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March 12-April 9, 2021

BK in Whitinsville a whopper of a success so far

By Rod Lee

Weeks of speculation about the fate of the former Burger King at Plummers Corner in Whitinsville stretched into months-eighteen of them in total, a year and a halfbefore the mystery was finally solved.

"CVS is going in there with a standalone building," was one rumor.

"It's going to be a Wendy's."

"A KFC." "A bank (don't we have enough

of those?)." "A Hooters."

The answer came just after the holidays and it was "none of the above."

It's a Burger King again, and a modernized, smart-looking model of the store that is already drawing virtually nonstop traffic to the door and to the drive-up window.

The building was completely renovated, inside and out.

"This is one of the busiest Burger Kings in America," Cody Baldwin, a manager, said, on February 26. after breaking away from a telephone call to talk to a reporter. "We're having a grand reopening tomorrow."

What many people who are stopping by the local "home of the Whopper" do not realize is that



James Cammilleri of Florida has added the new Burger King in Whitinsville to his mushrooming restaurant empire.

Mr. Baldwin is a holdover on the premises.

"I was here before," he said. "A kitchen fire shut us down."

Patrons would also be surprised to learn that Florida-based entrepreneur and philanthropist James Cammilleri is now the franchisee. By adding 1177 Providence Road to his holdings, Mr. Cammilleri's business empire just keeps grow-Continued on page 2

AaTs OF MASSACHUSETTS Provide canine comfort

COMPETITION FACTS

Safety for gymnasts and dancers

WHITIN COMMUNITY CENTER

Annual meeting and awards PAGE 14

LIVING WITH LINCOLN I got you, ball **PAGE 15**

TALES FROM BEYOND Rachel's curse

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Womens Success Network

By Barbara Van Reed

This month we continue our conversations with members of the Women's Success Network executive committee. WSN was established under the auspices of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce two years ago to "help women in the workplace to achieve their vision of success by creating a community of support and inspiration."

Alise Breton began her work life when a teenager at Whitter Farms in Sutton. Today she is Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager/Social Media Manager at Millbury Federal Credit Union, in its main office in Millbury.

She offered her insights as a WSN committee member.

Why did you agree to join the WSN committee?

To have an opportunity to be part of a group of professional women was a no brainer for me! These women are smart, innovative, accepting and inspiring. Although we come from different backgrounds, we are like-minded and have expe-



Alise Breton



rienced the same challenges. To be able to share your thoughts with other women whom you know are going to be supportive is so encouraging. Then, to reciprocate

that, and provide support to other women, that's making a difference!

Continued on page 4



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Balloons greeted customers at the door of the Burger King in Whitinsville for a grand reopening of the restaurant on February 27. Inside, patrons are treated to a freshened-up look to the premises.

BURGER KING

Continued from page 1

ing. He now owns more than sixty stores in New York state (most of them in his hometown area of Rochester and Buffalo), Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Making this arrangement work as an absentee proprietor from 1500 miles awaybe it in upstate New York or in the Blackstone Valley of Massachusetts-might seem unlikely, but then there is Mr. Cammilleri and his wife Sarah's passion for business, faith and charity to consider.

From the moment he got involved with Burger King in 1989 while employed in his father's restaurants, two of which he wound up purchas-

ing, to the present day, Mr. Cammilleri appears to have had a grand design in mind. This really came together when he formed the "JSC Management Group" and then a second company—the nonprofit "Elevating Christian Ministries," launched in

> in 2016 with the express purpose of alleviating the hunger crisis in Haiti. Elevating Christian Min-

collaboration with his wife

istries, a name inspired by

a band called "Elevating Worship," feeds more than 10,000 children in eight-five schools in Haiti per day.

There is more to the James Cammilleri story.

Building on their faith, Mr. and Mrs. Cammilleri co-authored a book called "Living a Life of Yes," about seizing opportunities as a way to discovering "your uncommon self."

His operational philosophies appear to be grounded in such phrases as "people over profits" and his favorite quote from the Bible, which is "give and it shall be given." Which explains why, asked for a small donation for the homeless upon entering a grocery store, he gave

He lost one restaurant, years ago, "because I got too greedy."

one hundred dollars.

At the grand reopening on the last Saturday of February, customers who brought a food item with them for the Northbridge pantry were treated to a free Whopper.

Today, Mr. Cammilleri employs three hundred fifty people in his restaurants and two management companies.

Mr. Baldwin said that approximately thirty of those workers, full and part-time, are based in Whitinsville, where a new BK has risen from the ashes of the old.

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.





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Muradian, Moore and Fattman announce S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants awarded to Northbridge

- Representative David K. Muradian, Jr. (R-Grafton) and Senators Michael O. Moore (D- Millbury) and Ryan C. Fattman (R-Sutton) are excited to announce that the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services has awarded grants to the Town of Northbridge for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E. program) and Senior SAFE.

There are two types of SAFE grants: the original S.A.F.E. program was established 26 years ago as a state initiative to provide resources to local fire departments to conduct fire and life safety education programs in grades K-12. Their mission is to enable students to recognize the dangers of fire, and more specifically, the fire hazards that tobacco products can pose. The Senior SAFE program was created by the Legislature in order to help local fire departments to support fire and safety education for older adults, who are the most at risk of dying in fires in the Commonwealth.

Since the creation of the S.A.F.E. program, the average annual fire deaths for children have been reduced by 78%. The program provides training for children in schools teaching them

how to create and practice home escape plans, stop, drop and roll, how to report fires and emergencies and helps reduce a child's anxiety levels during stressful situations. The Department of Fire Safety hopes to have similar results with the Senior SAFE program by teaching them how to handle situations where oxygen is present and what to look for when one cannot hear a fire alarm.

"SAFE is a shining example of a successful and valuable program that the Commonwealth provides to its citizens," stated Representative Muradian. "Teaching children, and now seniors, two of our more vulnerable populations, how to handle emergency situations with less anxiety will help keep all members of the community safe. I know that these funds will surely go to good use within our community."

fire prevention for the children and seniors in the Commonwealth is a proven method for ensuring their safety," said Senator Michael Moore. "The youth and elderly are most at risk of fire related incidents, so this funding is extremely important in providing the training and knowledge that will

"Education services on

make sure they are aware of the proper methods when it comes to fire safety."

"The S.A.F.E. grant program is a great asset that is available to fire departments in the Commonwealth," said State Senator Ryan Fattman. "It is important for our kids to learn of the dangers of fire, how to prevent fire, and what to do if you face

a perilous situation. I will keep advocating for funding of this program, so that fire departments may continue to educate young children about the importance of fire safety."

Under the FY2021 budget, the Town of Northbridge will receive \$5,281 for the S.A.F.E. Program and \$2,680 for the Senior SAFE Program.





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WSN

Continued from page 1 How do you think WSN can best support women?

The fact that this group exists is of value to women. The network was designed as a means to offer support and inspiration to women in their personal and professional lives. You can use us for education, networking, maybe you just need a little encouragement. Regardless of the reason, we're a resource that's available to help.

How do you think you can personally contribute to that?

There's so much value in what this network has to offer. I don't that think there's a better way to contribute than by spreading the word and sharing the network with other women.

WSN seeks to connect with women in a great variety of careers and life stages. What's the best way to do that?

Our network has women from all different industries. We are all different ages with all different life experiences. The diversity is what makes us unique and relatable. When we host an event or offer a service, we always consider our audience. We want to be able to offer a little something for everyone.

What experiences in your life would make a good illustration of having received support from another woman? Or, how have you been helped by other women?

I started working when I was 14 years old for Whittier Farms in Sutton. Being a teenager, I was so unsure of myself. I had very little confidence and absolutely no clue what I was doing. As I tried to navigate through my first job, Mary Whittier became my mentor. She literally taught me everything during the nine years I worked for her! While I could go on and on about those skills and principles, the important part of my story is that she offered me a level of support that set me up for the rest of my life. She spent time and energy on my success - that's an amazing mentor! To this day, I still fall back on those lessons, and remember her guidance and encouragement when offering my own support to others.

What is your advice for young women, middle-aged women, older (maybe retiring) women? This can be life advice, financial advice, career advice or other.

Don't say that you can't! Maybe you won't or you don't want to, but you can do anything!

Much of the energy, inspiration, and implementation for the Women's Success Network has come from Jeannie Hebert, President and CEO Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and President Blackstone Valley Education Hub.

She talked about the begin-

Why did you create WSN?

As a resource for women to turn to for support and assistance when navigating their way through professional, business and life situations. A place where they can openly discuss questions and concerns among peers and feel comfortable to receive real answers without judgement.

How do you think WSN can

best support women? By providing a forum and peer group to work out concerns unique to women. Women are considered the caregivers, and that does not stop because they may also have a demanding full time career. They traditionally put others first and create feelings of guilt when devoting time to pursue an occupation. Having a setting with others who face the same challenges is valuable in creating a life balance.

How do you think you can personally contribute to that?

Honestly, by listening to the needs of the members and creating a community of support. By developing resources with live and virtual sessions, networking events, access to keynote speakers who have firsthand knowledge to inspire strength to cope with and conquer challenges amplified by the demands made on women to do more, be better and handle it all, both in their professional and private lives.

WSN seeks to connect with women in a great variety of careers and life stages. What's the best way to do that?

Again providing a forum to When that happens

you find you have a lot more in common with each other than you first thought.

What experiences in your life would make a good illustration of having received support from another woman? Or, how have you been helped by other women?

I have to say a number of people have helped me along the way, but the one who stands out comes from the Blackstone Valley. Louise Redding. She was treasurer on my Board of Directors when I first

> Madeleine Albright has a now-famous quote, "There is a special place in hell for women who don't help each other!"

came to the BVCC. She was the first woman to achieve a CPA degree in her college class, had an accounting career, is strong, and definitely stood her ground to break through the glass ceiling at a time when women were treated as second class. She was a good counsel, inspiring me to have the courage to follow my gut and pursue projects that I knew were worthwhile, even when others told me I was a "dreamer." I credit Louise with my strength and success with many achievements. I still stay in touch with her. What is your advice for young women, middleaged women, older (maybe retiring)

Work together to overcome the cultural demands of women and support one another are probably the most important things we as women can do. One of the most mind-boggling practices I find is that some have a hard time working together for the good of all.

Being unsupportive of initiatives to especially address gender inequality creates more barriers. Heightened awareness of inequality should lead women to foster alliances and actively support one another. If women don't help each other, this is an even worse form of betrayal than those committed by men.

The successful woman should use her power to help other women advance, not undermine her colleagues. Especially for the woman reaching retirement age. Don't be afraid that the woman just starting out has your job in her sights. Be a mentor. as Louise was to me. You will gain respect, and perhaps a good friend. Communication is the key. The WSN fosters this and more.

The other members of the executive committee are Pat Hurton (chair), Pat Baker, Carol Dauphinais, Ashley Daviau, Heather Elster, Jessica Muradian, Kathy Tonry, and the BVCC staff.

As chair of the committee. Pat Hurton elaborated on the Women's Success Network mission. The WSN has an executive committee consisting of seven women from various professions. We work collaboratively to create opportunities within the network where partnerships are forged, friendships made, mentors found, resources offered, and skills are shared. Our mission is to support, unite, and inspire women in the workplace in Blackstone Valley to achieve their self-defined personal and professional success.

Because of COVID-19, the BVCC Women's Success Network had to cancel several programs and events in the last year. However, the WSN committee members and BVCC staff are looking at various possibilities that will continue to be resources in the near future. We anticipate we will have breakfast programs with outstanding speakers and early evening cocktail events with "networking" as a theme. Our WSN newsletter is published quarterly, and a new edition will be out in March. We are also creating subcommittees so that can get more women involved and focus on areas that need attention (i.e. marketing, entrepreneurs, programs, etc.)

If you would like to be on our mailing list and get more information about the WSN, please contact Pat Hurton (WSN committee chair) at pjhurton@yahoo.com



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Focus on non-profits

AaTs of Massachusetts provides canine comfort to many

beyond.

By Christine Galeone

It's not hard to imagine the stress that surgical residents have had to endure during the COVID-19 pandemic. But Kim Fontaine, the president and director of Animal-assisted Therapy services of Massachusetts, didn't have to imagine what it was like to see some of that stress relieved from the faces of surgical residents of the UMass Memorial and UMass University campuses. Fontaine said that the AaTs therapy dog teams' visits to those hospitals were among the teams' favorite visits during the pandemic.

"Seeing the worn faces of the surgical staff suddenly brighten up when they noticed the therapy dog teams in their break room was a moment I will never forget,"
Fontaine recalled. "Soon, the residents were laying on the floor cuddling with the dogs; some dogs sat on the students! One surgeon remarked, 'This made my day,' to which another surgeon replied, 'This made my year!"

Helping those surgical residents cope with overwhelming stress is just one way that the Millbury-based nonprofit has been strengthening the community. Through its programs and services, AaTs of Massachusetts has been bringing people joy and the healing power of the bond between humans and animals since 2018. And Fontaine refuses to let the pandemic interfere with the life-enriching com-

was founded in Connecticut in 2009, Fontaine earned her Professional Dog Trainer Certification from Animal Behavior College through an apprenticeship with Chris Patella, the founder of AaTs of Connecticut. The mission of both locations is to "provide adults and children with physical, cognitive and

fort that the nonprofit brings

to the Blackstone Valley and

While the original AaTs

of both locations is to "provide adults and children with physical, cognitive and psychosocial disabilities the opportunity to experience the power of the unique human-animal bond as therapeutic intervention, thus promoting lifelong health and wellness."

AaTs of Massachusetts strives to accomplish that mission and more by offering animal-assisted therapy to individuals and groups at places such as schools, where the nonprofit provides reading programs, educational programs and life skills/special needs programs, senior living facilities and colleges. It also offers training to become a credentialed AaTs therapy dog team.

In addition to running the nonprofit, Fontaine and

her dog Keeva serve as the primary K9 unit for the Central Massachusetts Critical Incident Stress Management Team. They are also a K9 First Responders dog team. In their work, they help provide psychological support to first responders and survivors after a traumatic incident.

Like most nonprofits, AaTs has faced challenges wrought by the pandemic. Fontaine said that there has been an abrupt elimination of some of the nonprofit's teams' routinely scheduled visits. Looking ahead, she noted that it will also be challenging to fulfill the growing need to train additional therapy dog teams while meeting mandates concerning gathering restrictions and social distancing.

But while the pandemic has created new obstacles for the nonprofit, Fontaine said that it's imperative to keep AaTs safely operating. "Now, more than ever, we will need mental health assets as we all endure and recover from the global pandemic," Fontaine explained. "These are unprecedented times! A credentialed therapy dog team is just another



An AaTs therapy dog team visits surgical residents at UMass. Submitted by AaTs

tool in the toolbox towards building resiliency following a critical incident."

So, how can people support AaTs of Massachusetts during these challenging times? Fontaine said that people can help the nonprofit by requesting therapy dog visits. "While some of our therapy teams work on a regular basis as school therapy dogs or police comfort dogs, other teams are chomping at the bit to visit with the people in their com-

munity," Fontaine shared. "We are currently offering all first therapy dog visits free of charge."

More information about the nonprofit is available on the Animal-assisted Therapy services website, www.aatsma.org, on its Facebook page or by calling 774-242-0893.

If you would like to suggest a Blackstone Valley nonprofit or initiative for this series, please contact Christine at cmgaleone 15@gmail.com.



Kim Fontaine's Therapy Dogs Keeva (left) and Tomo. Photo by Karyn Marquis Photography



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Municipal employees to receive cybersecurity training

Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) announced that over 1,000 municipal employees in his district would be receiving cybersecurity training through the 2021 Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program.

According to the ap-

plication, the program is a one-year competitive grant program to support local government efforts to improve overall cybersecurity posture through comprehensive user training, evaluation, and threat simulation. Participating communities must demonstrate leadership buy-in and commit to making staff available to successfully complete the program and be willing to collaborate.

The funding is used on a wide range of municipal staff, and it may be used to

train school district personnel as well.

"Over the past several years, schools and municipalities have become increasingly reliant on technology to aid in the workplace or classroom development," said Senator Fattman. "This training has become even more necessary as society was forced to shift to virtual engagements last year. It is great to see our municipalities invest in cybersecurity awareness training. I will continue to support their en-

deavors to receive this grant

in the future, so that we may have a safer, more secure,

technological background." In the Worcester-Norfolk District, the following com-

- munities received funding: • Bellingham: 50 employees; town only.
- Douglas: 280 employees; town and school.
- Dudley: 30 employees; town only.
- Milford: 250 employees; town only.
- · Southbridge: 120 employees; town only.
- Sutton: 280 employees; town only.

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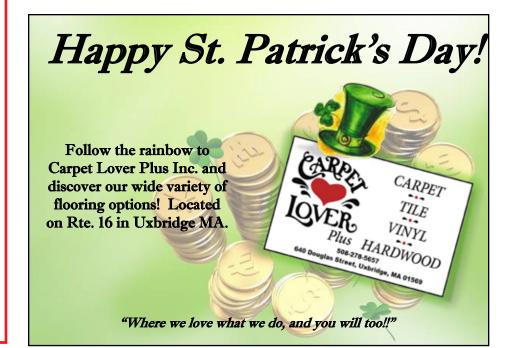
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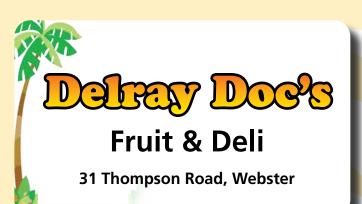


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Living well and looking good

CT scan unlikely to miss advanced lung cancer

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Is it possible for X-rays and a CT scan to miss advanced lung cancer? My brother worked two days before he died. He went to the hospital, was admitted to hospice and died the next day. I wonder if he knew at least a year ago, but didn't tell anyone. He said his scans showed pneumonia. His son was called to the hospital and spent the day with him until he died During his last day, my brother told him that he had lung cancer and that it was not diagnosed earlier. - N.W.

ANSWER: I am very sorry about your brother. Lung cancer, especially early lung cancer, is often missed on a regular chest X-ray. Pneumonia can accompany early lung cancer, and the pneumonia can hide the cancerous

mass, but experienced radiologists should be able to see something. Also, experienced clinicians should check an Xray weeks after a pneumonia to be sure there is no cancer

in a person at risk, such as a current or former smoker. Advanced lung cancer is only very rarely missed on X-ray, and should essentially never be missed on a CT scan. While I can't say it's impossible,

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it's much more likely that a year ago he was told that he had lung cancer and did not say anything, perhaps to spare his family's feelings, or perhaps he didn't want the sympathy and attention that accompany a diagnosis such as advanced lung cancer.

To your good health

Vague symptoms

DEAR DR. ROACH: What does a person do when symptoms are vague and hard to explain? I am an 82-year-old woman. I started feeling discomfort

> in one breast about three weeks ago. It felt like irritation from a bra. I did all the things I thought I should, and three weeks later the symptoms are the same or slightly worse. Nothing looks or feels different when I touch

it. Do I see my primary doctor (he's never seen me naked), or find a gynecologist? How do I present this issue? I feel like a fool. - V.B.

ANSWER: Both clinicians should be able to appropriately evaluate this concern. You should go to whoever you are more comfortable seeing. What you should not do is ignore it.

In your particular case, it's unlikely that your symptoms are because of something serious. Breast discomfort is common and only rarely due to breast cancer, which is what you must surely be concerned about. You should NEVER stop

yourself from seeing your doctor for fear of not being taken seriously.

Primary doctors like me and gynecologists are very familiar with women coming in with breast symptoms, and we take them seriously. Clinicians know how justifiably concerned women are about breast cancer. Most often, a woman can be reassured with a careful history and physical exam; other times, a mammogram or ultrasound may be ordered. You don't want to regret missing that visit to the doctor.

It is often said that the only foolish question is the one that is not asked. This situation is analogous: It would be foolish for you not to go. While the overwhelming likelihood is that vou will be reassured, in the unlikely event there is something wrong it's far better to know about it earlier than later.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGood-Health@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved

Soter announces Baker-Polito administration awards \$140,000 in MGCC grants to 8th Worcester businesses

On February 25, Representative Soter announced that the Baker-Polito Administration released approximately \$49.2M in grants to 1,108 additional small businesses in the eighth round of COVID relief grants administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC). This program is focused on serving businesses that have been most impacted by the pandemic including restaurants. bars, caterers, personal services and independent retailers. Representative Soter is proud to announce that \$140,000 will be distributed to 6 businesses in the 8th Worcester District.

The breakdown by town is as follows - each business did not receive the same amount: Bellingham – 3 Businesses – \$95,000

- Millville 1 Business -\$10,000
- Uxbridge 2 Businesses -

Representative Soter commented on the release. "In total, almost \$2,530,000 has been awarded to businesses in the 8th Worcester District through the MGCC. This has provided tremendous relief. However, I will keep saying: we need to evaluate long term solutions as this funding will only last so long. It is great that restrictions are being lifted in March, but that will not make up for the year of lost business."

To date, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded approximately \$564 million in direct financial support to 12,320 businesses across the Commonwealth. This funding has been made available through a \$668 million business relief fund set up in December, as well as a \$50.8 million fund for small and diverse businesses included in the economic recovery package announced in

Sacred Heart Church Twice Blessed Thrift Shop

During the Covid-19 Pandemic the Sacred Heart Church, 187 Hopedale St., Hopedale, will

remain closed until further notice. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are directly impacted as well as the First Responders and Essential Workers.

The Twice Blessed Thrift Shop will sponsor a special: Pop Up Sale on Saturday, March 13, from 8:30am -12pm. Winter clothing is 50% off. Check out the new spring arrivals, located in the Fr. Reilley Parish Center. For more information, please contact the church 508.473.1900, sacredhearthopdale.org, Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/twiceblessedthriftshophopedale/

Store hours are 9:00am -3:00pm. Thursday; 10:00am-1:00pm every Saturday; 9:00 am - 12:00pm Sunday.









Four facts every young competitive dancer and gymnast should know

By Dr. Sean T. Lordan DPT

If you or a loved one is a competitive dancer or gymnast, then this article is a must read. If you can follow these few tips you will be well on your way to reducing your risk for injuries and performing at an optimal level when it matters most: Competition and Meet season. All too often poor medical advice is doled out in generality. but I'm here to parse through the poor advice to give you dance and gymnastics specific advice. Continue to read below to learn more.

1. Improve your arch height with this simple exercise

We often see dancers and gymnasts, as well as other performing artist athletes, complaining about foot and ankle pain in Physical Therapy. Implementing an injury prevention routine prior to the start of the season is key in avoiding many of the impairments we treat. "Short Foot Exercises" should be a fixture in all performing arts exercise programs.

Short foot exercises strengthen the muscles on the bottom of your foot and help to reinforce the "arch" of the foot. These muscles act in symphony with other foot and ankle muscles to provide strong balance and arch formation throughout your performance. In order to include Short Foot Exercises into your routine do this: Scrunch a towel using your toes underneath one foot at a time for 30 seconds. Repeat this 3 times with each foot and perform 5 days a week. You will notice a difference in foot strength within weeks and vour arch will be stronger than ever-and more resilient to injury!

2. Challenge your balance

Lack of balance and in younger dancers, lack of coordination to perform highly technical movements, will lead to dance and gymnastic injuries as well.

Coordination requires blocked practice as well as strength of the specific muscles required to perform that technique.

Many dancers and gymnasts understand how important balance is to programming, however few know how to challenge the body's 3 systems that contribute to balance. Balance is a product of your visual, somatosensory and vestibular systems. By challenging any aspect of the 3 of these systems either alone or in concert-you can improve your balance. I'll include examples below.

Visual: Close your eyes and balance for 1 minute on one leg Visual and Somatosensory: Close your eves and balance on a pillow for 1 minute on one leg

Visual and Somatosensory and Vestibular: Close your eyes and balance on a pillow while moving your head up and down for 1 minute on one leg.

You'll notice that the exercises above reflect a pattern of difficult, more difficult, most difficult. Try this at home daily and reap the benefits of improved balance. Start with whichever level you feel most comfortable. If you have a balance disc, foam pad or Bosu ball to balance on at home, even better

3. Do I need to stretch more? Stretching is always a contro-

versial topic among dancers, gymnasts and performing artist athletes alike. Dancers typically have increased joint mobility, however lack the muscle length to keep up with their hyper-mobile joints. For instance, a dancer may be able to wrap her knee behind her head, but may still demonstrate a relatively "tight" hamstring with regard to their inherent range of motion. If this sounds complicated, that is because it is! As an experienced PT I like to talk about

the difference between muscle

length and muscle quality. An athlete may have the appropriate muscle length to accomplish a skill, but still presents with pain because the muscle quality is compromised with trigger points.

The key is to properly assess muscle quality. Are there a lot of "trigger points" in the muscles? Do they need to be worked out with massage or professional tools like the Graston Technique, Dry Needling or Cupping?

An experienced performing arts physical therapist uniquely understands these challenges and should be sought out to solve muscle aches and pains before they turn into fractures at the growth plate from overuse.

4. Get a functional movement screen

How often do children visit the pediatrician for a check-up? Typically every year right?

They do a quick "physical" where they make sure that your lymph nodes aren't swollen, your lungs and heart are clear, and that you are able to participate in school and sport with no restrictions. What pediatricians often miss are potential observable variances that may predispose a child to injury. A proper Functional Movement Screen will quickly and easily pick up risk factors for a dance or gymnastics injury, and should always be done in concert with a thorough physical exam of the young athlete.

In an ideal world the "physical" part of the yearly medical check-up for the competitive dancer or gymnast should happen at a PT's office.

A doctor of PT's version of a "physical exam" stems from the functional movement exam. During the functional movement exam the PT will begin by testing the strength

of all the key muscle groups related to dance and gymnastics on a 0-5 scale. Then the PT will examine dynamic motions and prescribe manual therapy and specific exercises to prevent a problem before it starts.

Wouldn't you like to have the peace of mind that you are doing everything you can to compete during the season when it matters most? What if there were exercises, stretches or therapy you could be doing today to increase your likelihood of success when it comes to competition or meet season. Wouldn't you be asking yourself, why didn't I do that?

I propose that every competitive dancer and gymnast who is serious in their sport should establish a relationship with their local PT. Preferably find a Doctor of PT who specializes in the performing arts athlete category - think dance, gymnastics, and ice



Dr. Sean T Lordan

skating. A PT specialized in the performing arts will have a unique understanding of the bodily demands you (or your young athlete) requires for a successful outcome.

Looking back on my career I could have prevented thousands of dance and gymnastics injuries had I screened the patient six months sooner. Don't become a statistic, get a screen from a local qualified Doctor of PT today.







The Kitchen Diva

Winter squash is healthy addition to any meal

By Angela Shelf Medearis

Winter squash are prominently displayed at grocery stores in the fall and winter months, but many shoppers pass them by because they don't know how to make them. Winter squash are

easy to prepare and are a healthy addition to any meal.

The Cucurbitaceae family is the Latin name for gourds, pumpkins and squash. The terms Summer and Winter can be deceptive. Summer squash types are on the market all winter; Winter squash types can be found in late summer and fall, as well as winter. This terminology was never meant to confuse – it just dates to a time when the seasons were more crucial to man's survival than they are now. Vegetables that would keep until December became known as winter vegetables.

Winter squash are picked when they are fully mature, and they have a thick, inedible skin. This thick skin provides a protective covering for the squash and allows for a long storage life. Winter squash can be stored for three months or longer in a cool, dry place, preferably in a single layer.

Every part of the squash plant can be eaten, including the leaves and tender shoots, which can be cooked in omelets or made into soup. Winter squash are a good source of vitamins A and C, potassium and fiber. Onehalf cup of cooked winter squash has only 40 calories. Some of the most popular types of winter squash are butternut, spaghetti, acorn squash and Delicata.

*Butternut squash is tan in color and has a long, bell-like shape.

*Spaghetti squash is oblong or oval in shape and yellow in color.

*Acorn squash is actually shaped like

an acorn. It is dark green and has a ridged rind or skin.

*Delicata squash is oblong, ridged, and yellow and green. The skin is soft and edible.

When shopping, look for squash that are heavy for their size, free of soft spots and have a dull sheen (a shiny skin is an indicator the squash is not fully mature).

Continued on next page







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Once butternut or acorn squash is cooked and cooled, it can be peeled away from the skin, cut into cubes. and used in soups, stews and casseroles along with other vegetables. Butternut or acorn squash can be used interchangeably in recipes.

This delicious recipe for Southwestern Stuffed Butternut Squash is a wonderful side dish or vegetarian entree on a cold winter's day!

Southwestern stuffed

- butternut squash 2 Delicata squash
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground black pepper 1 cup cooked rice
- 1/2 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper or hot sauce
- 1 (15-ounce) can black or pinto

beans, rinsed and drained 1 large bell pepper, seeded and chopped

- 4 springs cilantro, chopped 6 cherry tomatoes chopped 1/2 cup shredded Pepper Jack or
- Cheddar cheese
- 1 large avocado, peeled and sliced 4 tablespoons plain Greek yogurt or Mexican crema
- 1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2. Place Delicata squash on a cutting board and use a sharp knife to cut the tips and tails off. Cut the squash in half, then scoop out the seeds and fibrous strands.
- 3. Drizzle the inside of the squash with oil. Use your hands to spread the oil all over the exposed interior so it is well-coated. Sprinkle the squash with 1/2 teaspoon each of the salt and pepper.
- 4. Place squash cut-side down on a

large baking sheet. Bake 30 to 40 minutes, until squash is soft when poked with a fork.

5. While the squash is baking, prepare the quick rice. Before adding water or broth to the rice, season with the remaining salt and pepper, the chili powder, cumin and cayenne pepper or hot sauce. Mix well and proceed with the directions for preparing the rice.

6. When the rice is done, add in the beans, chopped peppers, cilantro and chopped tomatoes. Mix together and heat on low for 3 minutes, stirring once.

7. Fill each half of the squash with even amounts of the rice mixture. Top each half of the squash with shredded cheese, then put the stuffed squash back in the oven for about 5 minutes to melt the cheese.

8. Remove from oven and top with avo-

cado slices and plain Greek yogurt or Mexican crema, if desired. Serves 4.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an awardwinning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis. (c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc., and Angela Shelf Medearis











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Superintendent's scholars named; Gannon and Goyette of Uxbridge earn awards

UPTON – Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick is proud to announce that Madison Gannon and

Casey Goyette of Uxbridge are BVT's recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents





Madison Gannon and Casey Goyette (left to right) of Uxbridge had been named BVT's recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. They will graduate in May from BVT's Engineering & Robotics program.

Award of Academic Excellence. They are both in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT. The annual commendation, also known as the Superintendent's Scholar Award, is presented to the two seniors who exemplify the school's commitment to cutting-edge career technical training and rigorous academics.

Presently, Madison Gannon is the Class of 2021 Valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. Her dedication to her academic and vocational

Continued on next page



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We look forward to hearing from you, stay safe & healthy.

God Bless America!

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Continued

studies was on display when she earned a bronze medal in 2019 at the SkillsUSA District competition in Robotics and Automation. Recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student, Gannon is a scholastically talented student who, in addition to her academic success, also excels as a studentathlete on the track and field. She is the MVP and Captain of the Girl's Cross Country team for the last three years and is the school's record holder in the 800-meter race and 4x800 meter relay.

Gannon is analyzing multiple placement opportunities. She is interested in following a Biomedical Engineering pathway pursuing a bachelor's degree before acceptance into medical school, atric Surgeon.

Casey Goyette is currently the Class of 2021 Salutatorian and a National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society member. He has made the Commendation List every term of his high school career. His academic and vocational studies dedication was on display when he earned a Gold medal in 2020 at the SkillsUSA District competition in Urban Search & Rescue. In addition to being an Eagle Scout, Goyette enjoys reading, drumming, hiking, camping, and traveling. He is also the Chief Mechanical Officer of BVT's Robotics Club and participates in Model UN and SkillsUSA.

Goyette is also exploring placement opportunities. To strengthen his workforce en-

ultimately becoming a Pedi- try opportunities, he wants to pursue a master's degree in Computer Engineering with a minor in Mechanical Engineering.

> Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick was joined by Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Anthony Steele and the BVT School Committee in congratulating Gannon and Goyette on their awards, thanking them for their many contributions.

> "As educators, it brings us great pride to work with students like Madison and Casey, who exemplify our school's commitment to cutting-edge career technical training and rigorous academics through their incredible drive, talent, and zeal for their futures," said Steele. "We are pleased to celebrate their accomplishments and wish them continued success with their future endeavors."



NHS Honor Roll

Northbridge High School has announced the honor roll for the second quarter 2020-2021.

Highest Honors.

Grade 12: Kristina Brenn, Kevin Doherty, Vincent Duca, Callie Ellis, Asa Flannery, Katelyn Lombardo, Brennan Mahoney, Justine Michaud, Katharine Tubbs, Michael Wilkes

Grade 11: Sara Bedigian, Caitlyn Mahoney, Tyler Richards, Aidan Roy, Patrick Smith, Colin Tognazzi Grade 10: Abby Barnatt, Mary Goodrow, Caroline O'Brien, Kathryn O'Brien, Caitlin Porcelli, Keira Touhey, Jenny Wagenhoffer, Graham Williams, Nathan Williams

Grade 09: Elizabeth Andrews, Ryan Bedigian, Joseph Mazzarelli

High Honors:

Grade 12: Afia Aning, Emma Barnatt, Ally Boucher, Colin Brody, Charlotte French, Patrick Gahan, Emma Ganley, Trinity Grondin, Joseph Hewitt, Destiny Ingersoll, Theodore Jee, Emma LaChapelle, Abby Larochelle, Hannah Lomonaco, Angela Lovering, Morgan Mawn, Kiera McMahon, Yira

Navarro Rodriguez, Alexandra Padula, Emma Paulhus, Melanie Warner, Jared Wielsma

Grade 11: Samantha Billmyer, Tyler Bliss, Sydney Boudreau, David Castellon Palma, Adam Chen, Haley Cormier, Charles Garrigan, John Gifford, Claire Green, Olivia Guest, Hayleigh Hoffman, Ruby Holtz, Kayla Kamishlian, Maeve Kelly, Isaac Maynard, Mallorie Mercer, Dev Patel, Christopher Rivelli, Jessica Ross, Christopher Smith, Lindzy Winslow

Grade 10: Meghan Cummiskey, Hannah Direnzo, Ian Gahan, Nikauly Hernandez, Coulton Manning, Colin Marino, Adam Minior, Kayla Munson, Nina Szymanowski, Carly Tedford, Emily Wheeler

Grade 09: Logan Ballou, Gary Bunis, Evan Carrachino, Abigail Caya, Rebecca Cleary, Sarah Cowen, Erika Dresp, Madelynne Driscoll, Charles Dupuis, Ryan Flaherty, Olivia Frabotta, Timothy Guiliani, Callie Jee, Hannah King, Kayda King, Kaydence Melanson, Zachary O'Meara, Mia Pellegrino, Marcus Reilly, Rachel Sawyer, Aidan White





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Whitin Community Center's annual meeting and awards ceremony



WHITINSVILLE – The Whitin Community Center's Annual Meeting was held virtually on Monday, February 22, via Zoom conference. Unlike typical years, where the event is held in the WCC 's Conference Room, this year the Board of Trustees, Corporators, Award Recipients, WCC Staff, and Administration were able to enjoy the meeting from the comforts of their home to reflect and celebrate on the past







year's accomplishments.

At the event, the organization was welcomed by our Chairman of the Board, John Adee. We thanked our outgoing Trustees, James Corcoran and Gary Moyer for their years of service and dedication to our organization, and our outgoing Corporator, Bernadette Bazzett. In addition, we welcomed three new Corporators, DJ Salmon, Mark St. Germain, and Cheryl Taylor. Heather Elster, our Executive Director, presented her annual review of the past year in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and what our organization is looking forward to in the future. One of the highlights during the meeting was the presentation of the Be The One video, produced by volunteer Trevor Robertson. This video focused on community members who have been positively impacted by the WCC, and their stories, and why you should be the one to continue George Marston Whitin's legacy to give back to the community. To view this video, please visit our website at www.Whitin-CommunityCenter.com and by going to the "Support Our Mission" page or by using this direct link https:// youtu.be/01W9bEBw1IE.

Each year the WCC recognizes staff and community members who have gone above and beyond at the

WCC and shown great support to our community with our Annual Awards. The Whitin Community Center wishes to congratulate the following award winners: Anne Haas, our High Five Employee of the Year Award which recognizes an employee who went "above and beyond" over the past year and made a difference through teamwork, excellence, dedication, safety, and respect.

New this year, we had the extreme honor of presenting an award created by Denis LaTour, the Heather S. Elster Leadership Award. This award is presented to a member of the WCC team who is a leader with a clear vision and passion to advance the mission of the Whitin Community Center, a leader who has the ability to identify and break down walls in order to erect a foundation of trust. The award was presented to, Ginny Alicea.

Our Denis & Pam LaTour Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual whose exceptional volunteer effort has supported and advanced the mission of the Whitin Community Center. With this award. the Whitin Community Center recognizes an individual in our community that supports our efforts as a non-profit organization through contributions as a volunteer. This year's award was presented to Trevor Rob-

The Charles E. Thompson Youth Volunteer Award recognizes an individual under the age of 18 who has selflessly and enthusiastically volunteered time, effort and energy to advance the mission of the Whitin Community Center. With this award, the WCC acknowledges a young person who truly does represent our future. This year's award was presented to Makenzie Alicea.

The Daniel J. Salmon, Jr. Outreach Award recognizes an individual or individuals who has/have selflessly given of their time, energy and resources to help the Whitin Community Center's Youth Outreach program successfully empower youth through experiential education and recreation. This year's award was presented to two recipients, Michael Colonna & Bill Audette.

Also new this year, in collaboration with the Knott Family, we have created the James M. Knott, Sr. Innovation Award. This award is presented to an individual, business, or organization who has developed an innovative or inventive solution to a problem or challenge facing the Whitin Community Center (WCC) by contributing their time, talent, and/or treasure to support the WCC's work as a non-profit organization to strengthen our community. This year's award was

presented to Town & Country Builders.

Finally, the George Marston Whitin Community Award recognizes an individual from the Blackstone Valley who personifies George M. Whitin's commitment to service to the community. Through its mission, the Center continues to honor the memory of George Marston Whitin (1856-1920), whose vision of community life, family values, and citizenship have guided the organization's services and programming to residents of the Blackstone Valley since 1922. This year's award was presented to David Delaney.

Thank you to all the award winners for your service to our community.

The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park. For more information call 508.234.8184 or visit www.Whitin Community Center.org.



Living with Lincoln

I got you, ball

By Amy Palumbo-LeClaire

Lincoln chose our family at a fluffy seven weeks old. His "pick-up day" had been scheduled for February 12 on Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Lincoln.

The name sprung off of the calendar and into our hearts and home. Little did we know that our largest male of the litter, a puppy named after a president, would not only choose us, but also his way in

"Mom, we have to take this one." My son, Ben, at an intuitive ten years old, had known what we know now. Lincoln was meant to be with us, and us with him. Confirming such, he grabbed the miniature leash from my hand and paraded around his blonde siblings, as though to claim his new family.

"These are my People." We cradled him onto our laps, then lifted him to face us. His morsel nose twitched while he found our eyes. "Are you ready to play?"

We were ready to play. Yet little did we know just how much.

"Lincoln!!"

I'll never forget the day he had been trotting along a Cliff Walk ledge at Newport, RI. A precocious puppy, he had tottered about clusters of rock to explore, then struggled to negotiate a sudden narrow path. Whoa! Not enough room. He lost his footing and fell off of a twelve-foot incline. Somehow, he managed to wrestle his body back to a soft landing. Then, exhausted, he had collapsed.

"I think he may have broken a bone."

"Does he need some water?" "That puppy needs to rest."

A crowd of onlookers shuffled to our side while, smothered in guilt, I teared up and kneeled by my puppy's side. His chunky belly rose and fell beneath my palm. What had I done? How could I ever forgive myself?

"Let's finish the Cliff Walk!" Lincoln sprang to his feet. His miniature tongue shook while he smiled, panted, and colored the world pink again. I sighed, massaged his ears. "You're okay." It was only a case of Lincoln being Lincoln.

Fast forward ten years. Lincoln fell off of a ledge of a different sort. His health took a dip during the Fall of 2020. His breathing was abnormal. An ultrasound indicated large masses on both thyroid glands. We were told his life was about to end. Little did we know-

"Want to play?"

Lincoln was just being Lincoln. A clean, protein-based nutritional plan (and a whole lot of love) turned a fat, ugly report into something slender.

Lincoln scratches at the deck door. I open it and there he stands, propped up on the step, appearing larger than life. His black, senior nose quivers with desire. He's wearing the expression I've come to know and love.

"Few throws?" I read his mind. Frozen with hope, he stares at me and awaits a verdict. His tail wags slowly, gearing up for action.

"Can you wait, Lincoln? Mummy has to work."

More charming than his thirst for life has been his sensitivity to his owner's role in it. My dog understands nuance. "Can you wait?" I accent the word wait.

"But can you just come out? I was thinking we could play in the snow today.'

His cuteness tempts me. He's a dog, fully immersed in the present, yet intelligent enough to discern my needs as a human. "Bring the ball here, Lincoln." I gesture with grand enthusiasm. "Go get it and put it here for Mummy!"

The compromise sells him. He's willing to negotiate. I can play ball in my slippers, from the comfort of my now-drafty kitchen. I gaze out the window and watch him nose the snow as though searching for a diamond in a corn maze. He zigs. He zags. Then a stiff wagging tail produces the truth. He's found the ball! But before he brings it back, he performs a clever trick, one he created on his own. I watch him through the window and giggle to myself. Work can wait.

"I'm in charge of you, Ball." He digs a hole with manic concentration then pushes the ball down in the snow to bury it. He pounces on the burial ground over and over again, as though to set a final nail in the ball's coffin. Then he digs it back up and sloshes it about his frothing mouth with crazy joy. His process is deliberate, even calculated. Dig, Bury, Pounce, Find, Slosh. Over and over again. Every now and then, he tosses a glance up to the window, sensing that I'm watching.

"Good boy, Lincoln!" I hoist the window open and holler the compliment. He's patented Bury & Find, a game which offers rationale for the need to allow a dog to be a dog. Work with them. Allow them opportunities to do what dogs do. They need to run, dig, play, and be reckless. Let them be dogs and they'll let you be human. I settle back to my work and welcome a sip of coffee. The door rattles again.

"I found the ball!"

I open the door. Cold air accosts me, fueling my laziness. "Lincoln, put it right here." I don't want to reach any further than I need to for the ball on the snowy deck. He grumbles vet complies, still managing to toss the ball as close to the threshold as possible. I don't have to set a single toe outside. "Thank you, Lincoln."

I hold the ball up like a trophy. He races down the stairs, not wanting to miss out on the throw. "Which way?" I refuse to endorse the bullyish "fake throw" which forces a dog to track the ball tirelessly through the yard. I'm confident that he'll find it either way. A dog's senses truly are remarkable. Like a professional outfielder, he watches the ball sail through the air. He backs up to gauge position. I underhand a solid throw, and he freezes to capture its soft whooshing sound through the air, then its notable drop into the snow.

"I hear you, Ball! I'm coming!"



I was thinking we could play in the snow.

I watch him romp through the snow after a ball that he protects like an abducted baby. His tail stiffens and wags while he appreciates a scent made for a dog. "I knew I'd find you." He sloshes the ball, then indulges in another game of Bury & Find.

Dig. Bury. Pounce. Dig. Bury. Pounce. "I got you, Ball."

I watch him from the window. Work can wait.



Winter for Lincoln.



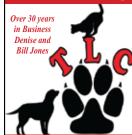
Lincoln relishes in a game of Bury and Find.





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Tales from beyond

Rachel's Curse

By Thomas D'Agostino

In Plymouth, Massachusetts. there once lived an old woman the locals called "Aunt Rachel." She earned a modest living telling fortunes to the locals, but it was mostly sailors who called upon her talents of predicting the weather and their future. Many seafaring folk relied on her predictions in regard to whether they would head out to sea or not. Sailors have always been a superstitious lot and Rachel often told them a safe journey or eminent danger lay ahead.

One day a few sailors called upon her for her talents, and she immediately recognized one as a friendly and decent fellow villager. The others she knew to be of shady character,

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and Rachel chided the local for keeping society with the "rogues" he was with. One of the other men interrupted her lecture by stating, "None of your slack old woman or I will put a stopper on your gab."

It was then Rachel began calling them mooncussers; those who lure unwary ships onto rocks or shore for plun-

der by using false beacons. She looked the man straight in the eye and cursed, "He who rides the pale horse be your guide, and you be of the number who follow him." The men laughed at her rambling and set off to the local pub for a tankard.

mysteriously burned to the ground, almost taking her with it. A few days later, the brig with the men who had visited her previously was ready to set sail, and Rachel joined the townsfolk to see her off. The owner of the brig offered his deepest sympathies on the loss of her home. She retorted by stating, "I need it no longer anyway. For the narrow house will soon be my home and you wretches cannot burn that. But you! Who will console you for the loss of your brig? She now carries a curse and will not sail long."

The owner scoffed at the old woman's words, for he had no doubt his ship was seaworthy and his crew among the most experienced to sail those waters. This he assured Rachel as the brig navigated past the hidden shoals and bars that

had claimed so many other vessels. All the while, the old woman mumbled and chanted curses in the direction of the brig, then in a blinding moment, she thrust her bony arm into the air and let out a scream like a banshee. The crowd immediately focused their attention on her but was quickly drawn away by a cry from another.

except for one; the man who dared insult Rachel and burn her home. During the melee, no one noticed that Rachel had died just after the ship had hit the rock previously unknown to the area's navigators.

Rachel was buried on the site where her house once stood, and the rock that sent the brig to its doom was forever known as Rachel's Curse.

Thomas D'Agostino and his wife Arlene Nicholson are seasoned paranormal investigators, authors, and co-organizers of Paranormal United Research Society. You can find out more about them by visiting www.tomdagostino.com.



The brig had come to a sudden stop and shuddered before breaking up. It listed and sank until only the tops of the masts were visible above the water. Rescue crews frantically rowed out to the sunken ship picking up the crew as they swam for

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several multi-family buildings have questions about the landlord-tenant relationship. Over the years, the "landlord" business has evolved from one of almost total freedom in operating rental property to one of the most highly regulated businesses in the country. The Southern Worcester County Landlord Association (S.W.C.L.A. non-profit) was formed in 1979 covering the Southern Worcester County area. From its original mem-

their lives. All were brought

to shore and accounted for,

grew to where they now maintain a membership of hundreds of landlords representing many hundreds of units - united in a common goal. Landlords are faced with

more challenges today than ever before. Whether you own and/or manage one rental unit or 100, the benefits of belonging to an organization such as ours are invaluable. Visit SW-CLA.ORG and call any of the directors listed about becoming a member.

Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter

how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. Believer



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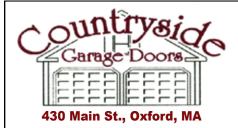
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I have a 2017 Ford truck F350 4WD Super Duty that I use for my landscape business and plowing. The heat on the driver's side isn't working. I took it into my repair shop, and they found that the temperature blend door was binding up. They replaced the heater box and it worked for about a month and the same thing happened. No one wants to plow snow in a truck with bad heat. Any ideas on this?

Ford issued two technical service bulletins. When the temperature is very cold and you have poor heat on one side of the truck, the fix is a replacement heater core. The second bulletin describes a binding temperature door actuator. The TSB is titled Lack of Heat or Cooling from the Cabin Vents - Temperature Door or Door Actuator Binding/Inoperative - DTC B1081:07. The repair is quite extensive, and it may make sense that you are this far into the repair to replace the heater core at the same time, since it will be out in the open.

About a month ago I purchased four new tires for my car. After about three weeks a low tire warning came on. I checked the tires, and the driver rear tire was low. I aired it up and about three days later it was low again. I went back to the tire store and they told me it was a nail in the tire. It was repaired. I have two questions. I drove the car for five years and never had a nail in any tire. Was this because they are cheaper tires and is the repaired tire safe?

Flat tires happen. The quality of the tire has nothing to do with if a nail will puncture it or not. If the tire was repaired properly using a plug/patch combination, there is no reason to think the tire isn't as good as new.

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I have a 1996 Acura RL and when I'm out on the highway the car will just randomly rock from side to side. If I slow down it will feel fine, the faster I drive the worse it feels. The shake seems to be coming from the back of the car. Could it be a faulty spring or shock that is causing this shake?

Certainly, all of the suspension components should be evaluated as part of the inspection to find the shake. I suspect that you may have a damaged wheel or tire with a slipped belt, sometimes called separation. When this happens, the sidewall will get weak and shift and cause the tire to track poorly. If the tire was on the front you would feel the vibration at lower speeds as well, but on the rear of the car a tire with belt separation will rock or shake at higher speeds. Have the tires inspected as soon as possible before you have a "blowout" while driving.

My very dependable 2005 Chrysler 300 has a vibration that only happens when I'm slowing down on the highway to take an exit. The vibration is in the steering wheel and only when my foot is on the brake to slow down. I have owned this car since new and never have done much more than replaced all the fluids and tires.

I suspect you have an out-of-round brake rotor combined with a little suspension wear. As the brake rotors get hot the vibration will get worse. As you are slowing down to take the exit, the rotors start to build up heat then as you apply more brake pressure the vibration gets worse.

How do I lower the headlights on a 2014 Toyota Tacoma? I get flashed often because the lights are high on a low beam setting. I asked at the dealership and they will charge me \$79.00 to lower the lights. I know there is a screw that needs to be turned to set the lights, but I can't find the screw in this exact model. Help. I'm just trying to be safe and save some money.

The first thing to do is check the overall headlight alignment. There is a specific procedure to do this, using light board and parking 25 feet away. The alignment should be checked on both low and high beam settings. Although there are only two adjustments, vertical and horizontal, it is easy to get the headlights further out of adjustment, making the lights offensive and ineffective. Perhaps to save a little money if there is a vocational school near you, they would be willing to make the necessary adjustments as part of a lighting lesson.







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Qualifications and Skills: Knowledge of Mack, Cummins, GMC, Chevrolet trucks. Knowledge of troubleshooting/diagnostic tools. Experience as a heavy duty truck mechanic Ability to work safely in a shop environment. Mechanical skills should include, but are not limited to, mechanical, electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic troubleshooting and repair of trucks and equipment.

Benefits: Health Insurance, Top Wages! Over-time optional. Job Type: Full-time. Experience: Driver's License (Required), Diesel Mechanic: 1 year (Required), Diesel repair certification (Preferred), Trash industry experience (Preferred), Class A or B CDL (Preferred), Welding experience (Preferred)

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Zoom boating safety

Local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing four upcoming boating safety classes through the Zoom video conference platform, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, Adult-Boating, at http://mcs.milford.ma.us or (508) 478-1119 at least 6 days prior; keeping in mind that availability is limited and you will receive course materials prior, covered by the registration fee. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied online by a registered parent/guardian. For additional USCGAux.

information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

About Boating Safely \$45 Saturdays: March 27 and April 24, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A one-day course developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families

that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and also for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Successful completion of the course will also temporally certify (until a proctored exam is completed) any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski for 16 & 17-year-old operators, on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Rhode Island residents born in/or after 1986 can also take the "Challenge Exam" for the RI Boater Education Card to operate motor vessels over 10 horse power, along with anyone, any age, from any state, wanting to operate a PWC on RI waters. It will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory. Several of the boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. The Zoom ABS class is limited to 20students.

Suddenly in Command \$5 Wednesdays: March 17 and April 14 7 – 10:30 p.m.

Imagine you are out on the water when the boat's captain somehow is incapacitated or falls overboard and can't swim

back to the boat. Are you prepared to take basic actions to get help, stop or start the engine and take the helm? A little knowledge could save lives and make vou feel more comfortable boating when you're not generally at the helm.

Misfortunes can and do happen while on that fishing, diving, adventure, or party charter. Being out on your own boat with that significant other at the helm, or going out on a friends' pontoon boat can also turn to horror if the skipper is suddenly out of commission. This is a boating safety primer for those not generally at the helm but would like to know what to do, to be better prepared.

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Additional help could be on the way for first-time homebuyers. The new Washington administration proposed a Down Payment Homebuyer Tax Credit, which could be significant in aiding potential first-time homebuyers. For starters, the credit could be used to cover all or a considerable share of a buyer's down payment. With home prices rising ever higher, any down payment assistance is welcomed when a family is looking to buy.

The Proposed Down Payment Homebuyer Tax Credit

For years, minority and millennial homebuyers have struggled unsuccessfully to save enough for a down payment. High student loan payments along with everincreasing childcare costs and other urgent needs have made the goal of buying that first home far-fetched for too many Americans. Add to that the financial hardships brought upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit many American families, minorities and lowerwage workers particularly hard. These demographics especially would immediately benefit from this proposal. Down payment assistance in this case, up to \$15,000 could make all the difference

in helping hopeful buyers get a foot in the door. And making the credit advanceable would mean buyers could access the funds upon closing rather than having to wait until next year when their tax return is filed and the refund arrives.

That said, policies to increase the supply of homes are equally important. As we take a look at the current housing market and mortgage data, we see an upward trend. For instance, existing-homes sales totaled 5.64 million in 2020 – their highest level since 2006, before the Great Recession – with mortgage rates at all-time lows. But while demand is high, supply is

registering at a 50-year low. This means home prices will continue to soar unless more residential units can be created. So, tax and other incentives that increase supply are equally important in order to keep home prices affordable. Many Realtor groups continue to advocate for the building of more affordable housing because, in addition to increasing the housing supply, it will provide a boom for our struggling economy.

The Marzeotti Group Realty is proud to share the news about efforts that encourage policies and ideas that level the playing field and help all our neighbors achieve the American dream of homeownership.



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