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New service offerings continue at Athenaeum

By LORI SZEPELAK
Correspondent

WESTFIELD — More services are being resumed weekly at the Westfield Athenaeum, according to Director Kate Deviny.

“The Westfield Athenaeum is open and offering more services,” said Deviny, adding that computer use is now available by appointment.

Athenaeum staffers are working weekdays from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. to answer questions, take orders or schedule appointments over the phone, noted Becky Blackburn, public services librarian.

“Due to social distancing restrictions, computer assistance is very limited,” said Blackburn.

Blackburn noted that tutorials are provided on the computer desktops and patrons who require assistance are asked to bring someone to their appointment who can work with them.

“They need to tell the librarian they are bringing someone when they make their appointment,” said Blackburn.

Computer appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – noon and 1 – 3 p.m., and on Fridays from 1 – 3 p.m. and 4 – 5 p.m.

“Computer appointments are for either one or two hours,” said Blackburn, adding there are five computers available at this time.

Patrons are also reminded that in addition to using computers, printing, scanning and faxing services are also offered in the Reference Department.

“Faxes are 25 cents a page to send and we cannot receive faxes for patrons,” said Blackburn, adding, “Printing is 25 cents per page for black and white and 50 cents for color, and scanning is free.”

A unique browsing service for patrons who want to peruse the library shelves is also available and 25-minute appointments can be made. Browsing appointments are offered on Mondays from 1 – 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 2 – 6:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 9 a.m. – noon.

Blackburn noted the Library-To-Go program during the pandemic has been widely used.

See Athenaeum, Page 3



The Westfield Athenaeum's Reference Department offers computer, printer, scanner and fax machine services. (BECKY BLACKBURN PHOTO)



Images of Southwick are sought for a Celebrate Southwick 250 photo contest. (HOPE E. TREMBLAY/THE WESTFIELD NEWS)

Images sought for Celebrate Southwick 250 photo contest

By HOPE E. TREMBLAY
Editor

SOUTHWICK — Although much of the Celebrate Southwick 250 events commemorating the town's 250th anniversary were put on hold because of COVID-19, one socially distant event — a Southwick photo contest — is snapping the attention of the community.

The idea of a contest was discussed among the Celebrate Southwick 250 Committee members several times, but Chairman James Putnam II said no action was taken prior to the pandemic.

“We already had so much on our schedule of events that we knew we could not add another without overwhelming our volunteers or perhaps doing a haphazard job,” he

said. “Each of the events we have done takes tremendous effort and hours of work by our volunteers. So, we needed to put the photo contest on the ‘Nice to do’ list and move on.”

The committee revisited the idea when their focus shifted due to social distancing guidelines.

“With all of our planned activities on hold and the growing recognition that we would not likely resume our public events until next year, it made sense to re-visit the photo contest,” Putnam said. “We hope that it will be fun in its own right while helping keep interest and enthusiasm alive for our celebration.

Contest submissions must be of Southwick,

See Images, Page 3

Board of Health approves ‘float-in’ concert

By PETER CURRIER
Staff Writer

SOUTHWICK- The Board of Health voted unanimously to give Health Director Tammy Spencer authority to approve a plan to have a “float-in” concert on Congamond Lake in September.

Dennis Clark of the Southwick Rotary Club attended Thursday evening's remote Board of Health meeting to pitch the idea of a float-in concert in the age of COVID.

The idea would be essentially the same as a drive-in movie or concert, which have made a comeback thanks to the coronavirus. Rather than having concert-goers in their cars in a field, they would be in their boats on Congamond Lake while the band plays from a stage on a property alongside the lake.

Clark said the plan is to make



Middle Pond of Congamond Lake could be the site of a float-in concert in September. (THE WESTFIELD NEWS PHOTO)

it a hybrid event where people can attend the live concert but also watch the livestream on Youtube. It would take place sometime in September and would go from 6 to 9 p.m..

The event would be free,

but Clark said that donations would be encouraged. No food or alcohol would be served and all boats would have to maintain social distancing from each other.

See Concert, Page 3

Councilors discuss open positions, reopening City Hall

By AMY PORTER
Staff Writer

WESTFIELD — City Councilors requested updates from Mayor Donald F. Humason Jr. Aug. 20 on the hiring of a personnel director and city solicitor and the plans to reopen City Hall, and voted to discuss the creation of a grant writer's position including job description, posting and funding source.

At-large Councilor Brent B. Bean, II made the requests during the regular council meeting. Another motion presented by a total of nine councilors asked to investigate the removal of the fire chief position from civil service,

While all of these motions were supported, not all of the support was unanimous. Regarding the creation of a grant writer's position, At-large Councilor Cindy C. Harris said she “respectfully” opposed the idea.

Harris said the community development, purchasing, council on aging and facilities directors all write their own grants, as do the school, police, and fire departments and the airport. “No one can do their job better. I have talked to these department heads, and there is no support for this position,” Harris said. She said she knows that Bean is trying to get more money for the city, but going forward with the city advancement officer would be a better route.

“I'm a strong proponent of having the city hiring a grant writer. I've always had the feeling that a lot of money is left on the table,” said Ward 3 Councilor Bridget Matthews-Kane. She said her husband is a teacher and recently advised Westfield of a large civics grant that did not get written, and that the city is currently struggling to write another grant to plant trees. “Having a grant

See City Hall, Page 3



BRENT B. BEAN II

Starfires receive awards as FCBL season comes to an end

By CHRIS PUTZ
Sports Editor

WESTFIELD — All good things must come to an end.

Jack Arend (Nichols) went 3-for-4 with a double, home run, run scored and three RBIs to lead the Nashua Silver Knights past the Westfield Starfires 4-3 on the final day of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League's regular season Wednesday night at Bullens Field.

Nashua's Nick Shumski (Merrimack) and Dylan Jones (Franklin Pierce) also doubled. Brett Anderson (Hartford) went 1-for-3 with a run and RBI for the Silver Knights (23-16).

David Matthews (Central Connecticut State University) had the lone multi-hit outing for Westfield. Matthews went 2-for-5 with a RBI. Starfires' Danny



Westfield Starfires' Ramon Jimenez (Boston College) zeroes in on a pitch. (MARC ST.ONGE/THE WESTFIELD NEWS)

Crossen (Northeastern) and Andre Marrero (Quinnipiac) both doubled and drove in a run. Crossen also scored a run.

The Westfield Starfires finished the season in fifth place with a record of 17-21.

All-in-all, it was another step forward in the second-year team's progression.

“We are building this brand one season at a time,” Westfield Starfires founder/co-owner Chris Thompson said. “We launched our inaugural season in 90 days. Season Two has been about resiliency during Covid. We are looking forward to our first traditional season next summer. We will keep growing this franchise to give fans in Western Mass a product to be proud of.”

See Starfires, Page 6



The Westfield Starfires donated a check to the Westfield Boys and Girls Club in the amount of \$1,500 Wednesday night at Bullens Field. (MARC ST.ONGE/THE WESTFIELD NEWS)

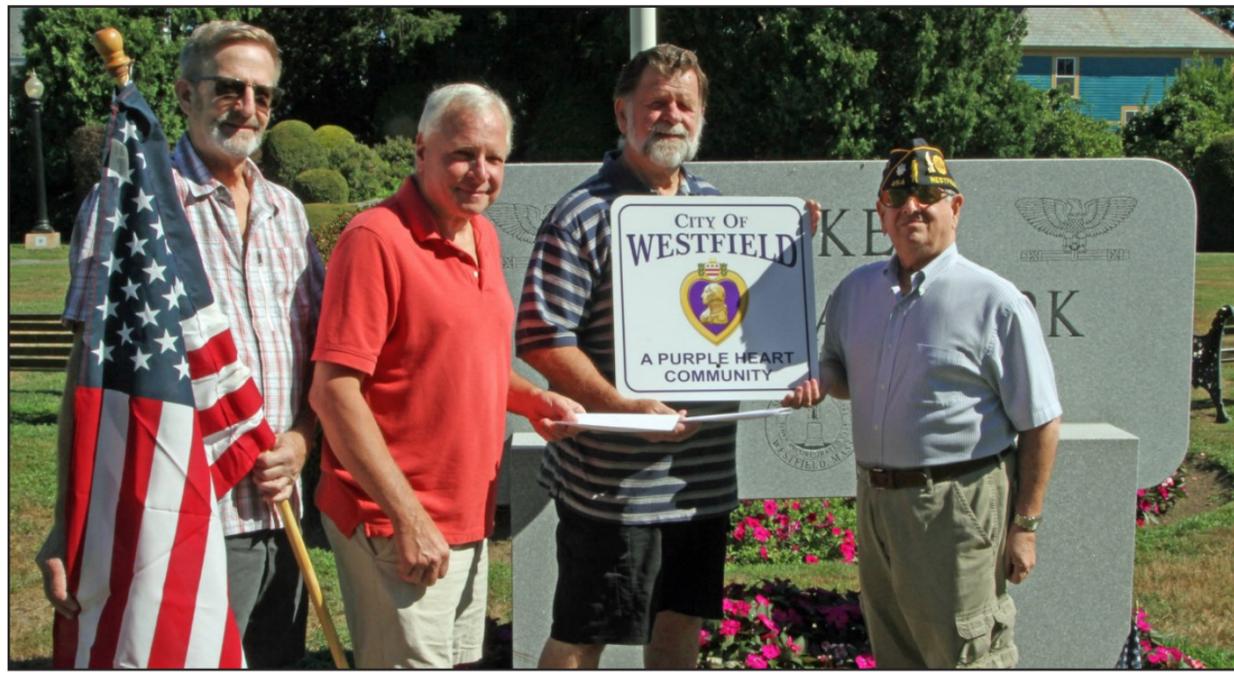
Soldiers' Home Coalition

HOLYOKE — While the tragedy of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home was unfolding, a group of very concerned citizens stepped forward and organized a coalition to support this facility. The coalition is composed of family members of veterans who died of COVID 19, family members of residents of the Soldiers' Home, former executives of the Soldiers' Home, veteran community leaders, Directors of Veterans' services, and concerned citizens.

The coalition mission is to support the veteran residents of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and their family members with improved funding and staffing, the construction of a new and upgraded home, an adult day healthcare program, and better governance and oversight.

Throughout Western Massachusetts there have been groups in every city/town who have written letters of support including American Legion Whip City Memorial Post 454, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 219, Westfield Moose Lodge 1255, and the Purple Heart Trail Organization.

If you have any questions about the coalition or wish to add your voice and support, please go to HolyokeSoldiersHomeCoalition.org.



Pictured, Mark K. Fedora, co-chairman of the Purple Heart Trail and member of the Moose Lodge 1255, Mark Baldyga, member of the Purple Heart Trail and past governor and treasurer of the Westfield Moose Lodge 1255, George W. Barnet, Jr., chairman of the Purple Heart Trail and governor of the Moose Lodge 1255, and Bob Ragone, commander of American Legion Whip City Memorial Post 454 and coalition team captain of Westfield, receiving letters from their organizations. (DON WIELGUS PHOTO)

POLICE LOGS

Major crime and incident report

Monday, Aug. 17, 2020

WESTFIELD

9:36 a.m.: accident, Arnold Street, a trucker reports hitting a utility pole, the responding officer reports the pole fell bringing wires into the street, a G&E representative was contacted and a crew was dispatched;

11:09 a.m.: found property, Avery Street, a landlord reports departed collegiate tenants abandoned BB guns she would like to surrender, the responding officer reports two inoperable BB guns and a paintball gun were properly disposed of;

2:59 p.m.: identity fraud, Pine Street, a caller reports via the on-line reporting option that a claim for pandemic unemployment assistance was fraudulently filed in his name, the responding detective reports the man was advised of his reporting options, similar reports were subsequently filed by residents of Russell Road and Salvatore Drive;

7:38 p.m.: vandalism, Moseley Avenue, a caller reports a window of her home was damaged apparently by a BB impact, the responding officer reports the damage is consistent with a BB impact but he was not able to find any evidence of how it occurred, the victim said that the window manufacturer had agreed to a gratis repair,

8:59 p.m.: suspicious person, East Main Street, a caller from an East Main Street supermarket reports a woman who attempted to shoplift both at the supermarket and at a nearby drug store is pacing on East Main Street, the responding officer reports the woman was located, the woman was served with a 'No trespassing' order from the drug store and walked to a bus stop.

Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020

WESTFIELD

2:55 a.m.: suspicious person, Half Mile Falls Park, North Elm Street, a patrol officer reports he encountered a male party camping out in the park, the officer reports that the man was advised of the hours of operation of city parks and sent on his way;

6:05 a.m.: suspicious activity, Ridgecrest Drive, a caller

reports seeing a male party run out of a garage and leave in one of three vehicles seen in the area, the responding officer reports finding a vehicle in an open garage with the trunk open, the owner could not be immediately contacted, an officer subsequently reported finding backpack with scattered contents on Little River Road which had apparently been stolen in the Ridgecrest/Pineridge area, the evidence was documented and stored, see next call;

6:30 a.m.: breaking and entering, Pineridge Drive, an off-duty state trooper reports his unmarked cruiser was entered by breaking a window overnight and a backpack was stolen, the caller stated that the suspect apparently left in haste as he left clothing behind, the case was referred to the Detective Bureau;

9:41 a.m.: traffic complaint, Main Street at Free Street, a patrol officer reports he observed a jaywalker and stopped to educate her about the relevant traffic law;

11:07 a.m.: motor vehicle violation, Elm Street at Thomas Street, a patrol officer reports a traffic stop revealed the vehicle to be unregistered and non-renewable, the vehicle was towed to the police impound yard;

12:06 p.m.: vandalism, Ridgeview Terrace, a caller reports that he left his vehicle parked when he was provided a courtesy transport home from a party the night before and when he went to retrieve it he found it to have been vandalized, the responding officer reports the vehicle had been keyed, all four tires had been flattened and a threat to the owner was written on the car, the car was towed to the owner's home and an incident report was filed;

2:09 p.m.: burning complaint, Western Avenue, a caller reports a resident is burning brush in a fire pit, the responding firefighters report the resident was advised of the relevant regulations and the fire was extinguished;

2:39 p.m.: breaking and entering, Oakcrest Drive, a caller reports her unlocked car was entered overnight and her house keys, debit card and cash were stolen, the case was referred to the Detective Bureau;

4:41 p.m.: fire, East Mountain Road, a caller reports seeing smoke on the mountain, the responding firefighters report the

fire was eventually located and a resident found to be burning material complied when advised to extinguish his fire;

5:18 p.m.: burning complaint, Apple Blossom Lane, a caller reports someone is burning and smoke is filling the neighborhood, the responding firefighters report a resident had been cooking dinner and had already extinguished his fire;

5:57 p.m.: code enforcement, Union Street, a caller reports

See Police Logs, Page 5

COURT LOGS

Westfield District Court

Monday, Aug. 17, 2020

Joshua D. Rosberg, 32, of 15 Shepard Road, Blandford, was held in lieu of \$5,000 cash bail pending a Sept. 16 hearing after was arraigned on charges of assault, assault and battery, assault and battery on a person 60 years-of-age or older, strangulation or suffocation, making a bomb or hijack threat and threatening to commit a crime brought by State Police.

Edgar C. Leon Garcia, 27, of 271 Laurelhill Ave., Providence, R.I., was released on his personal recognizance pending a Nov. 3 hearing after he was arraigned on a charge of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and a number plate violation to conceal identification brought by State Police.

Daniel S. Adzhigirey, 27, of 109 Silver St., Agawam, was released on his personal recognizance pending a Sept. 18 hearing after he was arraigned on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and speeding at a rate exceeding the posted limit bought by Westfield police.

Ernie M. Garcia, 41, of 3 Lawn St., Westfield, submitted to facts sufficient to warrant a guilty finding for a charge of violation of an abuse prevention order brought by Westfield police and the charge was continued without a finding with probation for six months.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MON., AUG. 24, 2020 IS THE 237TH DAY OF THE YEAR. 129 DAYS REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

ON THIS DAY

367 AD – Gratian, son of Roman Emperor Valentinian I, is named co-Augustus at the age of eight by his father.

394 – The Graffito of Esmet-Akhom, the latest known inscription in Egyptian hieroglyphs, is written.

410 – The Visigoths under king Alaric I begin to pillage Rome.

1185 – Sack of Thessalonica by the Normans.

1200 – King John of England, signer of the first Magna Carta, marries Isabella of Angoulême in Angoulême Cathedral.

1215 – Pope Innocent III issues a bull declaring Magna Carta invalid.

1349 – Six thousand Jews are killed in Mainz after being blamed for the bubonic plague.

1482 – The town and castle of Berwick upon Tweed is captured from Scotland by an English army.

1516 – The Ottoman Empire under Selim I defeats the Mamluk Sultanate and captures present-day Syria at the Battle of Marj Dabiq.

1561 – Willem of Orange marries duchess Anna of Saxony.

1608 – The first official English representative to India lands in Surat.

1643 – A Dutch fleet establishes a new colony in the ruins of Valdivia in southern Chile.

1662 – The Act of Uniformity requires England to accept the Book of Common Prayer.

1682 – William Penn receives the area that is now the state of Delaware, and adds it to his colony of Pennsylvania.

1690 – Job Charnock of the East India Company establishes a factory in Calcutta, an event formerly considered the founding of the city (in 2003 the Calcutta High Court ruled that the city's foundation date is unknown).

1781 – American Revolutionary War: A

small force of Pennsylvania militia is ambushed and overwhelmed by an American Indian group, which forces George Rogers Clark to abandon his attempt to attack Detroit.

1812 – Peninsular War: A coalition of Spanish, British, and Portuguese forces succeed in lifting the two-and-a-half-year-long Siege of Cádiz.

1814 – British troops invade Washington, D.C. and during the Burning of Washington the White House, the Capitol and many other buildings are set ablaze.

1815 – The modern Constitution of the Netherlands is signed.

1816 – The Treaty of St. Louis is signed in St. Louis, Missouri.

1820 – Constitutionalist insurrection at Oporto, Portugal.

1821 – The Treaty of Córdoba is signed in Córdoba, now in Veracruz, Mexico, concluding the Mexican War of Independence from Spain.

1857 – The Panic of 1857 begins, setting off one of the most severe economic crises in United States history.

1870 – The Wolseley expedition reaches Manitoba to end the Red River Rebellion.

1891 – Thomas Edison patents the motion picture camera.

1898 – Count Muravyov, Foreign Minister of Russia presents a rescript that convoked the First Hague Peace Conference.

1909 – Workers start pouring concrete for the Panama Canal.

1911 – Manuel de Arriaga is elected and sworn-in as the first President of Portugal.

1914 – World War I: German troops capture Namur.

1914 – World War I: The Battle of Cer ends as the first Allied victory in the war.

1929 – Second day of two-day Hebron massacre during the 1929 Palestine riots: Arab attacks on the Jewish community in Hebron in the British Mandate of Palestine, result in the death of 65–68 Jews; the remaining Jews are forced to flee the city.

1931 – France and the Soviet Union sign a neutrality pact.

1931 – Resignation of the United Kingdom's Second Labour Government. Formation of the UK National Government.

1932 – Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the United States non-stop (from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey).

1933 – The Crescent Limited train derails in Washington, D.C., after the bridge it is crossing is washed out by the 1933 Chesapeake–Potomac hurricane.

1936 – The Australian Antarctic Territory is created.

1937 – Spanish Civil War: the Basque Army surrenders to the Italian Corpo Truppe Volontarie following the Santoña Agreement.

1937 – Spanish Civil War: Sovereign Council of Asturias and León is proclaimed in Gijón.

1941 – Adolf Hitler orders the cessation of Nazi Germany's systematic T4 euthanasia program of the mentally ill and the handicapped due to protests, although killings continue for the remainder of the war.

1942 – World War II: The Battle of the Eastern Solomons. Japanese aircraft carrier Ryūjō is sunk, with the loss of seven officers and 113 crewmen. The US carrier USS Enterprise is heavily damaged.

1944 – World War II: Allied troops begin the attack on Paris.

1949 – The treaty creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization goes into effect.

1950 – Edith Sampson becomes the first black U.S. delegate to the United Nations.

1954 – The Communist Control Act goes into effect, outlawing the American Communist Party.

1954 – Getúlio Vargas, president of Brazil, commits suicide and is succeeded by João Café Filho.

1963 – Buddhist crisis: As a result of the Xá Loi Pagoda raids, the US State Department cables the United States Embassy,

Saigon to encourage Army of the Republic of Vietnam generals to launch a coup against President Ngô Đình Diệm if he did not remove his brother Ngô Đình Nhu.

1967 – Led by Abbie Hoffman, the Youth International Party temporarily disrupts trading at the New York Stock Exchange by throwing dollar bills from the viewing gallery, causing trading to cease as brokers scramble to grab them.

1970 – Vietnam War protesters bomb Sterling Hall at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, leading to an international manhunt for the perpetrators.

1981 – Mark David Chapman is sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon.

1989 – Colombian drug barons declare "total war" on the Colombian government.

1989 – Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose is banned from baseball for gambling by Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti.

1989 – Tadeusz Mazowiecki is chosen as the first non-communist prime minister in Central and Eastern Europe.

1991 – Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

1991 – Ukraine declares itself independent from the Soviet Union.

1992 – Hurricane Andrew makes landfall in Homestead, Florida as a Category 5 hurricane, causing up to \$25 billion (1992 USD) in damages.

1994 – Initial accord between Israel and the PLO about partial self-rule of the Palestinians on the West Bank.

1995 – Microsoft Windows 95 was released to the public in North America.

1998 – First radio-frequency identification (RFID) human implantation tested in the United Kingdom.

2004 – 90 passengers die after two airliners explode after flying out of Domodedovo International Airport, near Moscow. The explosions are caused by suicide bombers from Chechnya.

2006 – The International Astronomical Union (IAU) redefines the term "planet" such that Pluto is now considered a dwarf planet

2010 – In San Fernando, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 72 illegal immigrants are killed by Los Zetas and eventually found dead by Mexican authorities.

2010 – Henan Airlines Flight 8387 crashes at Yichun Lindu Airport in Yichun, Heilongjiang, China, killing 44 out of the 96 people on board.[10]

2016 – An earthquake strikes Central Italy with a magnitude of 6.2, with aftershocks felt as far as Rome and Florence.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

1965 – Reggie Miller, American basketball player and sportscaster

1968 – Shoichi Funaki, Japanese-American wrestler and sportscaster

1968 – Tim Salmon, American baseball player and sportscaster

1970 – Rich Beem, American golfer

1972 – Ava DuVernay, American director and screenwriter

1972 – Todd Young, American politician

1973 – Dave Chappelle, American comedian, actor, producer and screenwriter

1974 – Jennifer Lien, American actress

1977 – John Green, American author and vlogger

1979 – Kaki King, American guitarist and composer

1979 – Michael Redd, American basketball player

1981 – Chad Michael Murray, American model and actor

1983 – Brett Gardner, American baseball player

1986 – Arian Foster, American football player

bankESB adds Westfield's Leighanne Sullivan to Marketing Department

EASTHAMPTON — Leighanne Sullivan of Westfield has joined the bankESB Marketing Department as its social media coordinator. In this role, she will be responsible for maintaining the bank's social media presence across all platforms as well as those of the member banks of its parent company, Hometown Financial Group. Additionally, she will produce video content and serve as the primary administrator for the company intranet.

Prior to joining bankESB, Sullivan was a marketing assistant with Project Look Sharp in Ithaca, New York, and before that was a marketing intern with Westfield Bank and a public relations and social media intern with Sarah Hall Productions.

This spring, Sullivan earned her bachelor's degree in integrated marketing communications from Ithaca College, and while there was a participant in their Leadership Academy and a member of the women's crew team.



LEIGHANNE SULLIVAN

About bankESB

Founded in 1869 as Easthampton Savings Bank, bankESB is headquartered in Easthampton, Massachusetts, and operates 11 branches throughout western Massachusetts. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated more than \$337,000 to nearly 250 organizations. Over the last five years, the program has donated more than \$1.7 million. For more information, visit bankESB.com.

bankESB is a member of the Hometown Financial Group, a \$3 billion mutual multi-bank holding company headquartered in Easthampton, Massachusetts, and the parent company of bankESB, bankHometown, and Abington Bank. For more information, visit bankHFG.com

Athenaeum

Continued from Page 1

"The Library-To-Go program has been incredibly successful," said Blackburn. "We have served over 1,400 patrons so far with this service alone."

Library-To-Go is designed for patrons who prefer to order items ahead and pick them up outside. The program is offered Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., and Fridays from 1 – 5:30 p.m.

After Sept. 1, Library-To-Go hours will be slightly changed to Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Fridays from 1 – 5 p.m.

"No appointment is necessary since this is a drop-in pickup at our west entrance," said Blackburn.

For more information on the range of services offered to area residents, call (413) 568-7833 or visit www.westath.org.

Southwick Travelers trips canceled

SOUTHWICK - The Southwick Travelers have canceled all its trips for the remainder of 2020.

They are going to be looking for a new group leader next year. If interested, please call George Wheeler @ 569-3854 or Friendship Tours @ 1-800-243-1630.

Send your briefs to The Westfield News

WESTFIELD — Now, more than ever, our readers want to know about your business. As we slowly bring back local businesses, it is important to share what you offer, when and how people can make purchases or utilize your services and just know that you are open.

Are you hosting online events or offer remote services? We want to know!

Send your briefs and photos to pressreleases@thewestfieldnews.com

Canceled: Led Zeppelin Tribute Band 'Kashmir' Concert Aug. 29 in Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Gaslight Entertainment and the Music Department planned live concert with Kashmir, The Led Zeppelin tribute band, scheduled to be held drive-in style on August 29th, has been cancelled. The concert, which was to be a benefit concert for The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield, would have been held outdoors.

Jay Pagluica of Gaslight Entertainment said "Due to Massachusetts Governor Baker's recent order to further limit both indoor and outdoor gatherings, we had no option but to cancel the performance. We regret this difficult decision and are sorry for any inconvenience."

Ticket refunds will be made at point of purchase. Online ticket buyers should contact www.pujrlepass.com. Patrons who purchased their tickets at Rocky's Hardware on Free Street, should obtain refunds at the store.

Images

Continued from Page 1

but entrants can be from any community.

"We are hoping to be overwhelmed with lots of photos of all things Southwick. We live and work in such a photogenic town, and we are hoping that our photo contest will not only help us commemorate 2020, but provide an archive for 2045, 2070 and beyond!" said Putnam.

There will be four contest divisions:

Division 1: Farmscapes. Images of crops including field work, harvest, processing and marketing; farm livestock including cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry; all crops including vegetables, fruit, tobacco, corn for livestock, greenhouse, and field and/or container grown ornamentals; farm markets; farm machinery; and working farmsteads.

Division 2: Landscapes. Images of Southwick's natural geographical and geological features including hills to the east and west, lakes, forests, trails, sunrises, sunsets and other such features.

Division 3: Places. Images of Southwick landmarks not included in Categories 1 and 2, e.g., businesses, public buildings, public events, old farm buildings, vintage car rally, tractor parade, etc.

Division 4: People. Images of Southwick families and people of all ages working, relaxing, learning and otherwise enjoying life in our town. Reminder: permissions of the identifiable people in photo is required, unless it is of a crowd in a public place.

Prizes include Celebrate Southwick 250 merchandise. Winners will be announced Nov. 7.

Putnam said the committee is working on another event this year.

"We have one other exciting concept under consideration," he said, "if we decide it's feasible, we will announce in early September. Stay tuned."

Putnam said it is disappointing that the many events related to the town's 250th birthday were postponed, but the community has come together during the pandemic in ways no one could have imagined.

"I'm amazed and incredibly proud of how Southwick has adapted to this unprecedented time," he said. "So much ingenuity and hard work."

Putnam noted that business owners had to completely rethink the way they conduct business, Town Hall staff continued to assist residents, the police and fire departments as well as all first responders and essential workers put themselves in danger for others, schools shifted to online learning and continued offering meals to students, the food pantry stepped up to help more families and families hunkered down to help keep others safe.

"And there's so much more of which I am proud! We are Southwick Strong. We are Southwick Proud," he said.

To continue the spirit of the celebration and support future events, the committee continues to offer Southwick 250 souvenirs through Southwoods Printing, Southwick Florists, The Summer House and The Launch. Merchandise includes pint glasses, mugs, hats, tee shirts, sweatshirts and decals.

Volunteers are welcome to join the committee by contacting Putnam at JimP@Southwick250.org and photo contest submissions should be sent to Putnam via email by 11 p.m. Sept. 28. For contest rules, visit the Celebrate Southwick 250 Facebook page.

Concert

Continued from Page 1

Clark said the guideline given to him by the harbor master is that a boat must be able to float through two other boats for those two boats to be social distancing.

While the limit for outdoor gatherings was lowered to 50 people recently by Gov. Charlie D. Baker, Spencer said that the state drive-in guidelines could be applied to this event so long as people remain in their boats.

Those guidelines don't specify exactly how many vehicles are allowed at such an event, only that normal capacity must be reduced to accommodate social distancing outside of vehicles.

Clark said he would likely limit the live attendance to 50 people anyway.

He also said that he would be open to allowing the police to patrol the event to enforce the guidelines.

Clark said that there is no concrete plan in place yet, as he wanted to get the Board of Health's approval first before moving forward. As of now, he said he has two people who volunteered their lakefront property to act as a stage for the performers; one on South Pond and one on Middle Pond.

The board voted unanimously in favor of having the concert. Spencer must now review the plan submitted by Clark before giving her final approval.

LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS!

Announce Your
Engagement, Wedding or Birth

in full color!

Contact our Classified Department
by email: floram@thewestfieldnewsgroup.com
or call: (413) 562-4181 ext.118 for more info

City Hall

Continued from Page 1

writer who could assist and aid department heads in writing grants for the city would be an asset," she said.

At-large Councilor Dave Flaherty said he agreed with both councilors, adding that he knows there are grants out there not getting written. He said in the original city advancement officer position, writing grants was a large part of the job, and he would like to see the two positions combined. "Not sure we have enough demand for it to be a full-time, stand alone position," Flaherty said.

Bean said a grant writer requires a unique set of skills and would pay for itself. He said that he would like to see both positions filled, but acknowledged there are a lot of open positions in the city. "There has been a major shift in the last 10 or 20 years. There are no more earmarks for cities and towns; they're called grants. I just think it's something we should research," he said.

Bean added that there's money right now in the half-year city advancement office line item. "We could hire someone and see how it works. Right now, I would just like the mayor to weigh in and see what his thoughts are," he said.

The votes in support of these motions was amended to request that Humason come to the first two Council meetings in September for the updates.

Ward 2 Councilor Ralph J. Figy was asked at Thursday's meeting to give an update on the city auditor search. He said the search committee had conducted interviews of two qualified candidates in an executive session, but because the posting was still open, waited to see if there were additional candidates. Figy said the next step would be for the executive session to reconvene, and vote whether to send the candidates to the City Council for a vote.

The motion to investigate the process for removing the fire chief position out of civil service also did not get unanimous support.

At-large Councilor Richard K. Sullivan Jr., one of the nine councilors to put forward the motion, said the discussion goes back many years to when he served as mayor of Westfield. He said at the time, the city moved all of the department heads, including the police chief, out of civil service with the exception of the fire chief, because they could not come to an agreement with the union. He said he wanted to make clear that the current fire chief would not be removed from civil service if this were to go through, but fire chiefs going forward.

Harris asked if the men and women of the Fire Department and the union supported the motion, and whether anyone had spoken to the mayor about it. Harris said she would only support the change if the Westfield firefighters and their families were 100 percent behind it.

Sullivan said he had not talked to the unions, but the change wouldn't happen if the supervising unions did not support it.

Ward 6 Councilor William Onyski said he hadn't joined in on the motion, and that he would be a no vote. "I really think this should be coming from the Fire Commission. I realize it may be premature, but once that happens, I'll be glad to closely look at this again," Onyski said.

At-large Councilor James Adams said it was his understanding that other cities and towns are going in this direction. "I think every ten years, every department should have an outside organization come in and look at their department. My understanding is a lot of departments in the state are going in this direction," he said.

Another motion by At-large Councilor Dan Allie to discuss ways to help small businesses that were forced to close by the state was not supported. Flaherty and other councilors said the city had reached out through the Community Development department to help local businesses, as had the Chamber of Commerce, and it is not the role of the City Council to advise businesses on financial matters.

Notice regarding destruction of STGRSD student records

SOUTHWICK — In accordance with the provisions of state regulation, 603CMR23.06, all Southwick Regional School temporary student records for graduation year 2011, 2012 and 2013 shall be destroyed on September 15, 2020. It is your right to obtain these records before they are destroyed. To obtain records please contact Kimberley Gepfert at the Southwick Regional School at 413-569-6171 or kgepfert@stgrsd.org.

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COMMENT

Rapid Response Program would deploy to school COVID-19 clusters

By COLIN A. YOUNG
State House News Service

BOSTON - As students prepare to go back to school in many districts across Massachusetts, the state is preparing for the possibility of COVID-19 outbreaks at schools.

Gov. Charlie Baker said Thursday that his administration plans to roll out a rapid response testing program that can be made available to any school in the state that meets certain criteria, like having two or more students in the same classroom test positive within two weeks. He said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Public Health will release guidance detailing exactly how the program, which could be similar to a program the National Guard conducted at nursing homes this spring, will function.

"This program will be designed to quickly deliver testing resources for students and school personnel if there are multiple cases in a cohort that requires larger-scale testing than a community may have access to currently," Baker said. "This program can be deployed to test students within a particular classroom or other groups. A local health department and the Department of Public Health at the state level will work with a local school district to determine certain conditions are met, and that this program should be deployed."

Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders gave a handful of examples of situations that would warrant a school system and its local board of health requesting that the state deploy rapid response testing.

"The mobile response team would be deployed if the following minimal conditions applied: For example, if two or more students or staff within the classroom group develop COVID within a 14-day period and transmission exposure appeared to have occurred in the classroom; if more than 3 percent of the cohort or grade -- which means at least three individuals -- develop COVID-19 within 14 days; if more than 3 percent of the school develops COVID-19 within 14 days and there's evidence of transmission within the school; if three or more staff within the same school developed COVID-19 within that 14 day period and there's evidence of transmission among staff; and if two or more students on the bus develop COVID-19 within 14 days," she said.

The secretary, who also leads the state's COVID-19 Command Center, said the Baker administration sees the school testing program "as a response to schools concerned about cluster development."

With the new school year scheduled to begin next month, Baker and his administration have made clear that they would prefer students to physically return to classrooms for at least some amount of time this fall while three of the state's largest teachers' unions -- AFT Massachusetts, Boston Teachers Union, and Massachusetts Teachers Association -- have demanded that the school year start remotely, with in-person teaching only phased in later if certain health and safety standards are met.

Based on the school reopening plans submitted to the state as of Monday, Baker said earlier this week that 70 percent of districts are planning to conduct some sort of in-classroom education this fall. On Thursday, he said 314 of the state's 351 cities and towns "are experiencing next to no viral spread" and fall into the state's two lowest risk categories.

"The implementation of these safety measures combined with the low transmission rates we have here in Massachusetts mean that for most students and their families, in-person learning is an option that they can pursue," the governor said.

Baker pointed to the spat between the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District and its local union, which has pushed to take in-person instruction off the table until at least February, according to MassLive. Instead, the district approved a plan to start the year with virtual learning for most students and with in-person learning to be phased in over an eight-week period. The governor said people should read the district's statement on its plan.

"They make a very strong case that the guidance, criteria, working environment, all the rest of the elements that they put forward, were completely consistent with the science and advice and guidance that's been issued by the national players in this space as well as, in some cases, the global players. And then some of the issues that were being raised by the union just don't even make any sense," Baker said. "I think, in many ways, I respect and understand the importance of making sure that this be done safely. But I would also ask people to respect the science, which at this point is developing a fairly decent body of evidence with respect to what works and what doesn't when it comes to teaching in-person."

A new study from Massachusetts General Hospital that circulated Thursday found that "children may be a potential source of contagion in the [COVID-19] pandemic in spite of milder disease or lack of symptoms." Essentially, children can get the coronavirus, have high levels of the virus in their systems and transmit the virus to other people with ease despite often showing less severe or no symptoms of infection.

Sandra Fenwick, CEO of Boston Children's Hospital, said earlier Thursday during a New England Council event that there are still a lot of unknowns when it comes to children and the coronavirus.

"The [U.S. Centers for Disease Control] put forward the fact that in the rest of the country we're starting to see children

See Clusters, Page 5



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COLUMN

Vote!

By HOPE E. TREMBLAY
Editor

It seems hard to believe, but it's election season again. The presidential election aside, locally, residents will have the chance this November to elect a U.S. Senator, state senator and state representative. Current Democratic state Sen. John C. Velis, who won the seat in May, will be challenged once again by Republican John Cain of Southwick.

Currently there are four candidates for state representative: Republicans Dan Allie and Kelly Pease, Democrat Matt Garlo and Independent Ethan Flaherty.

Allie and Pease will face-off during the Sept. 1 Primary Election as will U.S. Senate candidates Sen. Richard Neal and Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, both Democrats.

How lucky we are to have so many choices. And honestly, I think they are good ones. Each candidate truly seems to have the needs of Westfield -- and Southwick -- at heart. The Westfield News will help readers learn more about the candidates with profiles of everyone on the ballot prior to the November election, starting with Pease and Allie later this week.

I often hear people complain about the government and its

leaders. And while it's frustrating to have leaders with whom you disagree and did not for, I cannot imagine being in their shoes. I am not a politician and do not want to be. Making decisions in the best interest of the most people is a difficult job, and we are fortunate to have so many people willing to take on that responsibility. As voters, it's your responsibility to learn as much as you can about each candidate and vote for the person you believe will do the best job for the community.

If you want to beat the Sept. 1 crowds, early voting is available in both Westfield and Southwick this week. In Southwick, early voting will take place at Town Hall Aug. 24-25 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Aug. 26 from 8:30 -6:30 p.m. and Aug. 27-28 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In Westfield, early voting will be at Westfield Middle School Aug. 24-28 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



HOPE E. TREMBLAY

Group wants more time for mail-in ballots

By CHRIS VAN BUSKIRK
State House News Service

BOSTON - An advocacy group is calling on the state's top election official to extend the deadline for vote-by-mail ballots to be accepted by local clerks for the Sept. 1 state primaries.

MassVOTE, which pushed for the law that expanded vote-by-mail for 2020 election cycle, argued that allowing ballots to be postmarked by Sept. 1 and counting those delivered no later than Sept. 4 would line up with deadlines for the general election in November. This comes as the secretary of state's office has mailed almost 1 million ballots to registered voters in advance of the primaries and about 149,000 ballots have been returned to local clerks. The current law stipulates local clerks must receive ballots by Sept. 1.

"Numerous delays have arisen in the vote by mail process over the past month that make extending this deadline crucial," MassVOTE Executive Director Cheryl Clyburn Crawford said in a statement. "As a result, voters received vote-by-mail applications days, if not weeks, later than originally anticipated. This has impeded the ability for voters to request and receive their ballots, and consequently, cast their ballots in a timely

manner." A spokesperson for the secretary of state's office said the deadline for ballots to be returned to local election officials is set by law and Galvin does not have the authority to extend it.

"Further, any extension of the ballot return deadline would harm voters, particularly those in the military, as it would delay the printing and mailing of November ballots," the spokesperson said in a statement to the News Service. "Voters should be aware, however, that they are not required to return their ballots by mail. Voters also have the option of hand-delivering a ballot to their local election office, drop-box, or any early voting location."

In recent weeks, the United States Postal Service faced increased scrutiny over whether it could deliver ballots on time for local clerks to count them. The Postal Service warned states, including Massachusetts, in late July that deadlines for requesting and casting ballots mail-in ballots are incongruous with their delivery standards.

The Postmaster General on Wednesday announced that planned organizational changes at the Postal Service would be delayed until after the November election.

Post-pandemic Cape could be more unaffordable, officials fear

By KATIE LANNAN
State House News Service

BOSTON - Cape Cod officials said Thursday that the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial disruption it's caused for many have shined a spotlight on connections between housing, health care and the economy.

On a call with other members of the Cape's reopening task force, Truro Sen. Julian Cyr said he's worried that trends in the housing market linked to COVID-19 "will only exacerbate how Cape Cod is so profoundly unaffordable."

Cyr said housing and the lack of affordable places to live was one of the biggest, most urgent issues facing the Cape and Islands region, where much new housing production caters to second-home buyers, before the pandemic hit.

"Cape Codders of my generation are struggling to make a life here," Cyr said, adding that the crisis has revealed existing societal inequities to be "gaping fissures."

In June, the year-to-date median sale price for a single-family home was \$422,500 in Barnstable County, \$871,500 in Dukes County, and more than \$1.67 million in Nantucket County, compared to \$415,000 statewide, according to the Warren Group.

The median gross rent in Barnstable County (\$1,268) from 2014 to 2018 was similar to the statewide median (\$1,225), though the median household income was lower -- \$70,621 in Barnstable County compared to \$77,378 for the state, accord-

ing to the U.S. Census Bureau. "We have found that when health care is saying 'Go home and quarantine, that's the best cure or the best prevention for this virus,' you learn quickly that that's a privilege, it's not a right," Alisa Magnotta, CEO of the Housing Assistance Corporation, said. "Not everybody can afford to shelter-in-place or have the means to be able to sustain themselves while they're trying to shelter-in-place."

The Housing Assistance Corporation supports low- and middle-income households on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard with homelessness prevention and housing stabilization. Magnotta said her agency has experienced more than a 400 percent increase in calls for rent assistance since mid-March.

"Even with the added help from the federal unemployment, people could not make ends meet," she said, and now that the additional federal jobless benefits have lapsed, there's been another uptick in calls for help.

Magnotta said tenants have been most affected, and there could be an impact on the year-round rental inventory because many landlords who "supply a very important housing inventory in our region" -- often private homeowners renting one to three units -- rely on rental income to pay their mortgages.

"It's really a perfect storm right now," she said. "We've got a hot real estate market, tenants aren't able to pay their rent and... there's no end in sight."

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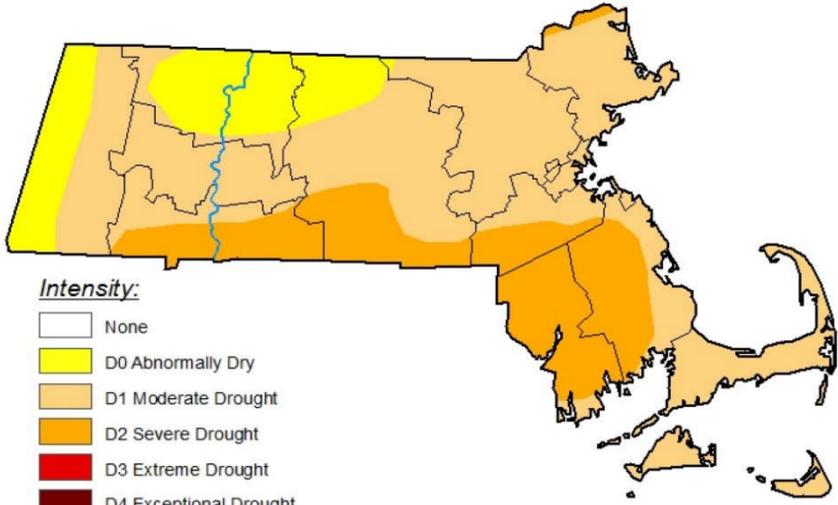
Severe drought recorded in parts of state

By COLIN A. YOUNG
State House News Service

BOSTON - About a quarter of Massachusetts is now experiencing a severe drought that threatens crops, diminishes air quality, makes trees more susceptible to insects and could lead to widespread water conservation measures.

The U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday morning that while all of Massachusetts is at least abnormally dry, about 60 percent is experiencing a moderate drought and another 25 percent -- most of Bristol and Plymouth counties and the southern parts of Norfolk, Worcester and Hampden counties -- is going through a severe drought.

"In the Northeast, anomalously warm temperatures and below-normal precipitation during the past 90-day period have led to deterioration in drought-related conditions in parts of New England -- including Massachusetts where state officials declared a Level 2 drought on August 14 for all regions of the state," David Simeral of the Western Regional Climate Center wrote in the Monitor's weekly summary. "Average temperatures for the week were 2-to-10 degrees above normal.



[U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR/AUG. 20]

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the Northeast Climate Region experienced its warmest (+4.6° F anomaly) July on record."

When a Level 2 drought is declared, the state's drought management plan calls for residents and businesses to minimize overall water usage, to limit outdoor water to use of a hand-held hose or watering can one day a week only after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m.,

and for municipalities to adopt limits or prohibitions on things like filling swimming pools and washing cars. The state's Drought Management Task Force is expected to meet in early September.

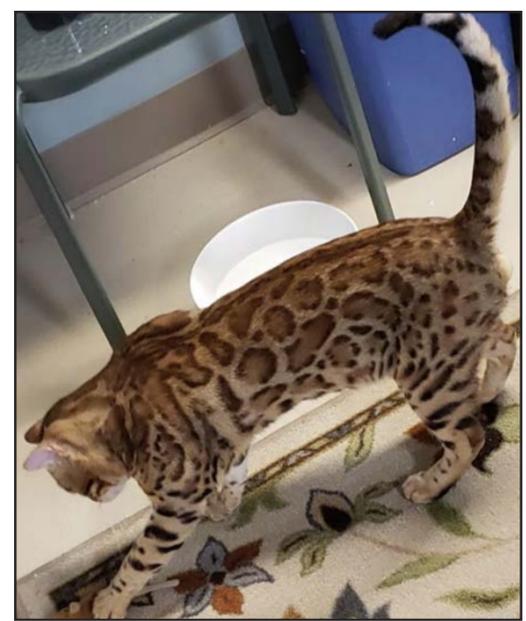
Massachusetts experienced a significant drought in 2016 when at least a portion of the state was in a drought for 48 weeks from June 7, 2016 until May 2, 2017. According to the National Integrated Drought Information System,

the most intense period of that drought was the week of Sept. 13, 2016 when more than 52 percent of the state was categorized as being in an "extreme drought."

The 2016-17 drought was blamed for contributing to wildfires, an outbreak of gypsy moths, higher rates of ant infestation, smaller than usual apples, loss of crops, a shortage of cattle feed, and an elevated population of mosquitoes able to carry West Nile virus.

Lost Cat

Pictured above is the Bengal who got loose Saturday morning in the Shaker Heights area -- vicinity of Munger Hill School. He is reddish brown with brown spots. He is shy and won't allow anyone to pick him up. If you see him, please call me at 413 427-2812. Thank you.



Flu shots now available at Stop & Shop Pharmacies

Additional vaccines secured in anticipation of higher demand due to COVID-19

QUINCY - With the CDC urging everyone 6 months and older to get a vaccination in advance of the flu season, Stop & Shop today announced that flu shots are now available at its 250+ pharmacy locations across the Northeast. Stop & Shop is taking extensive health and safety precautions at its pharmacies and has secured additional stock of the flu vaccine, anticipating higher demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stop & Shop has enhanced its health and safety protocols for vaccinations at all of its pharmacies. Customers will also be required to wear face covering, and pharmacists will be equipped with masks, gloves and face shields. The immunization area will have strict disinfecting and sanitization measures in place between each patient.

"Stop & Shop is ready to take care of its communities this flu season," shares Katie Thornell, director of pharmacy at Stop & Shop. "We are well-stocked and offer immunizations without appointments. While prices associated with vaccinations are dependent upon customers' insurance plans, most end up being low or no-cost. Stop & Shop aims to make it easy for everyone to get the care they need this fall."

Stop & Shop offers several types of flu vaccines and its licensed, trained and trusted pharmacists can help each patient select the type that is best for them to address any concerns about allergies, preservatives, or potential adverse effects.

Stop & Shop pharmacies also have an ample supply of shingles and pneumonia vaccines available, and customers should consult their local Stop & Shop pharmacist on all other immunizations that may be available and valuable to them and their families.

Police Logs

Continued from Page 2

a large number of persons at a church are not wearing masks, the responding officer reports the worshippers were masked.

SOUTHWICK

6:56 a.m.: accident, College Highway, a motorist reports a vehicle struck their car then left the scene;

11:18 a.m.: larceny, South Loomis Street, a resident reports his vehicle may have been stolen, according to police, the vehicle was located in a parking lot where the owner left it the night before and was given a ride home, the resident did not recall receiving a ride home;

11:49 a.m.: weapons complaint, Wynnfield Circle, a resident reports shots fired in the woods, officers checked the area and could not locate anyone and determined the shooting was in Westfield and the shooters were not in violation of weapons laws;

12:08 p.m.: animal complaint, Congamond Road, a caller reports being bitten by a dog while jogging on the Rail Trail, the victim refused medical attention;

12:35 p.m.: boat assistance, Middle Pond, a boater requested assistance getting to shore and was advised to contact Saunders Marina;

4:58 p.m.: motor vehicle complaint, Depot Street, a possible accident was reported, when an officer arrived he found the vehicle had significant damage on one side, the owner stated a Housing Authority employee accidentally hit his vehicle and the matter was resolved;

8:06 p.m.: bylaw violation, Point Grove Road, a resident was illegally burning material.

Clusters

Continued from Page 4

between the age of zero and 17 increasing with positivity, and the question there is is this a because of some of the schools that are going back? Is it because we're going back to more density? And is density the question that's really been driving some of this increase? Clearly we need more data and we need more testing to understand this," she said. "Kids have had lower infection rates, for certain far lower than adults, at least over the last six months of this pandemic. They also seem to be less sick than what we have experienced with adults, so their hospitalization rate is about eight per 100,000, where it's about 165 per 100,000 for adults. But when they do get sick, they get very sick and their rate of being in the ICU is about the same. So we're starting to get data that actually gives us some insight into children and what's happening with them from an infection perspective and infection transmission perspective. But again, we still don't know."

At the tail end of his Thursday press conference, Baker pointed out that while most public schools sent kids home for the rest of the year back in the spring, special education schools have continued in-person teaching and support without significant problems.

"Kids are wearing masks, instructors are wearing masks, and the programs are basically working and they've been working and they involve a lot of close contact," he said. "This can be done. And, as

I've said before, we need to commit to the science we believe we have, but we also need to commit to the kids."

The governor on Thursday

also said that his administration will extend its Stop the Spread testing initiative "in several communities with the highest rate of COVID

through the end of September" to ensure there's sufficient access to testing as teachers and students return to classroom settings.

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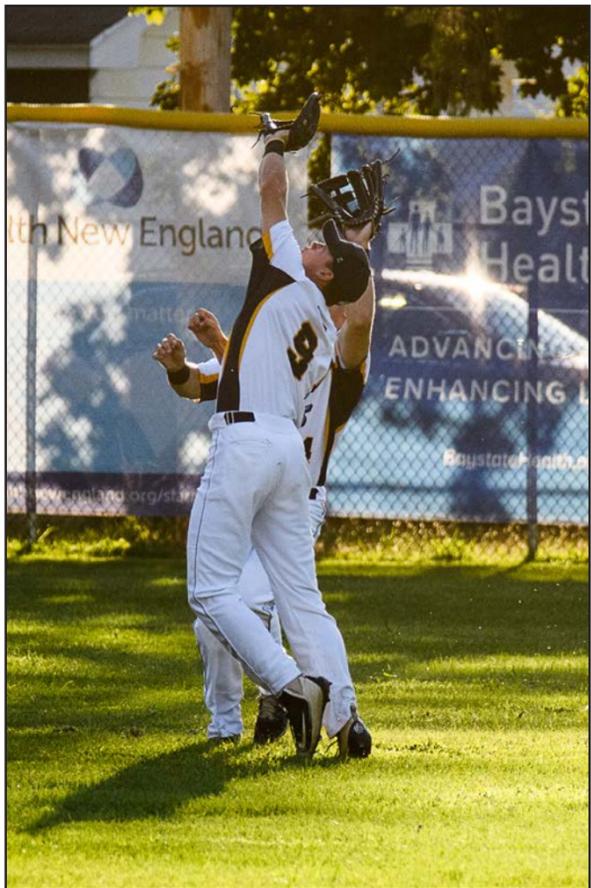
See all offer details below.

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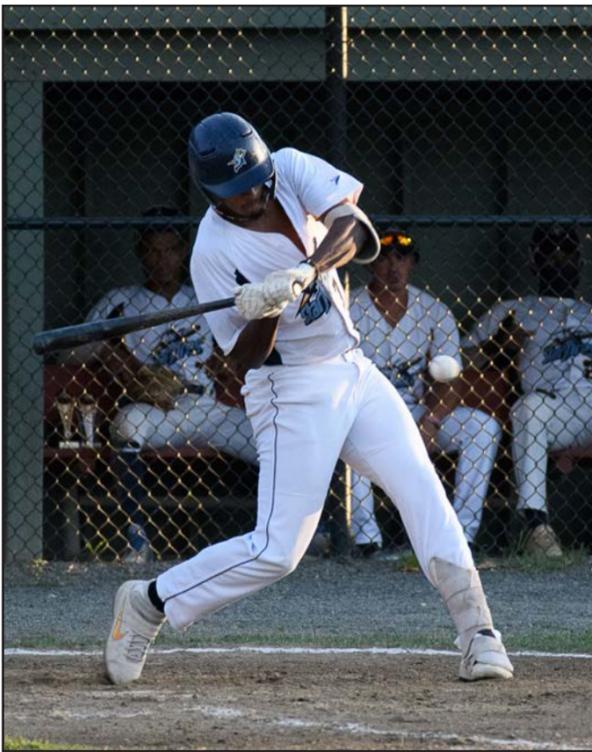


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Eric Callahan (Millersville U) and Danny Crossen (Northeastern U) duel to catch a high fly ball.



Ramon Jimenez (Boston College) zeroes in on a pitch.



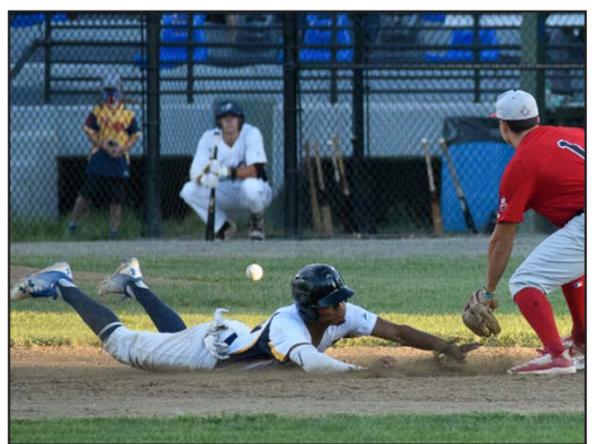
Starfires starting pitcher Jeff Taylor (Millersville U) fires one in at Wednesday's night's game against the Nashua Silver Knights.



"Gunner" Genevese throws out a first pitch at Wednesday's Starfires game.



Javier Irizarry (Amherst College) takes a cut.



Leonardo Dionicio (Dayton U) beats the throw to make a safe steal at second.



Josh Cohen (UConn) fields a bloop single backed up by Braydon Seaburg (Quinnipiac U)



INF Dolan Ocasal receives the Bay State Health Rookie of the Year Award on behalf of his University of Albany teammate, LHP Cregg Scherrer.



LHP Chase Jeter from Sacred Heart University (middle) receives the "KFC Strikeout Leader" and "A Plus HVAC Pitcher of the Year" Awards from Head Coach Tony Deshler (left) and Director of Baseball Operations Evan Moorhouse (Right)



SS Eric Callahan from Millersville University receives the "OMG Co-Defensive Player of the Year" Award from Dan Genovesi (second from right)



INF Drew DeMartino from the University of Hartford receives the "Westfield Gas and Electric and Whip City Fiber Silver Slugger Award from Lisa Stowe

Starfires

Continued from Page 1

Westfield Starfires' ballyhooed ball player, Reggie Crawford (University of Connecticut) was named the co-Top Pro Pitching Prospect of the Year in the Futures League. Crawford had three saves while racking up 10 strikeouts over 6.1 innings.

Crossen was the Adam Keenan award winner, bestowed upon the player who exemplifies the outstanding attitude, character and sportsmanship that is synonymous with Adam Keenan's legacy.

Westfield Starfires' Chase Jeter (Sacred Heart University) was named the "KFC Strikeout Leader" and an "A Plus HVAC Pitcher of the Year." Eric Callahan (Millersville University) was presented with the "OMG Co-Defensive Player of the Year Award." Jeff Taylor (Millersville) was the "Westfield Bank MVP". Drew DeMartino (University of Hartford) received the "Westfield Gas & Electric and Whip City Fiber Silver Slugger Award". The "Bay State Health Rookie of the Year Award" went to Cregg Scherrer (University of Albany).

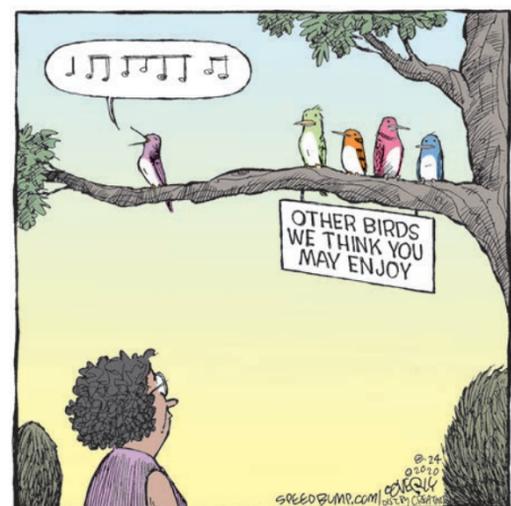
"2020 was a special season and our players deserve a lot of credit for grinding this out with so many restrictions," Thompson said. "We had a competitive season and our fans will have a chance to follow this year's Starfires team beyond their college careers."



LHP Jeff Taylor from Millersville University receives the "Westfield Bank MVP"

COMICS

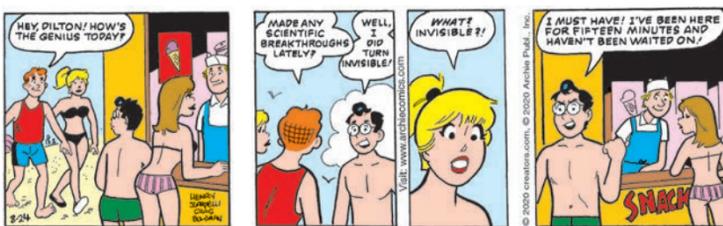
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



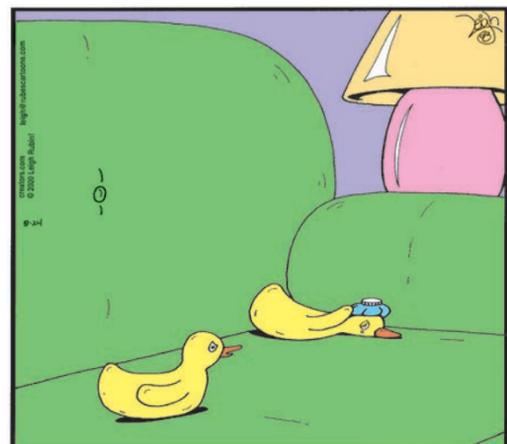
AGNES Tony Cochran



ARCHIE Fernando Ruiz and Craig Boldman



RUBES Leigh Rubin



"You made quite a splash at the party last night, or do you not remember being pulled repeatedly out of the punch bowl?"

DADDY'S HOME Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



DUSTIN By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



SCARY GARY Mark Buford



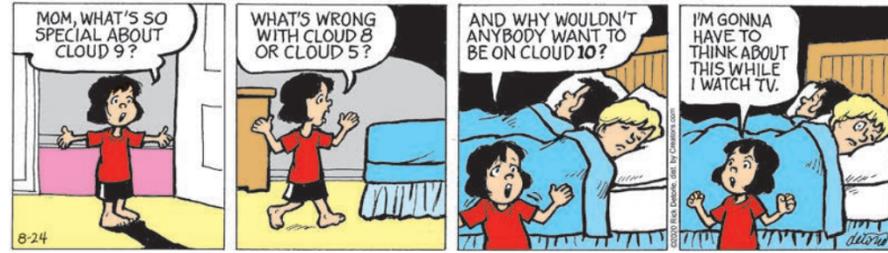
DOGS of C-KENNEL Mick and Mason Mastroianni



B.C. Mastroianni and Hart



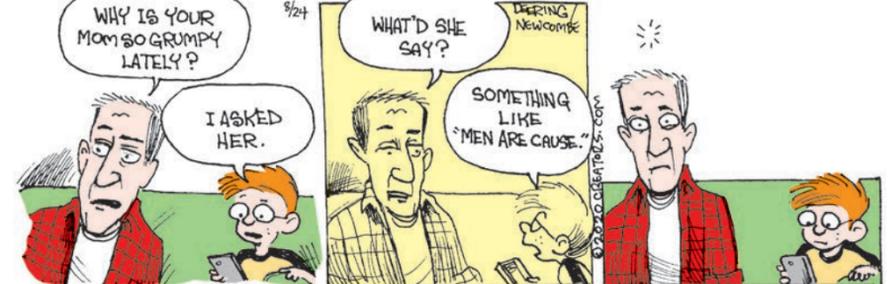
ONE BIG HAPPY Rick Detorie



ANDY CAPP Mahoney, Goldsmith and Garnett



ZACK HILL John Deering and John Newcombe



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS YOUR HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Aug. 24, 2020:

Astute, sophisticated and investigative, as a complex individual, your observations are brilliant. You succeed very well this year. The first half is challenging, but you were born to untangle mysteries, and you make money doing this. If single, you give your relationships a hard time, so it's likely you stay single this year. If attached, you are wildly in love and you wouldn't have it any other way. **CANCER** worships you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Financial obligations relating to others can be resolved. Sincerity is the best way to process and release old resentments. Get in touch with how you really feel and let others know. Tonight: Expect news of a status change concerning a couple to whom you're close.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Get partners talking, and be a good listener. Someone close to you is making important decisions about their future. There is a new slant on partnership and commitment issues. This is punctuated by turning points and surprises. Tonight: Be relieved you offered the best advice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your birth sign's cell salt is potassium chloride. Your cell salt stimulates better absorption of nutrients. Lifesaver. Strawberries, parsley, blueberries, pineapple, cucumbers and asparagus are good sources for your cell salt. Tonight: Poke around recipes to find these ingredients.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A very intense day promises reunions with lost loves. Loyalties and attachments are in flux. Be sensitive to repeating patterns involving heart connections. Communication with those near and dear to you is excellent. Tonight: Acquaintances inspire you. Facts come to light.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today highlights your home and family life. Patiently work out differences and make needed repairs. Shop for the best prices for items for the home. A family member is feeling very adventurous and may surprise you by taking a gamble. Tonight: Take the latter with a grain of salt.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Emails and conversations will be serious, but decisions can be made and helpful advice exchanged. Avoid a difficult neighbor or troubled sibling. You'll express ideas eloquently and have a special ability to solve problems by compromise. Tonight: Relax and celebrate yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Libra likes the finer things in life. And splendid financial opportunities are beginning to manifest. Be careful not to overextend yourself, however. Go easy on spending. Live within your means, or there could be consequences very shortly. Tonight: Is the very shortly -- a dissatisfying product.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Self-sufficient, with inherent courage and determination, Scorpio surmounts most obstacles. You are also inventive and gifted. Celebrate yourself and your amazing qualities today. Share with those who love you without complaint. Tonight: Some recovery followed by early beddy-byes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Old and poignant memories surface today. A past life regression might be useful to aid in understanding and accepting the present situation. A deep rapport with creatures and animals of wilderness areas prevails. Tonight: Stroll outdoors at sunset and gaze at the sky.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19) Fear is the darkroom where negatives are developed. Despite a setback today, you do not give up. Consider your goals and group affiliations. A sense of déjà vu prevails. Examine old photos to help you make wise choices. Tonight: Reconnect with an old organization.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Social contacts and creative ideas boost your career today. Important responsibilities need your attention. Maintain a positive mental outlook. Use diplomacy in all that you say and write. Efforts made now will bring advancement and money in the future. Tonight: Collapse in utter, well-deserved exhaustion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today you have a genuine zest for life. You'll be ready for journeys and adventures of all kinds, with the added blessing of great physical vitality. Enter contests and competitions. Creativity and charm abound. Tonight: Travel would be rewarding, especially if you're able to travel abroad.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Famous Hand

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 9 7 5 3 2
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ A 8 2

EAST
 ♠ 6
 ♥ K J 8 6 3 2
 ♦ Q 4 3
 ♣ J 9 5

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q
 ♥ A Q 10 4
 ♦ A J 9 8 7
 ♣ Q 7

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
 2NT Pass 3NT

Opening lead — four of clubs.

Declarer's principal responsibility is to make the contract. In attempting to meet this goal, he does not pay much attention to overtricks, but instead bends his efforts to fulfilling his primary assignment.

Consider this classic case from a rubber-bridge game many years ago. West led a club against three notrump, and South, Harold Ogust, won East's jack with the queen. Ogust saw that he could make the contract easily if he cashed the K-Q of spades and the suit proved to be divided 3-2.

But he also realized that if the spades were divided 4-1, he would most likely be defeated. Unwilling to stake his all on a 3-2 spade division, Ogust devised a method of play that would give him a chance to make the contract even if the spades did not break.

Accordingly, at trick two he cashed the spade king and continued with the queen. But, after West followed with the eight, Ogust overlooked the queen with the ace! This extraordinary play had solid reasoning behind it.

If East had followed to the spade, the plan was to continue the suit and thus establish dummy's remaining three spades to assure nine tricks. But when East showed out on the second spade, Ogust was able to switch to the alternate line of play he had reserved in case the spades were not 3-2.

He led dummy's ten of diamonds, It did not matter whether East covered with the queen or not. Ogust could not be prevented from eventually winning four diamond tricks, and he wound up making three notrump.

If he had cashed the K-Q of spades initially, Ogust would have been defeated. His play of overtaking the queen could have cost him a trick or two if the spades had been divided normally, but the overtake gave him a better chance to make the contract.

Tomorrow: Oops!

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

1 Costume hairpiece
 4 "Don't Know Why" singer Jones
 9 Monk's title
 12 Expert
 13 Puccini work
 14 Cyclades island
 15 Cairo
 17 Parcel of land
 18 By means of
 19 Midwest capital
 21 Most adorable
 24 Flair
 25 "— was saying ..."
 26 Small barrel
 28 Preliminary version
 31 Thaw
 33 Fall from grace
 35 Roman 2002
 36 Hosp. prep area

38 Little louse
40 Yellowstone grazer
41 Evergreens
43 Dwarf tree
45 Sour cream serving
47 Jean—
 Picard
48 2016 Olympics city
49 Road markers
54 Mil. morale booster
55 Emulate Frederick Douglass

56 Shoe width
57 Berlin's country (Abbr.)
58 Feel
59 Chopper

11 Nick and Nora's pet
16 Wife of Adam
20 Eggplant — (Italian dish, for short)
21 Overly theatrical
22 Addict
23 Bathroom surface
27 Martini ingredient
29 Tennis apparel brand
30 "Kon- —"
32 Work hard
34 Corn kernels
37 "Coming Soon" ads
39 Hairpiece
42 Steeple
44 Sgt., for one
45 Pharmaceutical
46 French waterway
50 PC linkup
51 Poseidon's home
52 Singer Rittner
53 Observe

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 8-24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
			18					19		20
21	22	23					24			
25			26		27		28			29 30
31			32		33		34		35	
36			37		38		39		40	
			41		42		43		44	
45	46						47			
48			49		50				51 52 53	
54			55						56	
57			58						59	

CRYPTOQUIP

D Z M E Y U Z D E D L H L D W P K U P
 C H I I D P N W P L O U J . K .
 Z H E D L W I U R U Y M I H L U H J L J B P :
 L O U K I U U L W C N W R U Y P B U P L .
Saturday's Cryptoquip: SMOOTH, LUXURIOUS BEDCLOTHES FABRICATED ON THE SIXTH PLANET FROM THE SUN: SATURN SHEETS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y

Dear Annie

By ANNIE LANE



Online Dating Mystifies Parents

Dear Annie: I am a 27-year-old man who needs help. Recently, I met a guy via the internet. We hit it off and have a lot in common. In addition, he lives in the same state that I do. I've seen pictures of him, so I know what he looks like. He even gave me his phone number. I want to call him so we can stay in contact.

The problem is that I'm on the same phone plan as my parents, and they are the type of people who prefer face-to-face meetings and are wary of meeting people over the internet. How do I get them to understand that not all people you meet on the internet are bad people? -- *Different Generation*

Dear Different Generation: You are not going to get your parents to change their minds about the internet; and, to be quite honest, their fears have some merit. There are some really bad people online. At the same time, there are plenty of wonderful individuals who have met their future spouse online. Don't worry about convincing your parents. Just live your life and be smart and safe, and consider paying for your own phone plan.

Dear Annie: Last year, on Sept. 5, 2019, to be exact, a reader wrote in about intermittent fasting and how it has changed her life. I discovered fasting after reading her letter to you and have had much success in losing weight and staying healthy. I would like to tell "Healthy and Happy" thank you. -- *Grateful*

Dear Grateful: Congratulations on your weight loss. Thank you for your letter, for sharing your suc-

cess and for giving "Healthy and Happy" a shoutout. I am hopeful that "Healthy and Happy" will read this. And, in that same vein, I'd like to thank all of my readers who are willing to share their lives -- the good, the bad and the ugly -- with strangers. You never know the positive mark you can make.

Dear Annie: Due to COVID-19, my siblings and I were not able to see our very elderly mother for more than two months. When her birthday came around in May, we created "Happy Birthday" signs and taped them to our cars. We then proceeded to do a drive-by parade, while beeping our horns and hooting and hollering and waving at her. My siblings' ages run between 65 and 57 (there are seven of us), and we all have different health issues. So, this drive-by benefited us all, and we got to see and celebrate our 94-year-old mom #AloneTogether. -- *Happy with a Parade*

Dear Happy with a Parade: Thank you for your letter! What a wonderful way to celebrate your mom. You can also do this for children's birthday parties, graduations or really any special occasion that you want to enjoy company while celebrating safely.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Rules of the road

Today's Sound Off is about bad drivers: **Dear Heloise:** Are students still required to take driver's education classes in high school? I wondered because so many drivers in my area don't use turn signals, don't come to a complete stop at a stop sign and don't seem to show common manners on the road.

We've all seen careless drivers and people who are just plain rude behind the wheel, but it seems that more and more drivers are ignoring the basic rules of the road. Last week an ambulance and a police car were heading in my direction with lights flashing and siren going off. I pulled over to get out of their way, but most of the other drivers didn't.

A car/truck/SUV is a mode of transportation, but it can turn into a lethal weapon when people ignore rules of the road and common courtesy. -- *Anne in Oklahoma*

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795001
San Antonio, TX 78279-5001
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

TOO MANY CALLS
Dear Heloise: Car insurance rates have gone up in the past few years. This has caused me to look online for less expensive rates. Be prepared, if you search online, to be inundated with calls from companies trying to get your business. They will come out of the woodwork and call at all hours. I had to turn my phone off. -- *Shannon in Michigan*

FAST FACTS
Items to use as a natural exfoliator for your skin:
* Oatmeal
* Sugar

- * Coffee
 - * Sea Salt
 - * Baking soda
- Although commercial is easy to buy, natural is always the safest way to go. -- *Heloise*

WATCH OUT
Dear Heloise: My hint is to keep gardening gloves stored in a zip-top bag. I neglected to do that and ended up with a very painful sting from a big green caterpillar. He had burrowed under the glove's lining on one of the fingers and embedded some of his stinging hairs in my finger when I disturbed him. He wasn't visible from the outside and would not have been shaken out since he was burrowed into the glove's lining. -- *Betty S., Boardman, Ohio*

Betty, this is a good idea. I had a scorpion hiding in a pair of gardening gloves, and when I put my hand into it, I was stung. Here in the southwest we also need to check our shoes and boots for little "hidden creatures." -- *Heloise*

PACKING MATERIAL
Dear Heloise: When mailing packages that need a filler in the box for padding, use plastic shopping bags instead of newspaper. Plastic is lighter in weight and there's no print to rub off onto the packages. -- *Cynthia in North Carolina*

CARPENTER BEES
Dear Heloise: This year we had to deal with carpenter bees on our wooden deck. I didn't want to use an insecticide with harsh chemicals, so I made my own concoction. I cut up oranges and lemons and boiled them in a pot of water. I then filled a spray bottle with the citrus water and sprayed the area where the bees had burrowed. They moved on. -- *Shirley in Virginia*

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LEGAL NOTICES

August 17, 24, 2020
City of Westfield

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To be held remotely September 2, 2020, at 7:15PM by the Westfield Zoning Board of Appeals for Jeremy Beltrandi for a special permit per 3-40.4(13) to allow for a house with a reduced rear yard setback at 330 Pochassic Rd., zoned Rural Residential; see details at

www.cityofwestfield.org/applications

The hearing can be viewed on local cable Ch. 15 or online at westfieldvt.org, with public comment by teleconference: Call 646-558-8656 with

Meeting ID# 910 6096 0534
Passcode# 85231311

August 17, 24, 2020
City of Westfield

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To be held remotely September 2, 2020, at 7:15PM by the Westfield Zoning Board of Appeals for Ann Barone appealing an order to remove farm animals kept on a lot of less than 5 acres (Sec. 2-20.1) at 2-3 Delancey St., zoned Industrial A & Floodplain; see details at

www.cityofwestfield.org/applications

The hearing can be viewed on local cable Ch. 15 or online at westfieldvt.org, with public comment by teleconference: Call 646-558-8656 with

Meeting ID# 910 6096 0534
Passcode# 85231311

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The City of Westfield is seeking applicants to fill seasonal positions for the Parks and Recreation Departments fall positions. Posted August 21 and will close August 28, 2020. (Subject to funding) These positions are seasonal with no benefits.

Fall Tennis Instructor: Applicants must be 21 years of age or older. Duties include teaching and supervising children the sport of tennis. Thorough knowledge of tennis and prior tennis instructional experience preferred. Position runs September - October. Sat. and Wed. \$ 22.00 an hour.

Soccer Supervisors: Applicants must be 21 years of age or older. Duties include supervising children in the sport of Soccer ages 4-6. Thorough knowledge of soccer and prior soccer instructional experience preferred. Experience working with children. Sept. - Oct. Tues., Wed, & Sat. Hourly rate is \$14.00 hr.

Applications are available online at City Hall, Personnel Department, 59 Court Street Westfield, MA 01085 Please use the drop-off box or mail in application before deadline date.

All applicants must submit to the CORI/SORI (A criminal back-round check) and complete the Conflict of Interest Law forms.

The City of Westfield is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer (M/F/H)

Any questions about the positions, please call the Parks and Recreation office at 572-6263.

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

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

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- Post guidelines visible to approaching and browsing customers.
- Wear a face covering at all times!
- Disinfect items and surfaces before throughout the sale.
- Offer hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) for customer use.
- Locate tables and chairs 6' apart.
- Indicate one-way foot traffic with heavy-duty tape or signs.
- Ask arriving shoppers to form a line, while 6' apart, if needed.
- When possible, round your prices to avoid making change.
- Provide space for customers to wrap & bag their purchases.



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Wear a Mask
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Sanitize or
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