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## DA's CIMS program generates encouraging results

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., and his team continue to see encouraging local response metrics in the opioid crisis.

Launched in March 2020, the DA's Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) was used by police departments in all 60 Worcester County cities and towns over the last year to collect overdose data and offer services to overdose victims. Response visits made to victims were performed by a plainclothes police officer and a recovery coach, usually within 48 hours of an overdose incident.

In the last year, more than half of all residents who were offered services following an overdose accepted treatment as part of the CIMS program.

"These are encouraging numbers," Early said. "It was a challenging year to launch this program with the roadblocks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. These numbers are a promising start. Any time we can help even one person get access to treatment is a life that is being saved."

The District Attorney's Office purchased the CIMS software for \$40,000, using drug forfeiture funds in 2019. The implementation of CIMS represented a partnership between the District Attorney's Office, local police departments, and municipalities.

The CIMS software works by collecting and processing data on overdose victims to enable officials to better provide assistance. The goal is to help people recover, not prosecute them, officials said.

"By getting the names of the folks who've had the non-fatal overdoses, and by giving the opportunity for the follow-up – what you've done is open the door," said Worcester City Manager Edward Augustus, Jr. "You've made the connection. You've provided an opportunity for that person when they're ready to take advantage of the treatment options that are available to them."

CIMS also allows police departments to share information. That way, when a person overdoses outside of their hometown, they are still able to receive a follow-up visit.

"Addiction has no jurisdictional boundaries," said Fitchburg Police Chief Ernest Martineau, the former president of the Central Mass. Chiefs of Police Association. "When there's no boundary for that, there can be no boundary for helping people. And that's what this does. It connects 60 cities' and towns' police departments in responding and helping."

Added Webster Police

Chief Michael Shaw, "The beauty of CIMS coming on board is now we have a centralized database that's tracking, and we get an alert when we have to go offer up services. And the other thing that we were missing was when people were outside of Webster having an overdose, we never knew. Now, with CIMS, we can follow up with them. It's a really integral part of getting these people the help they need."

Webster's responses to those in need has been assisted by a partnership with Opening the Word Recovery Center, run by Rev. Janice Ford. Opened in June 2020, the facility has served more than 2,000 people.

The Spencer Police Department has also enjoyed its experience with the CIMS program.

"We are tracking these individuals who would have fallen through the cracks in the past," said Spencer PD Chief David Darrin.

Although the CIMS response data is pointed in the right direction, officials know there is much more work to be done. In the fall of 2020, the District Attorney's office was awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund recovery coaches that will respond with police to follow up and offer services after an overdose.

## Inside Bay Path Class of 2021's transformation for Nurse Nostalgia Portraits

CHARLTON — A Boston photographer, a beauty queen, and a Bay Path Cosmetology Instructor comprised the glam team that made Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's PN Class of 2021 transform into Florence Nightingale during their Nurse Nostalgia portrait sittings.

Since 2016, profession-

al photographer Carlos Castro of Framingham has been taking creative portraits of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy practical nursing graduates at the campus in Charlton. Assisting Castro by providing touch-ups with make-up and styling was Rita Thorne of Acton. Thorne is a Sephora Beauty Consultant and holds multiple pageant titles

such as Mrs. Philippines International 2015, Mrs. 1stFriends Indeed USA 2015, and Mrs. ServeCare International 2017. Completing the glam team is McKenna Daniels of Webster, making sure that each graduate's hair and nurse's cap is perfectly placed.

The PN Class of Turn To **BAY PATH** page **A9**

## Local students honored at annual SkillsUSA Workforce development event

LEESBURG, Va. — Career and technical education students in your area won one of the nation's highest awards at the 2021 SkillsUSA Championships, held virtually from June 14-24. More than 3,700 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in 107 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. Industry leaders from 650 businesses, corporations, trade associations

and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. Industry support of the in-person SkillsUSA Championships is valued at more than \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. More than 1,000 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year. Due to the pandemic, contests were conducted locally at schools or industry sites nationwide, with proctors supervising events and judges evaluating the students' work.

More than 1,100 gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to students. Many winners also received industry prizes, tools of their trade or scholarships.

The following students received a SkillsUSA Championships medal from your area:

\* Nicholas Hunter, from Auburn, and a student at Bay Path RVT High School (Charlton), was awarded the high school gold medal in Electrical

Construction Wiring.

\* Logan Hampson, from Douglas and a student at Blackstone Valley RVTHS (Upton), was awarded the high school gold medal in Residential Commercial and Appliance Technology.

\* Julia Drapeau, from Millbury and a student at Blackstone Valley RVTHS (Upton), was awarded the high school bronze medal in Health Occupations Professional Portfolio.

\* Team I (consisting of Ryan Steiner, Jessi Escoto-Cifuentes, Nathan Dreitlein, Michael Mullaly), from Bay Path RVT High School (Charlton), was awarded the High School Bronze medal in TeamWorks.

\* Benjamin Judson, from Sutton and a student at Blackstone Valley RVTHS (Upton), was awarded the high school bronze medal in Automotive Refinishing Technology.

"More than 3,700 students from every state in the nation participated in the Turn To **SKILLSUSA** page **A9**

## Nichols names IWL after Engelkemeyer



Susan Engelkemeyer

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Institute for Women's Leadership at Nichols College will have a familiar name forever attached to it with the announcement by the college's Board of Trustees that the IWL will be named in honor of now-retired Nichols president Susan Engelkemeyer.

The college made the announcement on June 28 also announcing \$400,000 contributed to the endowment for the Institute by the trustees. Engelkemeyer, who joined Nichols College in

2011, was a driving force in the creating of the IWL in 2013 after reading an article about the gender wage gap in the workforce. Today the Institute helps foster career opportunities for women in business and, with the help of Professor Jean Beaupre, produces the Massachusetts Women's Leadership Index every two years.

"The Institute for Women's Leadership is an integral part of the Nichols College mission to develop prepared, confident and ethical leaders of tomorrow," said President Engelkemeyer in a statement released by the college. "Our stu-

dents – both female and male – benefit from the Institute's efforts to foster awareness of gender inequality and to affect change at the personal and institutional levels. I am proud that my name will continue to be associated with this important work and truly thank the Board of Trustees for this honor."

Board of Trustees Chair John H. Davis said that President Engelkemeyer was part of a decade of growth and improvement for the school. Naming the IWL in her honor was a special way for the Board to cement her legacy on campus and beyond.

"Nichols has come a long way in the past 10 years with Susan's steady hand at the helm. She has navigated the college through tough waters and positioned us for even greater success," said Davis in a statement. "Susan has been a model leader and an inspiration to our students. We are excited that the IWL, one of her crowning achievements, will reflect and honor that legacy."

Under Engelkemeyer's presidency, Nichols college saw growth in enrollment, student retention, graduation rates, endowments, and the largest fundraising campaign in the colleges 200-year history with the Bicentennial Campaign topping off at over \$66 million. Engelkemeyer oversaw her final graduation in May before officially retiring from the school.



# End of an era

KEVIN MORIN ENDS 16-YEAR COACHING RUN WITH CHARLTON LITTLE LEAGUE



Courtesy Photos

Coach Kevin Morin and his 11- and 12-year-old Charlton Little League All-Star team, along with former players and coaches, pose for a picture before Morin's final game coaching a little league game at the Bond Road field after 16 years of service to the town.



At right: With former players standing behind, Kevin Morin speaks to his current Charlton Little League All-Star team. With former players standing behind, Kevin Morin speaks to his current Charlton Little League All-Star team.

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ball team in Wells, Maine. "I think he's coached so long for one simple reason — he just loves the game of baseball. He played the game growing up and when he was at Southbridge High. When he got older he played slow-pitch softball. I think he retired from playing slow-pitch softball when he was 40."

Even though it's been 10 years since he played for coach Morin, Radziewicz said the two, like many other former players, have stayed in touch over the years.

"I started playing for him when I was eight years old," Radziewicz said about coach Morin. "I was a shortstop in Little League, and I pitched a little, too. I played anywhere he put me. He's the best."

"What made him the best?" Radziewicz said, repeating a reporter's question. "Everything, really; the words he used to motivate you — he is a great motivator — and how he pushed you to be the best you could be. And he was always looking out for your best interests. For me, he's the guy to go to, even for non-baseball stuff. I went over to his house a couple weeks ago and talked to him about life for about an hour. He's a good coach, a good man, and a good dad."

Coach Morin said over the years he got a lot of enjoyment out of teaching the game to the youth of Charlton.

"I tried my best to teach them the game and to respect the game," coach Morin said. "Over the 22 years I've been doing this, society has changed. I'm not a guy that sugarcoats things and a lot of people don't like to hear the truth."

"I'll be the first one to knock you down, but I'll be the first one to pick you up, too," Morin continued. "A lot of parents can't handle that, and a lot of kids can't handle that. I'm hard on my players; I'll be the first to admit it. But, it's my hope, through baseball, starting in Little League, that my players learn lessons through the game of baseball that will carry them through life on a successful path."

Kelly Morin has coached with her husband for the last several years. She referred to the Bond Road field as her husband's happy place.

"The years I've coached with my wife have been the best," Kevin Morin said. "There's no one I would rather be in the dugout or out on the field with. She knows the game and she loves the game as much as I do."

CHARLTON — The end of an era has arrived for the Charlton Little League.

Kevin Morin, who has coached Little League baseball in town for 16 years, coached his final game at the Bond Road field on Tuesday, June 29, leading the Charlton 11- and 12-year-old All-Stars past Grafton, 4-3, in the opening game of the District 5 Tournament.

From a Little League baseball perspective Morin, who turns 55 later this month, is an icon in the town, having coached hundreds of kids and led various teams to seven All-Star championships, and numerous league and town titles. This year's All-Star team is still playing, having defeated Leicester 10-1 on the road on Thursday, July 1, a win that sent them to Westborough on Tuesday, July 6.

Morin isn't retiring from coaching. Beginning next year he will be leading a team in Charlton's Junior Division, which is made up of seventh- and eighth-graders on a larger diamond. But the game against Grafton was the last time he would be on the Bond Road field coaching a team.

As a result, more than two dozen of Morin's former players were at the game with Grafton to see their old coach close out his Little League coaching career. Many came to the game with their parents.

"It was definitely very surprising and very humbling," Morin said of the gathering of former players, secretly arranged by his wife, Kelly, who doubles as his assistant coach. "It was a nice feeling to see them all there. It allows me to think and hope that I've touched their lives in a positive way."

Morin began his Little League coaching career in Southbridge, his hometown, coaching there for six years before he moved to Charlton. Morin's two oldest sons, Cole, 26, and Dean, 22, started their Little League baseball careers in Southbridge and finished them in Charlton. Youngest son Chase, 12, is the starting catcher on this year's All-Star team.

Cole Morin and former player Kyle Radziewicz both acknowledged that 22 years is a long time to coach Little League baseball.

"That is a long time to coach Little League," said Cole Morin, who is the assistant coach of the Wells High base-

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## Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Dominic and I would love to have a pet dog!

Dominic is a caring, creative, and funny boy of Caucasian descent. Whether is caring for them or just playing with them, Dominic loves every chance he gets to spend time with animals! When Dominic gets older, he'd love to become a veterinarian. Dominic is described as a kind and funny young man. In his spare time, Dominic also likes drawing and coloring. He is curious boy who has been known to take apart toys to figure out how they work and then put them back together. He loves cars as well. Dominic has been doing well in his current placement, and is hopeful to transition to his forever family. Dominic continues to work on his social growth and peer relationships.

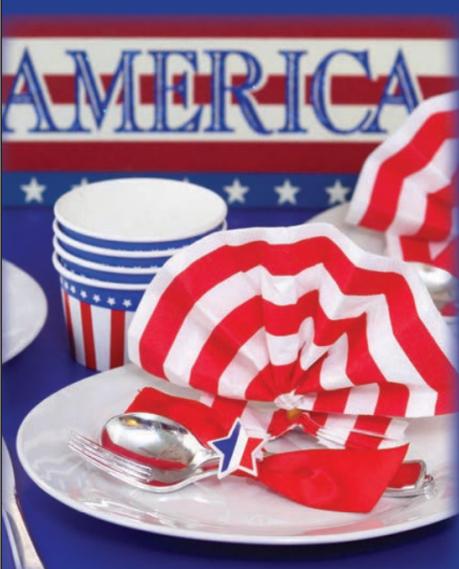
Legally freed for adoption, a two-parent household would best support Dominic's everyday needs. A family would need to be open to services entering their home to work with Dominic on a regular basis. Dominic's three siblings also have a goal of adoption, so continued contact would be beneficial.

**Who Can Adopt?**

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The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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# Sturbridge wades into Amazon fight



## 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.

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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.



Courtesy

An architectural rendering of the proposed Amazon distribution warehouse in Charlton.

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE – The most notable piece of the last selectmen's meeting wasn't formally on the agenda.

Under "Old Business," new board member Jamie Goodwin raised more concerns about a giant Amazon distribution center being proposed nearby on Route 20 in Charlton. He argued it could bring more than 6,000 additional truck trips a day to that already fast stretch of road, and predicted it could cause backups "well into Brimfield, maybe even Palmer."

"Even beyond the traffic issue, this is dangerous, and will have a chilling, at best, impact on our economy," he said.

Noting the state's Environmental Protection Act comment period ends this Friday, July 9, Goodwin moved the board seek legal representation in the process, although the town will need to use someone other than regular town counsel KP Law, since they're already

representing Charlton. He also moved to allow Town Administrator Jeff Bridges to use some of his budget to get an updated traffic study done, since the project proponents likely based theirs on lower-than-normal Covid-time traffic.

Both passed unanimously. "With no exit in Charlton off the Pike, I just see it as one big safety problem for Sturbridge," agreed Mary Dowling, noting she's heard from several residents about this issue. Others had as well.

Turning to business on the evening's agenda, the board approved applying for a state grant to fund alum treatment at South Pond.

Proponent Carl Neilson of the Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association said his group tried to do this last year, but didn't get the grant. This time, he said, they've gotten commitments totaling \$85,000 from QQLA, East Brookfield, Brookfield and a Scout camp on the lake to match the state funds.

"If we get the grant, it'll be a nice solution," he said.

Specifically, the treatment is aimed at controlling the lake's natural annual process of "internal recycling" of phosphorus, which promotes algae growth. At an extreme, uncontrolled growth can create toxic blooms that make the lake unsafe to swim in.

So far, Neilson noted, that has not happened, and such treatment stops "a good lake from becoming a bad lake." It should last 15-20 years, he added.

Additionally, the board voted to formally implement Town Meeting's wish to exercise "first refusal" rights and buy four abutting parcels off Fiske Hill Road. Bridges said he'd received documents a few days earlier stating that the seller had negotiated a price of \$155,000 with a private buyer, and the town has to match that.

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

## Olivia Curnen named to College of the Holy Cross Dean's List

WORCESTER — Olivia Curnen of Auburn, was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2021 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2023, Curnen is majoring in Sociology.

Curnen was among more than 1,451 students named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

### About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

# Hanover Insurance Group Foundation awards scholarships to 52 students

WORCESTER — The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation recently awarded 52 college scholarships to high school and college students to support higher education learning.

Students were recognized with scholarships based on their local community involvement and commitments to academic excellence. This marks the 17th year The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation has awarded college scholarships to help students accomplish their academic goals.

"We are proud of the commitment shown by this year's scholarship recipients at a time when there was so much uncertainty in the world," said Kimberly M. Salmon, assistant vice president of The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.'s community relations team. "These scholars overcame obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic and focused their energy on education and community to continue on their journeys toward successful futures. We are honored to support their education and continue our mission of helping youth realize their full potential."

- Ryan Spitz Bartlett High School, Webster, Mass.
- Victoria Torkornoo Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
- Isabella Vangos Auburn Senior High School, Auburn, Mass.
- Dayanara Velazquez Burncoat Senior High School, Worcester, Mass.
- Duong Vo Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
- Henry Weiland Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley, Mass.

For more information about The Hanover's community relations or giving efforts please visit The Hanover Foundation.

### About The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation

The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Inc. is the charitable giving arm of The Hanover Insurance Group. The foundation's mission is to enact meaningful and positive change in the lives of un-deserved children and youth – and empower the difference makers who support them. The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation provides program grants to nonprofit organizations that work collaboratively in their communities, offering new and innovative programs that address the barriers preventing children and youth from realizing their full future potential.

### About The Hanover

The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. is the holding company for several property and casualty insurance companies, which together constitute one of the largest insurance businesses in the United States. The company provides exceptional insurance solutions through a select group of independent agents and brokers. Together with its agent partners, The Hanover offers standard and special-ized insurance protection for small and mid-sized businesses, as well as for homes, automobiles, and other personal items. For more information, please visit hanover.com.

- Greater Worcester community scholarship recipients are:
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  - Alwaleed Alhabeeb Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Leona Antwi Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Samantha Anusauskas Auburn Senior High School, Auburn, Mass.
  - Ananda Boateng Abby Kelley Foster Charter School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Michaela Cluett Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley, Mass.
  - Gabriella Correa Burncoat Senior High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Alysha Creelman Auburn Senior High School, Auburn, Mass.
  - Ashley Figueroa Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley, Mass.
  - Maxwell Fyfe Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Keegan Gleason Millbury Memorial Jr./ Sr. High School, Millbury, Mass.
  - Aracely Herrera Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Truong-Think Huynh Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Kathryn James Bartlett High School, Webster, Mass.
  - Juliana Kallio Grafton Memorial Senior High School, Grafton, Mass.
  - Victoria Lemieux Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Upton, Mass.
  - Kaitlyn Manzi Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Upton, Mass.
  - Loise Obeng Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Nancy Phan South High Community School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Michaela Rickards Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Thomas Short Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.
  - Kasey Simmons Auburn Senior High School, Auburn, Mass.
  - Jenna Soden Leicester High School, Leicester, Mass.
  - Erisa Sote Doherty High School, Worcester, Mass.

## PET of the WEEK



Meet our newest arrival, Belle a 3 year 5 month old female Jack Russell terrier mix (15lbs)! Belle is a sweet and outgoing girl who loves to be with people. Belle is active, playful, and loves treats! She especially enjoys going on walks, loves the car and coming home to snuggle. Belle loves being a lap dog. While Belle loves adults and older kids, she can be uncomfortable around very young children. She is looking for a home with adults or kids over 12. Belle gets along with other small dogs, but can be fearful of big dogs. She is not housebroken, and will need a patient family to continue housetraining with her. If you think Belle is the one you have been waiting for, please email adopt@baypathhumane.org today!

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

# Area students receive degrees as Western New England University celebrates Commencement

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University's undergraduate commencement was held on Saturday, May 15. More than 480 students received degrees. The top five fields of study for undergraduates in 2021 were Mechanical Engineering, Pharmacy Studies, Accounting, Criminal Justice, and Psychology.

In his remarks, President Robert E. Johnson charged the Class of 2021 to go out as global citizens and transform the world.

"This journey that took place over the course of the last year

has prepared you for that next stage and step in your life as you leave Golden Bear country and go out into the world," he said congratulating the graduates as they join the more than 48,000 alumni of the University. "There were times where we could not necessarily see the end, but we made it. Each and every one of you hung in there. You are now prepared for the next step in your life. You are prepared for the journey."

Graduating senior Autumn Kelly (Communication) gave the Undergraduate Class of 2021 student address, remind-

ing her fellow graduates that "this journey has been long and hard, harder than we could have ever imagined, and yet here we are standing. Although each of our paths were different, we all landed here at the same destination, graduation day. Our journeys do not end today. New targets are in view like graduate school, the military, or joining the workforce and, like the strongest Native American warrior, it is time once again to take back that bow string, aim our crooked arrows, and reach our next target."

The graduating class hailed from 27 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Graduates were also from Canada, China, and India.

Western New England University congratulates the following students:

Matthew Paul Russell of Auburn graduated with a BSBA in Marketing Communication/Advertising.

Christopher J. Bernier of Auburn graduated Cum Laude with a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

View the Western New England University 2021 Commencement Ceremonies at <https://www1.wne.edu/commencement/>

index.

A model for the "New Traditional University," Western New England University (WNE) is among just 13 percent of private (5,000 students or less) institutions ranked among US News and World Report "National Universities" and a "Top 100 Engineering Program." Known for its supportive environment and picturesque campus in Springfield, WNE enrolls 3,690 students, including 2,552 full-time undergraduate, in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at its Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy & Health Sciences, and School of Law. A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

## Caroline Miranda Foley graduates from Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Caroline Miranda Foley of Auburn graduated Cum Laude from Western New England University with a Juris Doctor.

On Sunday, May 16, the University conferred degrees to more than 160 graduates receiving masters, law, and doctorate degrees from its Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy, and School of Law.

In his remarks, President Robert E. Johnson charged the Class of 2021 to go out as global citizens and transform the world. "This journey that took place over the course of the last year has prepared you for that next stage and step in your life as you leave Golden Bear country and go out into the world," he said congratulating the graduates as they join the more than 48,000 alumni of the University. "There were times where we could not necessarily see the end, but we made it. Each and every one of you hung in there. You are now prepared for the next step in your life. You are prepared for

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View the Western New England University 2021 Commencement Ceremonies at <https://www1.wne.edu/commencement/index>.

A model for the "New Traditional University," Western New England University (WNE) is among just 13 percent of private (5,000 students or less) institutions ranked among US News and World Report "National Universities" and a "Top 100 Engineering Program." Known for

its supportive environment and picturesque campus in Springfield, WNE enrolls 3,690 students, including 2,552 full-time undergraduate, in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at its Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy & Health Sciences, and School of Law. A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

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**AUBURN NEWS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHLINSKI 860-928-1818 EXT. 103 [frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

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PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 860-928-1818, EXT. 305 [julie@villagernews.com](mailto:julie@villagernews.com)

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

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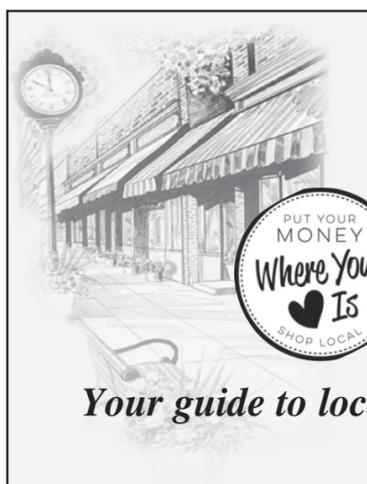
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 EDITOR

## The hidden history behind the Fourth

One of our favorite holidays to write about is Independence Day. We all know the stories of our forefathers, John Adams, Sam Adams, George Washington, Paul Revere, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton, to name a few. However, the history is endless. We thought we would shine a light on aspects surrounding Independence Day that are not commonly known.

The famous painting that depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence isn't exactly an accurate portrayal. All of the delegates were never together at the same time in Philadelphia. The final signing took place roughly a month later, on Aug. 2. The Declaration was formally dated and adopted by Congress on July 4; however, Congress voted for independence on July 2.

Celebrating their new independence, soldiers along with civilians tore down a statue of King George III and melted it into bullets. In Georgia, people burnt the King in effigy and even held a faux funeral service. In Philadelphia, the King's coat of arms was burned in a bonfire. Massachusetts was the first state to recognize July 4th as a holiday in 1781.

In 1777, fireworks could be seen in the sky and the ringing of bells rang through the night in Philadelphia. Ships were decorated and lined the coast and streamers could be seen flying in celebration everywhere. The oldest annual parade takes place in Bristol, R.I. 2020 will be the town's 235th consecutive celebration, it's start in 1785.

In New England, dining on salmon became tradition. The story behind the popular cuisine, is due to the influx of salmon that summer. Along with the salmon, people had peas and turtle soup.

One curious fact is that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826. James Monroe also died on the fourth of July in 1831. President Calvin Coolidge was born July 4, 1872.

Left out of mainstream history was the story of Crispus Attucks, the first to die in the patriot cause. Attucks was a black/native American patriot who was shot, and the first to fall during the 1770 Boston Massacre. Attucks was a runaway slave who was a rope maker and sailor. History says he was shot by two musket balls to the chest. In 1778, it became legal in Rhode Island for free and enslaved blacks to serve the cause, with freedom as part of their payment. Educated by her owners, Phillis Wheatley was a well known poet during those times. Wheatley was kidnapped in West Africa and brought to America. At the age of 20, in 1773, she became the first African American and third female to publish a book of poetry. She eventually became free. She also advocated for independence, writing in support for George Washington's Revolutionary War in her poem, "To His Excellency, General Washington." Washington, impressed by her talent invited her to a meeting.

In 1958, when Alaska and Hawaii were on deck to become states, a history teacher assigned his class to design a flag, depicting the two new states. 16 year old Robert Heft, received a B- on the project. Unhappy with the mark, Heft sent the flag to Dwight D. Eisenhower. After the flag was chosen, Heft had his grade changed to an A.

Another fun fact is that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration on what was referred to as a laptop. A writing desk that could fit over a person's lap.

In 1778, Washington ordered a double ration of rum for soldiers to celebrate with.

In 1776, there were roughly 2.5 million people living in America. The current population is now 325.7 million.

Wearing an American flag, whether it be on a tee-shirt, headband, towel or shorts is in violation of the Flag Code. The code says that you are in violation if you sell, display any "article of merchandise, upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of [the flag... in order to] advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed." The code, however, is not enforceable.

## Thrive

The enemy tried to squash us down,  
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God speaks through you, and He speaks through me,  
He'll welcome us Home, soon, you will see.

He has lit our way down the path of salvation,  
giving us proof that we can all be one nation.

Some may listen & some may not.  
He'll save those who hear, and teach them a lot.

Then this fulfillment will give Him much pride,  
for those who have chosen to be on His side.

"...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." ~ James 5:16

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## Concrete failures in Florida hit close to home

### GUEST COMMENTARY

BY SEN. ANNE GOBI  
AND  
REP. BRIAN ASHE

The sudden collapse of the Champlain Towers condominium in Surfside, Fla. last week has left more than 150 people unaccounted for, sixteen dead, and countless affected at the time of this writing. Structural problems first noted during a 2018 inspection are being scrutinized as a potential cause for the destruction but at this time the focus remains on clearing the rubble and identifying both victims and survivors. The investigation into the collapse is likely to take months and may find no single definitive cause.

As we've watched the situation unfold, and more information about the available warning signs has come to light, we are reminded of the concrete infrastructure failures that remain in place here in the northeast where thousands of homes are deteriorating as a result of a rare iron sulfide mineral, pyrrhotite, in the concrete aggregate. When exposed to water and oxygen the mineral expands, causing the concrete to crack in a web pattern until it degrades and fails. While the mineral is rare it is estimated that as many as 2,000 homes in central and Western Massachusetts have been built with this material, and Connecticut has documented and started the repair process on more than 1,600 affected homes dating back to last year. Massachusetts currently has a foundation testing reimbursement program in place, refunding visual and core sample inspections by licensed engineers, but no mechanism for funding the actual repairs necessary to keep these homes livable. The most proven solution currently to remedy the problem is to lift the home off of the existing foundation and replace it with an unaffected one - at a cost of \$150,000 to \$250,000 per house.

The Champlain Towers collapse was an issue that could have been remediated if the necessary funds were dedicated and repairs made. The struc-

tural problems identified in 2018 went unresolved and unchecked until they reached a literal breaking point, a deadly occurrence that it is impossible to put a price tag on in hindsight. In this case, they had one, however: \$16.2 million for the total repair and restoration at a cost to homeowners ranging from \$80,000 for a one-bedroom unit to more than \$300,000 for the penthouse suite. High costs, of course, particularly for individuals who had purchased the units without knowing the underlying structural issues at hand or the devastation that might occur if left unchecked.

Much like the process with pyrrhotite, this was a slow-moving disaster where the natural elements exposed issues in the building's construction until the materials inevitably failed. While the science surrounding the type of decay is different the outcome is the same: the concrete deteriorates, people are displaced, and lives are changed forever.

With nearly \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan Act stimulus funding available to the state we are in a unique position where we may be able to address monetary shortfalls in rapid fashion, and direct funding towards projects that yield immediate dividends to our constituents. Set into a fund to be appropriated by the legislature this money could become available in the near future and make an enormous impact in our communities.

Given this influx of funding it is imperative that we look at problems effecting homeowners that haven't been addressed, and we feel that the deteriorating homes in our state demand attention. We should not shy away

from acting on this issue because of the price tag - the large upfront cost of each individual repair - particularly at a time when the state is awash with cash. Instead of continuing to debate the merits of spending the money to help affected families, discussing who should be responsible for footing the bill after the courts have ruled that the neither the contractors, insurance companies, nor bankrupt concrete supplier can be held liable, we can dedicate money from this pool of federal funding to help them directly. This is not an unheard of thought; as mentioned before the state of Connecticut has established a reimbursement program for the exact same issue, from the same supplier and led by spending over \$120 million for repairs. It simply requires attention and action from the leaders in our state, at a time where inaction would be immoral.

House and Senate leaders plan to hold public hearings and gather input on how to spend the funding in the future, and we urge our colleagues to advocate for these families in Massachusetts who have been dealt a hand directly countering the American dream of owning a home that you can call your own. These people did everything right, followed every step they needed to along the path towards home ownership which many consider their primary asset in life. Failure to come to their aid would be akin to letting the results of a natural disaster impact an area without state or federal help - a tornado path that tears up Main Street and is never repaired while home values plummet and the town suffers. By appropriating this money for reimbursement in the future, we allow these individuals to move forward, safely, towards remediating their homes and give them the stability they need without waiting for a tragic collapse in our own state to spur action.

## LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

## How does Social Security fit into retirement



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Here's something to think about: You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. To meet your income needs for all those years, you'll generally need a sizable amount of retirement assets. How will Social Security fit into the picture?

For most people, Social Security won't be enough to cover the cost of living in retirement. Nonetheless, Social Security benefits are still valuable, so you'll want to do whatever you can to maximize them.

Your first move is to determine when you should start taking Social Security. You can begin collecting benefits when you reach 62 - but should you? If you were to turn 62 this year, your payments would only be about 71 percent of what you'd get if you waited until your full retirement age, which is 66 years and 10 months. ("Full retirement age" varies, depending on when you were born, but for most people today, it will be between 66 and 67.) Every month you wait between now and your full retirement age, your benefits will increase. If you still want to delay taking benefits beyond your full retirement age, your payments will increase by 8 percent each year, until you're 70, when they "max out." Regardless of when you file, you'll also receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

So, when should you start claiming your benefits? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. If you turn 62 and you need the money, your choice might be made for you. But if you have sufficient income from other sources, you're in good health and you have longevity in your family, or you're still working, it might be worthwhile to wait until your full retirement age, or perhaps even longer, to start collecting.

Another key consideration is spousal benefits. If your own full retirement benefit is less than 50 percent of your spouse's full retirement benefit, you would generally be eligible to claim spousal benefits, provided you're at least 62 and your spouse has filed for Social Security benefits.

Survivor benefits are another important consideration. When you pass away, your spouse would be able to receive up to 100 percent of your benefit or his/her own retirement benefit, whichever is higher. Thus, delaying Social Security could not only increase your own benefit, but also the benefit for your surviving spouse.

An additional issue to think about, when planning for how Social Security fits into your retirement, is your earned income. If you're younger than full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$2 you earn above a certain amount, which, in 2021, is \$18,960. During the year you reach full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$3 you earn above a set amount (\$50,520 in 2021). But once you hit the month at which you attain full retirement age, and from that point on, you can keep all of your benefits, no matter how much you earn (although your benefits could still be taxed).

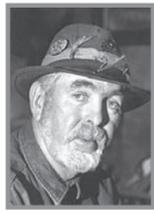
One final point to keep in mind: The more you accumulate in your other retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, the more flexibility you'll have in managing your Social Security benefits. So, throughout your working years, try to contribute as much as you can afford to these plans.

*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.*

# The ups and downs of saltwater fishing

I promise I will not discuss the outrageous fishing regulations of stripers and fluke again this month. Saltwater fishing has had its ups and downs this past week, but if you were there when the bass were feeding, you had a great day of fishing, although little was legal to bring home for the dinner table. Bass fishing was fantastic at the canal one day and not so good the next. Boat captains of six pack boats are also frustrated with the bass regulations, and it is costing them big money!

The haddock and cod bite on the North Shore has been relatively very good, although only one cod can be retained per angler per day! Jig fishing and anglers using bait, are catching their limits of haddock. Wolf fish are still illegal to keep, and need to be sent back to the sea. This great eating fish is being protected because of their dwindling populations, like most saltwater species in Massachusetts & Rhode Island. Rhode



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Island cod fishery continues to give up some nice market size cod with a daily bag limit of 10 fish in that state. Anglers may want to consider a charter boat trip to fish for cod in Rhode Island.

Seabass fishing opened June 24 in Rhode Island, but the fishing was slow. This writer and my fishing buddy Matt Fontain, only managed to land a couple of nice seabass and one legal size fluke. Reports of a lot better action out at Block Island was good news. We fished in front of the Five Cottages area, and the Charlestown Breachway, where we were surrounded by a few draggers that seemed to have a lot better luck than us! I was told to fish around the Newport Bridge area if

I wanted to have better luck fishing away from the draggers.

Jerry Gareri, his son John, and a couple of other anglers, chartered a boat called the "Natural Nine" with Captain Dan Smith on Father's Day, and landed more than 40 seabass among the four fishermen, retaining their legal limit of 20 seabass. They fished in the Buzzard Bay area, that provide anglers with some great fishing during the month of June for seabass and super-size scaup. Captain Smith is now concentrating his fishing business on the South Shore specializing in catching numerous ground fish. He will also be targeting stripers in the weeks ahead. Give him a call at 1-401-402-1963 for your next fishing trip.

Local fresh water anglers are still catching some impressive largemouth bass in local waters. Shiners and plastics are the most popular baits among bass anglers, but some anglers are doing well on stick baits

and surface poppers.

The Uncle Josh pork strips have no longer being manufactured for a number of years now, but have been replaced by another product called "Fat Cow" jig strips and come in a few colors. They are great for fishing both fresh and saltwater. The new strips are not made out of pig skin, but are a product of man-made material, and work just as well. They are a favorite for fishing for fluke and other ground fish.

With the recent continued hot weather during the month of June with no end in sight, pets need to be brought into a cool place, and given plenty of water. This week's picture shows a yellow Lab patiently waiting for the fall hunting season, and he will not need to wait long. Thinking of purchasing a dog for the upcoming hunting season 2021? Do your homework, and be sure you are purchasing a good one! Find a good breeder and be sure to see the parents of the



Courtesy

This week's picture shows a well-trained Yellow Lab waiting patiently for his owner to finish some fishing at a recent fishing derby.

dog. Ask for references and bring along someone that knows dogs. It does not cost any more money to raise a good dog or a great one that you will be proud of. It is a 10 to 15 year commitment. The cost of buying a good pedigree dog can run from \$1,000 and up! Be sure you have the time, money and energy to raise your new

dog! When you decide to purchase a dog for you and your family, you will be rewarded with years of love & companionship, both at home and in the field.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

## Tips to Combat the Jump at the Pump

With the recent jump in gas prices, it's more important than ever to conserve energy use. Thanks to good old fashioned Yankee ingenuity, trimming costs doesn't necessarily translate into sacrifice. From reviewing classic moneysaving tactics to revealing new strategies, the following information is geared toward cutting the cost of fuel this season and beyond.



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
\*\*\*\*\*  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

Price Tools: Your gasoline-saving strategies start even before you fuel up. Gas comparison sites and phone applications offer consumers instant prices that add up to optimum savings.

GasBuddy.com lists gas stations near you and their current gas prices. The tool is engineered by a community of users working together to update local gas costs.

The app offers online price comparison, and you can download it for free.

Mapquest.com also offers a user friendly tool that has a map format and visual pinpoints to post real time prices of gas stations in your area or destination.

Pump up the Savings: Some careful thought at the pump pays off in savings and that begins with gassing up:

Experts advise downgrading to upgrade gas efficiency. Motorist can cut costs without sacrificing efficiency by buying the lowest grade of octane that is appropriate for the vehicle. Check with your mechanic or car dealer to see if it's safe for you to switch to a lower grade. This money saving method alone can save hundreds of dollars a year.

Auto advisers also recommend buying gasoline during coolest time of day, such as early morning or late evening. During these times gasoline is densest. Gas pumps measure volumes of gasoline, so it's a better deal to buy it at its densest fuel concentration. And don't top off the gas tank as gasoline as may seep out from expansion

Also, be sure your gas tank fits nice and snug. If not, buy a new one. According to the experts, gas can easily evaporate from the tank through loose caps.

Proper Maintenance = Fuel Efficiency: Performing periodic vehicle "checkups" is a cost effective way to keep from wasting gas.

It's no secret a well-tuned engine burns less gas. Routine maintenance is your best insurance against gas guzzling.

Also, worn spark plugs can cause your engine to use more gasoline. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Spark plugs need to be replaced as recommended by the manufacturer.

And be sure to check your air filter each time you have your oil changed. Clogged air filters cause engines to work over-

time which eats up more gas. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 20 cents a gallon. And avoid reusable air filters, as a good paper filter does a better job, according to the experts.

Periodic wheel alignments and keeping tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure really does improve your gas mileage, according to experts. When tires aren't inflated properly it's like driving with the parking brake on and can cost a mile or two per gallon. Don't ignore the low tire pressure alerts on the dashboard! It is important to keep an eye on the tire pressure because under-inflated tires consume more fuel. According to SGI, you waste 1% fuel for every 10 lb per square inch of under inflation. Low air pressure does not only impact your mileage, but it also reduces the lifetime of your tires.

Heads Up: And keep in mind tires need special attention during winter. Cold temperatures decreased the air pressure in tires which just adds to the rolling resistance caused by snow and slush. Check tire pressure regularly, especially after there has been a sharp drop in temperature.

Driving Down Gas Usage: You can literally drive down gas waste with some careful strategies that won't cost you an extra dime!

This column has reviewed similar driving tips in the past, but with fuel economy in mind, the bear repeating:

The faster you drive the more gas you use. In fact, lowering driving speed from 65 to 55 mph can improve fuel economy by an impressive two miles per gallon.

Also, traveling at fast rates in low gears can consume up to 45% more fuel than is needed. Using cruise control will save 5% to 10% of a gallon of gas on long trips. And don't forget to use the overdrive shift as soon as your speed is high enough. It also acts as a fuel saver.

Keeping a steady foot on the pedal also prevents gas waste. Tests show jerky starts and hard breaking reduces travel time by only four percent, but fuel consumption is increased by nearly 40 percent.

Do you love the feel the wind in your hair? If so, it could cost you! Driving with your windows all the way down at higher speeds, will waste 10% more gallons of gasoline than

driving with them closed. The drag will cost you more in fuel, so delay opening windows wide until you've slowed down a bit (unless you want to literally throw money out the window)!

And opt for driving on smooth roads whenever possible. Rough roads with dirt or gravel rob you of up to 30% of your gas mileage. On the highway, closed windows decrease air resistance, so it's efficient to run the air conditioner in hot weather.

Quick tip: In stop-and-go traffic, shutting off the air conditioner and opening the windows can lighten your fuel use. Experts estimate using the auto a/c can lower your fuel economy by 10 percent to 20 percent.

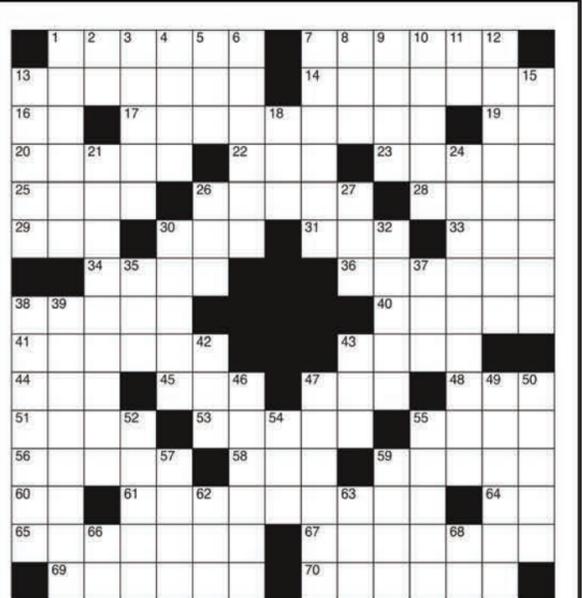
Fuel consumption records show gas usage increases as much as 50 percent during the cold weather driving. Idling the car for long periods of time is not only a common wintertime practice, it's a costly one. Did you know ten seconds of idling actually uses more fuel than restarting the engine? If your car doesn't have an automatic idling shut-off feature, you can still save gas by making it a habit to turn off the car when parked.

And the simple chore of cleaning out your trunk can also translate into impressive fuel savings. For every extra 250 pounds your engine hauls, the car loses about one mile per gallon in fuel economy. And keep in mind removable ski racks like roof racks, increase a vehicle's aerodynamic drag, so it's a thrifty move to take them down when they are not in use.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House - Contest has resumed!

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!

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.

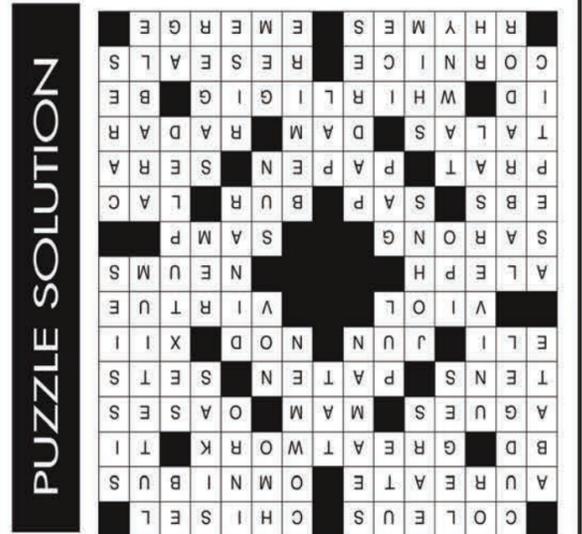


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Plant of the mint family
- 7. Hand tool
- 13. Made of the color of gold
- 14. A volume of several novels
- 16. Type of degree
- 17. Good job!
- 19. Seventh tone in major scale
- 20. Fevers
- 22. One's mother
- 23. Fertile desert spots
- 25. Large integers
- 26. Plate for Eucharist
- 28. Tennis matches have them
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Monetary unit of N. Korea
- 31. Head movement
- 33. Twelve
- 34. Renaissance musical instrument
- 36. Behavior showing high moral standards
- 38. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 40. Notes to be sung
- 41. Women's garment
- 43. Coarsely ground corn
- 44. One point south of due east
- 45. A way to deplete
- 47. Rough, prickly covering of a seed
- 48. LA hoopster, but not a Laker
- 51. Hindquarters
- 53. Franz van \_\_, German diplomat
- 55. Liquid body substances
- 56. Rhythmic patterns
- 58. A beaver might build one
- 59. Police officer's tool
- 60. Indicates who you are
- 61. Pinwheel
- 64. Exist
- 65. Ornamental molding
- 67. Closes again
- 69. Verses
- 70. Come into view

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Short stick used as a weapon
- 2. An alternative
- 3. Laws
- 4. Sense organs
- 5. One from Utah
- 6. Mariner
- 7. People in charge of cattle
- 8. Health insurance organization
- 9. Ornamental box
- 10. Forest-dwelling deer
- 11. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 12. Atomic #71
- 13. Become less intense
- 15. Cowards
- 18. Body ornament (slang)
- 21. Applicable to all cases
- 24. Multiplied by 6
- 26. Afghanistan monetary unit
- 27. Calendar month
- 30. Cena and Lennon are two
- 32. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 35. First time on the market
- 37. Georgia rockers
- 38. Free from contamination
- 39. Coastal region of Canada
- 42. Clothing retailer
- 43. It rises and sets
- 46. Fathers
- 47. Stain with mud
- 49. Suitable for crops
- 50. Feels concern for
- 52. Orange-brown
- 54. Buddy
- 55. Late sportscaster Craig
- 57. Used to align parts
- 59. Wake up
- 62. Solid water
- 63. Semiprecious stone
- 66. Atomic #45
- 68. Top lawyer



# REAL ESTATE



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**SUTTON** - 30 Jones Rd! 9 Room 2,156' Colonial! 5.31 Acres of Privacy! Long Circular Drive! New Granite Kitchen! Dining, Living & Fireplaced Family Rooms w/Hardwood Floors! Year Round Sunroom w/2 Skylights! 3 Bedrooms! 24' Master w/ Master Bath! 2.5 Bathrooms Total! 12x24 3 Season Porch w/3 Skylights! Expandable Attic! Wraparound Deck! 2 Car Garage! Central Air! Super Easy Access to Rte 146! **\$549,900.00**



**DUDLEY** - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hill Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/ Guest Closet! SS Appliance Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6X27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$509,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/ Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** - 504 Treasure Island! 6 Room Townhouse Overlooking the Pool! 1,874 Sq Ft! Stainless Steel Appliance Granite Kitchen! Open Floor Plan! Dining Room - Full Mirrored Wall - Sliders to the Trex Deck! 2 Bedrooms! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! Fireplaced Family Room! Garage! Central Air! Gas Heat! CVac! 2 BOAT SLIPS! Sandy Beach! Complex Recent Siding & Roof! **\$389,900.00**



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**PUTNAM CT - 89 PERRY ST UNIT# 250**  
Heritage Pines Condo Town House - Everything one would expect and then more! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all Hardwood floors, granite, stainless steel appliances, central air, 2 decks, 2800 sq ft +/- of finished living area, and so much more!  
**\$319,900.**

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**WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD**

**ON DEPOSIT**

5+ Acre Waterfront Land On "Little Pond/Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road!  
**\$179,900**

**FEATURED NEW LISTING - WEBSTER - 22 ELAINE STREET**

Bonnett Acres - Beautiful Residential Neighborhood! 3 bedroom Ranch, Hardwoods, cabinet packed kitchen! Tile bath, partially finished lower level! 20' X 12' deck! Garage! all on a nice level lot. Private well plus town water & sewer! A must see.  
**\$255,000.**

**FEATURED NEW LISTING - WEBSTER - 135 LAKE STREET**

2 THUMBS UP! A RARE FIND! A TRULY ABOVE AVERAGE-TOP NOTCH-HIGH QUALITY-TWO FAMILY! SPACIOUS, CLEAN, UPDATED & EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Apt# 2 - 1,536 SF+ & 3 BRs on the 2nd Flr. Apt# 1 - 1,290 SF+ & 2 BRs on the 1st floor. Perfect setup for the INLAWS or MORTGAGE HELPERS. 1st Flr HWBB By Oil, 2nd Flr apt. HWBB by natural gas. Spacious Rooms, High Ceilings, impeccable hardwood flrs & solid doors, granite tops, laundry hookups in ea. unit. Incredible Common Areas to Enjoy like the L-Shaped Covered Farmers Porch! Level Lot  
**\$399,900.**

**LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS**  
Webster - Douglas Rd (Rte. 16) 26 ACRES on Sugarloaf Hill. 1000+/- ft of road frontage  
**SORRY SOLD! \$200,000**  
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!  
**\$89,900**  
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.  
**\$115,000.**  
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.**

**WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

Location! Scenic Upper Gore! "BIRDS EYE VIEW" of Webster Lake! Spacious Tr-Level. 2,279 sq. ft., 4 BRs, 1 full Bath, 2 half baths. Inground pool. 2 Car Garage  
**\$275,000.**

**STAMFORD CT - 57 BARHOLM AVENUE**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

Beautiful Stone faced, 8 room Colonial, 4 bedroom, 3 Full baths, one Half bath. Stone fireplace, 2236 Sq. Ft. living area. Walk up attic. 2 car garage. Heated by Natural Gas, Town Water.  
assisted sale **\$660,000.**

**SHREWSBURY • 15 ABBEY LN UNIT 15**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

Detached Condo Brand Spankin New - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, all Hardwood Flrs, Granite C-tops Throughout, Crown Mouldings Raised panels, Chair rails Picture-Frame Mouldings. Central air/Vac. High end Appliances Packed!  
assisted sale **\$480,000.**

**WORCESTER - 28-L BOSTON AVE**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

Very nicely maintained 5 room, 2 bedroom home. Open concept kitchen/living room. Many recent updates, including wall to wall carpeting! Easy commuter location!  
assisted sale **\$230,000.**

**WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

large 3 Family- a rare find! 1st Floor spacious 2 bedroom apartment. 2 - 2nd floor, 3 bedroom apartments Walkout basement to off street parking.  
**\$289,900.**

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

**Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

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

**Webster - 401 Treasure Island Condo**

**WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 end unit.** Year round enjoyment! Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms Appliance Kitchen. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets, Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Central Air! Central Vac! Very efficient natural gas heat & hot water! 2 Boat Slips D10 & D11 in the Private Marina. Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach!  
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**JUNE'S SINGLE FAMILY HOMES REAL ESTATE MARKET**

DUDLEY			
	June 2020	June 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$288,200	\$456,550	▲
Market Volume	\$4,059,700	\$6,370,061	▲
# of Homes Sold	14	14	▶
Avg Days on Market	60	48	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.63	1.89	▲

WEBSTER			
	June 2020	June 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$284,00	\$310,000	▲
Market Volume	\$2,269,000	\$5,556,211	▲
# of Homes Sold	7	16	▲
Avg Days on Market	68	19	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.58	.41	▼

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# PFAS testing available for Charlton residents

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – PFAS Testing is available to Charlton residents courtesy of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Charlton Board of Health briefly discussed the testing opportunity during a meeting on June

29 where Health Director James Philbrook said the idea is for the DEP to get a baseline to work with for the town to determine if Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, man-made chemicals commonly abbreviated as PFAS, is present in the wells and drinking water source of the town.

“We put this on our

Web site and we’re trying to get the word out that if you call, it’s up to you as a private homeowner if you want it tested for PFAS you can,” Philbrook said. “The state would be offering, and you’d have to call yourself and make the arrangements because it’s private property.”

PFAS testing is not

being required by the state but is being offered to the town of Charlton in the wake of a recent PFAS issue arising in neighboring Dudley. Dudley’s citizens agreed to invest in a PFAS Water Treatment Plant project at their annual town meeting in May to resolve a contamination issue uncovered through testing by the DEP. Philbrook said there is no evidence right now that there is any con-

nection between Dudley’s issues and Charlton being offered the testing, but it appears the DEP is simply trying to get a read on the situation in a nearby community.

“I think they’re trying to get a number. They think that some of this may have been caused from AFFF foam from firefighting, fish oil and ariel spraying. I’m not sure. I’m not saying there’s a problem in

Charlton. I know Dudley had some issues with their water supply, but I think they’re just being proactive in getting some testing out,” Philbrook said.

Citizens can submit a Notice of Interest Application Form for the free PFAS MassDEP Drinking Water Program by visiting <https://dwp-pfas.madwpdep.org/>.

## Local non-profit CMDART seeks board members

REGION — The Central Massachusetts Disaster Animal Response Team, Inc. (CMDART) is currently seeking additional volunteer Board members to aid the administration of our non-profit 501C3 charitable organization that helps animals and pet owners facing man-made or natural disasters.

Since 2003, CMDART has aided local communities with public safety and prevention education where it involves pets and the people who love them. A new addition of Board members will help support our forward progress, assist a manageable distribution of tasks, and assist the establishment of strategic short and long-range goals. Central Mass residency required.

Candidates for the Board will hopefully have some knowledge of the workings of a non-profit organization, fund-raising, and group task/committee work. As a board member, you will gain some knowledge and experience in planning, finance and emergency management; enhance and challenge your organizational and leadership skills; increase your professional network, help to improve the safety and welfare of pet owners and animals, contribute to a humanitarian cause that can prevent, respond to, and reduce suffering for pet owners and their animals.

During this year of Covid-19, the team has distributed personal protective equipment to hospitals, senior facilities and animal control, assisted local emergency planning to include efforts to help pet owners, has volunteered at local vaccine clinics, produced an on-line program about assistance animals, held a couple of fun yard sales, assisted local fire recovery sites, and distributed pet food to some local food pantries.

For more information and to submit a letter of interest to our organization, contact [cmdartmembership@gmail.com](mailto:cmdartmembership@gmail.com) or call 508-803-1989 and go to our Web site, [www.cmdart.org](http://www.cmdart.org), for more information.

### SKILLSUSA

continued from page A1

virtual 2021 SkillsUSA Championships,” said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. “This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates our SkillsUSA partnership at its finest. Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This program expands learning and career opportunities for our members.”

The SkillsUSA Championships event is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The national, non-profit partnership of students, instructors and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America’s skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.

About SkillsUSA SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of

education and industry founded in 1965 to strengthen our nation’s skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the skills gap in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA’s championships program and curricula, employers have long ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA’s new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. We have served nearly 13.8 million members since 1965. For more information: [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

## Local residents make Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

BOSTON — The following local students have made the Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Spring 2021 semester.

- \* Riley Daniel Beaugard of Auburn
- \* Jason Paul Cronin of Auburn
- \* David Lee Mejorado of Auburn
- \* Anna Mei Pyche of Auburn
- \* Kalie Mari Bourassa of Leicester
- \* Adrianna T Rocheleau of Oxford
- \* Alec J Barber of Spencer
- \* Karina LeBlanc of Sutton
- \* Jordan William Blackadar of Worcester
- \* Yasmina Habchi of Worcester

Wentworth Institute of Technology Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally ranked university offering career-focused education through bachelor’s and graduate degree programs in areas including engineering, architecture, computer and data science, life sciences, management, and design. Its 31 acres are situated in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Mass., within walking distance of leading several cultural, educational, sports, and medical hubs. Wentworth is known for its emphasis on career preparation for students through its leading co-op programs, hands-on learning approach, and alignment with 21st-century workforce needs.

### BAY PATH

continued from page A1

2021 graciously embraced the Nurse Nostalgia tradition and joyfully posed in their white graduation outfits with heritage stoles through a grant from #Walmartgiving; the traditional graduation robe with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy medallion, another gown with the Academy logo embroidered on the left chest, and a few fun shots with various props such as their stethoscope, a loved one’s portrait, and #nurselife sign. Their nurse nostalgia portraits will be used for announcements upon the graduates’ successful passing of the NCLEX-PN.

Like most success stories, completing their practical nursing journey and receiving their certificates was not easy as the graduates combined their rigorous schooling with working a time-demanding job, and for some balancing life and love life.

“They made it despite it all, and the COVID-19 pandemic included,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director.

“The nurse nostalgia portraits highlight the graduates and their roles as front-line workers,” she added. “I am grateful to Charlie, Rita, and McKenna for volunteering their time to make the sitting such a special time for the graduates. Since 2016, we have been hoping that the nurse nostalgia portraits celebrate our brave women graduates and encourage young people into nursing.”

The Nurse Nostalgia Photoshoot was also made possible by the coordinating efforts of Brianna Pincince-McLeish of Brookfield. Entering the world of nursing is a daunting task. Taking the first step, although not easy came naturally for Brianna because her mother, Tammy is also an LPN. Coordinating the Nurse Nostalgia Portraits brought out Brianna’s leadership skills. Her experience at the Nurse Nostalgia Portraits was made more special because she shared sitting time with her best friend Sonya Ugrinow of Southbridge. Both graduates found comfort and excelled in each other’s company. The graduates were grateful for the glam team who made their sitting fun and memorable.



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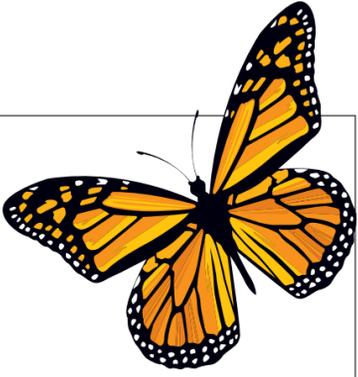
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