

QCC student honored in 29 Who Shine ceremony

WORCESTER — On May 13 at the 10th Annual “29 Who Shine” Ceremony, Quinsigamond Community College Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) student Fatima Mohammed, of Worcester, joined 28 other public college and university graduates, to be honored virtually by Gov. Charlie Baker and higher education leaders in a Live YouTube ceremony at 2 p.m.

Each year, these awards are given to one student from each of the Commonwealth’s 29 public campuses, including the 15 community colleges, nine state universities and five campuses of the University of Massachusetts. This year, the 29 graduates are being honored for their resilience in the face of pandemic-related challenges and their willingness to pitch in and support COVID-19 relief efforts, while working to earn their degrees.

Ms. Mohammed played an essential role with QCC’s COVID-19 health team, assisting with student surveillance testing during the Spring 2021 semester, working multiple volunteer shifts each week, and acting as a mentor and advisor to new volunteers.

“Fatima has been volunteering her time during the COVID-19 pandemic,

helping to keep our college community safe. Her dedication to her fellow students, while maintaining the highest academic standards is inspiring. We are honored to have her as a member of our QCC community,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

Currently majoring in Liberal Arts, Ms. Mohammed will be graduating from QCC later this month with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. She plans to continue her education at the Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) in fall 2021. She has received a \$10,000 merit scholarship from MCPHS, based on her academic qualifications, for the entire 16 consecutive months of the program. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, she plans to continue her education to earn a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry. Ms. Mohammed said she hopes to continue helping others in her future career in dentistry, caring for and educating low-income families about dental care.

“Ten years from now, the letter grades of the ‘29 Who Shine’ won’t matter. What we will remember is their commitment to their communities in a time of crisis,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “Our public colleges and universities



Fatima Mohammed

educate homegrown Massachusetts natives – people who are here to learn, and here to stay. They have shown how much they care about where they come from, how much they care about us, and how much they will contribute to the civic and economic future of our

Commonwealth.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

School District remains cautious as state reopens

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – As the state and businesses continue to reopen and the CDC is loosening guidelines with the increase in vaccinations nationwide, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District is refusing to let its guard down as the second school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic comes to a close.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche urged everyone in the school district to remain diligent during a May 12 meeting of the regional school committee. Lamarche prefaced his statements by saying how exciting it has been to see “life” back on the campus with sporting events returning and spectators once again attending games. However, he warned everyone not to let their guard down especially as end of the year celebrations commence.

“I want to recognize not only the school nurses, but all the educators in appreciation for everything that they’re doing. This has been an unprecedented year, and that goes to the school committee as well and to administrators. Collectively, the district has gone above and beyond,” Lamarche said, adding he’s also responsible for being the voice of reality as the pandemic continues into late May and early June. “We have a few weeks left of school and we really want it to end on a positive note. So, as we continue to plan events and opportunities, we are still restricted by some of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and DESE guidance so please do not expect unwavering expectations with respect

to our role as a school district. Our priority is the health and wellbeing and safety of staff and students and we want to ensure appropriate, gradual and well thought out movement and a socially rich experience for everyone. We do appreciate everyone’s patience.”

Even as the state and CDC continue to loosen their guidelines Lamarche said not to expect swift and sweeping changes to the district in the immediate future. Schools follow very specific recommendations, and the goal is to ensure the safety of everyone in the district acknowledging that while the pandemic might be nearing an end the threat of widespread COVID infection remains a potential risk.

“Sometimes, the new guidance doesn’t address all of the old guidance. You have to understand we have hundreds and hundreds of pages of guidance. So, there are details that we continue to process through and at times they don’t correlate so we’re going to do the best we can to continue to overlap them and find common sense application to things that may have a little bit of a grey area,” said Lamarche. “In the end, our goal is to maintain the health, well being and safety of our staff because COVID is still in our district. It’s still in our communities and we need to do the best we can to keep it out.”

Western Mass. Child Care Resources contract awarded to Seven Hills Foundation

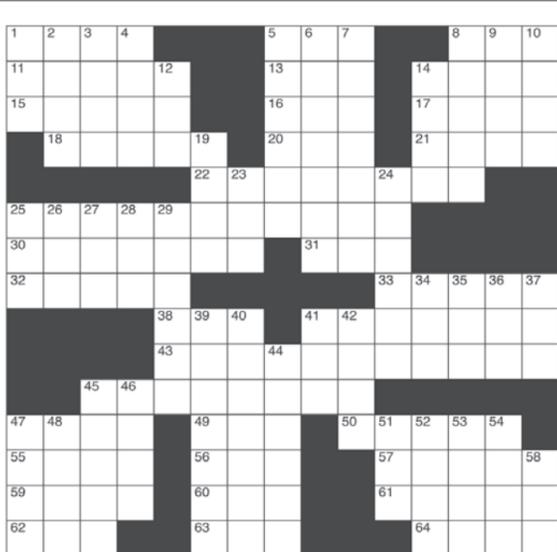
WORCESTER — The Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care (EEC) recently awarded the contract for the Child Care Resources program in Western Massachusetts to the Seven Hills CCR&R program which is operated by its affiliate, Children’s Aid & Family Services (CAFS). In the announcement from EEC, it was noted that a bid process had been completed and Seven Hills CCR&R in Worcester had been selected to provide the services. Over the coming weeks, three Western Massachusetts CCR&R offices will be transitioned to Seven Hills CCR&R to allow for continuity of services and ensure assistance to families and providers is not interrupted.

With offices currently in Fitchburg, Worcester and Hopedale, the Seven Hills CCR&R Program works in partnership with Coordinated Family Community Engagement Programs and the Educator and Provider Support System to promote quality of care and to help the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) fulfill its mission. For more than 40 years, Seven Hills’ CCR&R program has provided quality child care services to the families in the Central and Metro West areas of Massachusetts. “We believe that our program has the professional expertise to meet the diverse needs of parents and child care providers and we are excited about now serving all of Western Massachusetts,” said Kim Dion, Assistant Vice President & Program Director.

The Child Care Resources (CCR) Program at Seven Hills provides resource and referral services to assist families in locating affordable, quality childcare programs. Additionally, they ensure families have access to high-quality information, resources and referrals to meet their childcare needs; educate families on the cost, quality and availability of early education and out-of-school-time care; and promote provider development and support, with ongoing access to training and technical assistance.

Seven Hills CCR&R will be reaching out to parents to explain the transition and reassure families that their ability to access these services will remain local. Seven Hills CCR&R also plans to offer several zoom meetings in the event parents want to engage about the transition. Seven Hills CCR&R plans to maintain offices in Pittsfield, Greenfield and Springfield.

Headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Seven Hills Foundation is a comprehensive health and human services network currently offering program sites at 190 locations throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island employing nearly 4,600 professionals. Seven Hills Foundation offers a continuum of clinical, educational, and community-based supports to 60,000 children, adults and seniors with disabilities and other life challenges through its 14 affiliate organizations that are part of the Foundation.



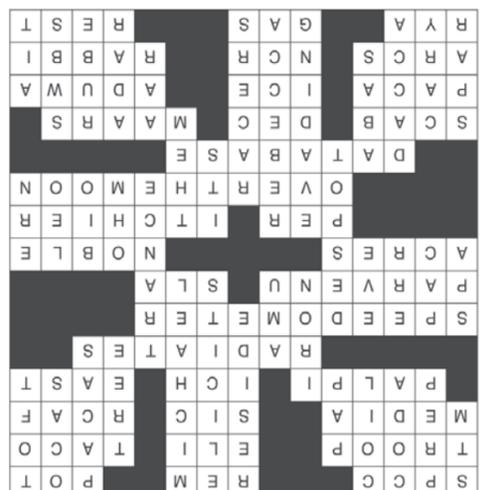
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Prevents harm to young
- 5. “Losing My Religion” rockers
- 8. Partner to pan
- 11. Cavalry unit
- 13. Peyton’s little brother
- 14. Mexican dish
- 15. Disseminates info to the public
- 16. Set an animal on
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Elongated mouths of arthropods
- 20. I (German)
- 21. Opposite of west
- 22. Glows
- 25. Measures how quickly a car moves
- 30. One who has gained wealth
- 31. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 32. Extensive landed property
- 33. Male aristocrat
- 38. For each
- 41. More fidgety
- 43. Very happy
- 45. A place to store info
- 47. Helps to heal
- 49. 12th month (abbr.)
- 50. Broad, shallow craters
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Frost
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Curved shapes
- 60. Company that rings receipts
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Sheep native to Sweden
- 63. Cars need it
- 64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Scientist’s high-resolution tool (abbr.)
- 2. Type of school
- 3. Formal close (music)
- 4. Transmits high voltage
- 5. A way to occupy a certain area
- 6. Draws out
- 7. His Aimess
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. South American plants
- 10. Homestead
- 12. Bland or semiliquid food
- 14. Forest resident
- 19. The body needs it
- 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
- 24. Spell
- 25. Relaxing place
- 26. Political fundraising tool
- 27. Make a mistake
- 28. Partner to Adam
- 29. Tyrant
- 34. Unit of electrical resistance
- 35. A history of one’s life
- 36. Actor DiCaprio
- 37. Sea eagle
- 39. Avoiding being caught
- 40. ___ de Mornay, actress
- 41. Belonging to a thing
- 42. Not us
- 44. Motorcars
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Ancient Greek sophist
- 47. Practice boxing
- 48. ___ Grant, actor
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. S. Sudan river
- 53. A bumpkin
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news
BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DI NICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news
EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news
PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernews.com

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