they did it by Tantasqua representatives holding up green cards and Union 61 members using yellow cards (not roll call as the governor's order requires).

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

PYRRHOTITE

continued from page A1

reimbursement program remains in place for costs associated with visual and core testing of residential home foundations, having been secured by Gobi in the FY19 budget debate and additional funds added last session. That program allows homeowners to be reimbursed at a rate of 100 percent for visual testing conducted by a licensed professional engineer up to \$400, and a rate of 75 percent for core sample testing up to \$5,000.

While the presence of pyrrhotite indicates the potential for concrete deterioration, its existence alone

does not necessarily cause it. At this time, there is no minimum level of pyrrhotite that is deemed acceptable for use, and homes with small amount of pyrrhotite (less than 0.3%) can still experience crumbling foundations. The cracking starts small and may take more than 10 years to over 30 years to appear. As the concrete deteriorates it often becomes structurally unsound, and the damage is irreversible. The only permanent solution at this time to fully replace the impacted foundation with a new foundation that does not contain pyrrhotite.

For more information on the legislation or pyrrhotite issue, please contact Gobi's office by email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

Bring your family's memorial back to its original beauty. Have it cleaned by us professionally.

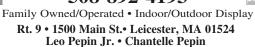




Personalized Monuments, Markers, Cemetery Lettering,







OSV GIFT SHOP continued from page A1

enhance the experience for our visitors." Taviano has a wealth of ideas for Old Sturbridge Village, including launching a robust online store later this year.

"Providing access to not only our on-site visitors but to our fans across the country is one of my top priorities," explained Taviano. "The Village offers so many unique items that you can't get anywhere else – particularly our Village Wares created by our craftspeople."

Taviano's vision to increase Village-made goods includes working with Old Sturbridge Village's potters to reintroduce colors that haven't previously been available in the Village stores and selecting a wider variety of tinware which is very popular with patrons. Specialty food items, such as jams, jellies, and preserves are being developed with unique ingredients like rhubarb and quince often found in "receipts" from the 1830s. (Receipts are known as recipes in modern language.) As the retail division undergoes its transformation, all items will be sold out of Miner Grant which is located on the Village common within the museum. Plans for a larger store with public access are also in the works, along with pop-up stores throughout the Village for visitors to purchase exclusive products.

With an upcoming kick-off to the 75th anniversary in June, Old Sturbridge Village is committed to sharing history in new and relevant ways through programming, promotion, education, and now retail.

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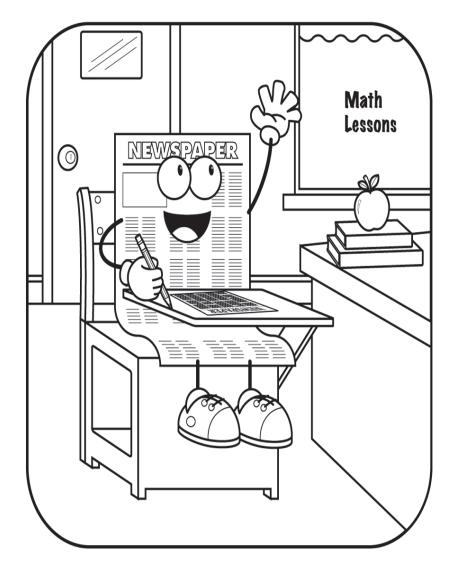


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- 2012: FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1977, NO **BOOK WINS THE PULITZER** PRIZE FOR FICTION.



EXPRESSION

a math sentence with at least two numbers and one math operation



ENGLISH: Addition

SPANISH: Suma

ITALIAN: Addizione

FRENCH: Addition

GERMAN: Addition



THE NUMBER 2 IS THE SMALLEST PRIME NUMBER. IT

2+4=6

ALSO IS THE ONLY EVEN PRIME NUMBER.



the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CALCULATOR

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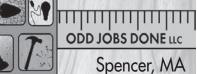
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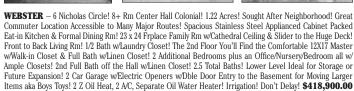
Deck! Additional Bdrm wBuilt-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area wBrick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot wDeck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock!

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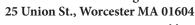








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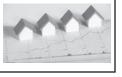


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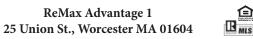
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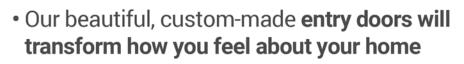
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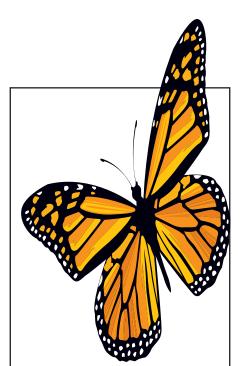




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* * Triday's Child



Keanui Age 17

Hi! My name is Keanu

Keanu is a sweet teenager of Caucasian descent who loves to run and be outside. Those who know Keanu describe him as fun and adorable! Keanu loves to sing; his favorite songs include "Old MacDonald," "You are my Sunshine," and "Wheels on the Bus." Keanu enjoys swimming in the pool and swinging on the swing set. Keanu's favorite food is pizza, and his favorite toys are ones that light up. When presented with a new toy, he loves figuring out how to make it work and play music.

Keanu's favorite time of the day is gym class. All of his teachers and providers constantly report what a joy he is to work with and that he loves being at school. Keanu continues to make progress with his speech and walking skills.

Keanu is legally freed for adoption and will do best in a family that can put time into learning about his needs and learning how to set up the best possible environment for him. He loves spending time with his visiting resources who would love to stay connected with him when Keanu lives with an adoptive family. Any family constellation that feels they can meet Keanu's needs will be considered.

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